Alaska Department of Fish & Game

Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee

MEETING AND ELECTIONS

Agenda

December 4, 2019 – 12:45

Unalakleet Native Corporation Building (NSEDC Office) – Unalakleet, Alaska

Vacant-Chair, Vacent-Vice Chair, Jacob Ivanoff-Secretary,
Wes Jones-Member; Frank Katchatag-Member
Morris Nassuk-Koyuk; Matilda Hardy-Shaktoolik
Alexander Niksik Jr.-St. Michael; Leo Kobuk-St. Michael
Peter Martin-Stebbins

1. Call to Order Jacob called meeting to order at 12:47 pm.
2. Roll Call – 5 to make quorum
   Present Jacob Ivanoff, Frank Katchatag, Morris Nassuk, Matilda Hardy, Peter Martin, Leo Kobuk
   a. Excused – Wes Jones,
   b. Unexcused – Alexander Niksik Jr.
3. Introduction of AC members and guests present including teleconference attendees

AC member present: Jacob Ivanoff, Frank Katchatag, Matilda Hardy, Morris Nassuk, Leo Kobuk, Peter Martin. Guess present Gary Eckenweiler, Clarence Towarak, Renae Ivanoff. ADFG staff present Bill Dunker, Sara Germain, Hazel Smith

4. Approval of Agenda

Matilda made motion to approve agenda, Morris seconded motion approved

5. Elections to seat AC members
   a. Six seats open
      Frank made a motion to have four seats for Unalakleet and two seats for the other communities. Morris seconded motion. Motion approved. Wes and Jacob submitted letters of interest, Gary and Renae agreed to sit on the committee. Four seats are filled
6. Officer Elections
   a. Chair/Secertary

      Morris made motion to nominate Jacob as Chair, seconded by Matilda. Motion passed

      b. Vice Chair

      Jacob nominated Morris seconded by Matilda, motion passed.

      c. Secretary – No interest, Jacob agreed to remain secretary
7. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – **03/08/2019**
   Matilda made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Gary
8. Wildlife Management – Bill Dunker, Area Biologist

Bill gave an update on staff work.

9. New business – Board of Game – **Comment deadline, January 3, 2020**

Alaska Board of Game Western Arctic/Western Region Meeting Proposals

January 17-20, 2020 | Nome, 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**
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.			
1	Prohibit nonresident hunting of moose or caribou under intensive management in the Western Arctic/Western Region until harvest or population objectives are met		
Support	6	0	Morris motioned to support seconded by Renae. If any intensive management is needed in the future it will be wise to be ahead of the situation.
2	Establish intensive management programs for bear across the Western Arctic/Western Region		
No Action	6	0	
3	Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A		
Support	6	0	Morris motion to support, seconded by Peter
30	Include muskox on the list of species that can be taken under a proxy permit in Unit 22		
Support	7	0	Morris motion to support seconded by Gary. Also for individuals that cannot hunt be able to get the animal meat for the year.
31	Establish a registration permit hunt for muskox in Units 21D, 22A, and 24D		
Support as Amended	7	0	Morris motioned to support as amended by NNSAC, seconded by Gary. Being able to hunt the growing population of muskox in the region will help family diversify their meat for the year with caribou migration not coming as far south.
32	Allow caribou to be taken east of and including the Nuluk River drainage in Unit 22E		
No Action			
33	Modify hunting seasons and require a registration permit for moose hunting in Unit 22D Remainder		
No Action			
34	Open a nonresident drawing hunt for moose in Unit 22D Remainder		
No Action			
35	Change the availability of Unit 22 registration permits for moose hunting with an option to require a registration permit for the Unit 22D Remainder hunt		
Support	7	0	Morris motioned to support option 2, seconded by Matilda. Option 2 has no effect on RM 841 and Unalakleet does not want the method of obtaining a permit to change.
36	Change the availability of Unit 22 registration permits for moose hunting		
Oppose	0	6	Matilda motioned to support Peter seconded. Motion failed.
37	Close the nonresident moose hunt in Unit 22C		
No Action			

38	Modify the hunting season for moose in Unit 22A		
Support as amended	7	0	Morris motioned to support as amended with boundary line change, seconded by Peter. Changing the boundary line allows the residents of Shaktoolik to hunt near the headwaters of the Tagoominick River without having an influence of the RM841 hunt. Moving the line to Anuqhatuulii creek south is more accurate with the traditional hunting area for the residents of Unalakleet.
39	Extend the hunting season for brown bear in Unit 22D and 22E, and increase the resident bag limit		
No Action			
40	Require a registration permit for brown bear hunting in Unit 22C		
No Action			
41	Extend the season dates for brown bear hunting in Unit 22B and 22C		
Support	6	0	Morris motioned to support, seconded by Peter. Motion passed. Morris would like to be able to have more bears harvested with a growing population along the Koyuk River drainage.
42	Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions		
Oppose	0	6	Matilda motioned to support, seconded by Morris. Motion failed
43	Address customary and traditional use findings for Alaska hares in Unit 22, and modify the season and bag limit		
Support	6	0	Morris motioned to support, seconded by Matilda. Jacob asked Clarence to address his concerns to this since he has had many years of experience hunting and trapping. Clarence stated that he does not see the populations he has seen in the past around Granite Mountain. He expressed concern that the Alaska hare population may be moving north with climate change occurring.
167-168	The Board of Game does not have authority to adopt the requested changes in Proposals 167-168 regulating guide activities and issuing permits to agencies for collaring animals. They are included in the book for review and discussion by the board. Advisory committees may choose to provide comments on these proposals for the board's consideration.		
No Action			

Gary Eckenweiler was present for proposal 30 to 38

10. New business – Board of Fish – **Comment deadline, February 21, 2020**

Alaska Board of Fisheries: Statewide King & Tanner Crab Proposals March 7-11, 2020 | Anchorage, Alaska			
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**
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			

Alaska Board of Fisheries: Statewide King & Tanner Crab Proposals March 7-11, 2020 | Anchorage, Alaska			
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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.			
273	Amend the season dates for king crab in the Northern District Norton Sound Section (Northern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee)		
Support	6	0	Morris motioned to support, seconded by Peter. With climate change, winter crab fishery may no longer exist and the crab mortality is not good for the population
274	Limit the number of pot tags per permit per season in the Norton Sound Section commercial king crab fishery (Northern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee)		
Support	6	0	Morris motioned to support, seconded by Matilda. With not allowing fisherman continually getting tags during the winter fishery it reduces the amount of pots lost.
275	Allow a person or vessel to participate in the Norton Sound red king crab fishery after operating commercial Pacific cod pots in the Norton Sound Section within 14 days prior to the opening of the Norton Sound red king crab fishery (Wes Jones)		
Support	6	0	Morris motioned to support, seconded by Peter. While we understand that fish and game may not be comfortable with allowing other types of pot fishing right up to the opening of the red king crab fishery, there appears to be the ability to compromise between the proposal and the current regulation. The number one reason for this proposal it to allow more fishing opportunities of our local fisherman.
276	Allow a person or vessel to operate commercial Pacific cod pots in the Norton Sound Section within 14 days of the closure of the Norton Sound red king crab fishery after participating in the Norton Sound red king crab fishery (Wes Jones)		
Support	6	0	Matilda motioned to support, seconded by Renae. While we understand that fish and game may not be comfortable with allowing other types of pot fishing right after the closure of the red king crab fishery, there appears to be the ability to compromise between the proposal and the current regulation. The number one reason for this proposal it to allow more fishing opportunities of our local fisherman.

11. Boards Support Report
12. Guests/Public comments

Clarence Towarak said that he was vey happy that the advisory committee was active and alive. He appreciates all members that serve on the committee and he use to serve on the committee and was one of the members to help create the moratorium of the moose hunt on the Unalakleet river.

13. Advisory Committee member comments

Morris thanks everyone for all the work they had done for our region.

14. Board of Fish, Board of Game, Joint Board Meeting Schedule
    - November 1, 2019 — Board of Game – Agenda Change Request deadline
    - November 15, 2019 — Boards Support – travel requests to board meetings
    - January 3, 2020 — Board of Game – Arctic/Western Region comment deadline
    - January 16, 2020 — Board of Game – Arctic/Western Region Work Session
    - January 17-20, 2020 — Board of Game – Arctic/Western Region meeting
    - February 21, 2020 — Board of Game – Interior/Eastern Arctic Region comment deadline
    - February 21, 2020 — Board of Fish – Statewide Tanner/King Crab comment deadline
    - March 6-14, 2020 — Board of Game – Interior/Eastern Arctic Region meeting
    - March 7-11, 2020 — Board of Fish – Statewide finfish & supplemental issues Anchorage, AK
15. Select representatives to attend Board of Game and Board of Fish meetings as appropriate.
16. Set next meeting date
17. Adjourn
    Meeting was adjourned at 15:56

Minutes

Stony Holitna Fish & Game Advisory Committee (SHAC)
Meeting/Teleconference
Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2019 / 2:00P.M.

Wildlife Safeguard – 800 478-3377
If meeting attendees want to report a game violation, they should call this number.
SHAC meets to discuss ways and means, habitat and other biological data for hunters and fishers to harvest wild animals.

Call to Order by SHAC Chairman, Doug Carney at 2 P.M.

Roll Call / Quorum established

- Lime Village – Rick Breckheimer attended / Faron Bobby was absent.
- Stony River – David Bobby & Charlie Gusty were absent
- Sleetmute – Doug Carney & Frank Egnaty were present
- Red Devil – Barb Carlson & Ruby Egrass attended

Others Attending -
Josh Peirce - Area Biologist / Jon Barton - assistant area biologist / Nissa Pilcher – Boards Support

SHAC Members' Concerns

- Any agenda additions to Other Business for this meeting? **None**
- Any proposals to discuss besides the ones listed? **None**
- Anything for future meetings? **Nothing**

Approval of Agenda –
Chair - If any committee members have proposals to discuss, other than those listed below, say so now and we'll add them.
I emailed several documents to SHAC members, including a list of the proposals we will be considering. They are –
Western – Region 5 BOG meeting / Jan.17-20 / comment deadline Jan.3 – Proposals 1-3
Interior / Region 3 BOG Meeting / March 6-14 / comment deadline Feb.21

- Regionwide & Multiple Units – Proposals 44-56
- McGrath Area Proposals / GMUs 19, 21A & 21E – Proposals 95-119

BOF Statewide Meeting / March 7-11 / comment deadline Feb.21/ Proposal 280

Reading & Approval of Minutes – The Chair read the minutes from the Dec.7, 2018 SHAC meeting, & the committee approved them.

Updates by Chair –

- RM 682 Hunt At the March, 2019 BOG meeting, Proposal 127 carried as amended and created the RM682 hunt in GMU 19A. All SHAC recommendations became hunt conditions. I emailed committee members the hunt results, and a table from the Nov, 2019 composition count results. Josh will talk more about these later.

- TKC waivers for aerial pred. control - A resolution was passed by The Kuskokwim Corporation (TKC) Board of Directors, to allow aerial predator control on TKC lands. The liability wavers were recently sent to ADF&G for predator hunt permittees to sign. There has been a predator control program in GMU 19A since 2004, so that's 15 years without the use of these permits to kill wolves. So this is a very big deal for 19A, and makes things less confusing for the aerial hunters. CKAC has Proposal 105, asking for a predator control program. Josh will speak more on this.
- Joint Boards Meeting - Proposal 3 was made by the CKAC chair, to add 2 undesignated seats to the committee, which CARRIED.
  SHAC Proposal 4 was to move the committee out from under ADF&G Western Boards Support to Interior Region Boards Support, which CARRIED.
  Proposal 5, by the Georgetown Tribal Council was to add 2 seats to SHAC. They had been given incorrect information by an ADF&G employee, who was confused about how state committees and federal RACS operate. Georgetown traditional Council pulled their proposal before the Joint Boards meeting took place.
  Proposal 12 was to remake a regulation that requires members of ACs to reside within the committee's geographical area. SHAC supported this, but it FAILED.

Barb will give fisheries information and speak about BOF Proposal 280 later in the meeting.

Josh Peirce, Area Biologist –
Josh had emailed a pdf of a slide presentation to members.

- RM682 –30 permits-19 hunted-8 moose taken - 42% success rate. 6 on Holitna & 2 on Stony
- Went over 19A map of hunt areas
- Discussed results of 2017 GSPF survey – another one due in 2020.Spoke of 19A ANS & the harvestable surpluses in TM680(165), RM682(77), LVMA(10),and in the Bear Control Focus Area(29). Total for 19A is 6300 moose -.6 per square mile
- Nov. 2019 moose composition count –**21calves-100 cows/40 bulls-100cows** –bears & wolves
- Feb.24-27, 2018 aerial wolf survey - showed 60 wolves – close to pre-control levels. Wolf take was very good in 2004-05, and #s stayed low till recent years.
- May 28-31, 2018 twinning survey
- Map showing 40hp CUA
- Board findings on proposal 127 / RM682 hunt conditions

Doug Carney, Chair –
SHAC Proposal for 2021 Statewide BOG meeting / Proposal deadline - May 1, 2020
This split would be roughly where the 2 different hunts are defined on the map. Also discussed was making 19B part of 19A, and splitting the 2 by drainages, with the Aniak Drainage being included in 19A west, and the Stony & Holitna drainages being included in eastern 19A.
We discussed this proposal at the Sept, 2017 SHAC meeting.
Some of the main reasons for a split are that -

- there are 2 separate identified moose stocks that are, and have been managed separately.
- there are 2 separate harvestable surplus numbers
- there are 2 separate hunts
- there are different use patterns
- there is much different topography
- there are major land ownership differences - state, federal & private

A vote was taken at the Sept. 2017 meeting, allowing the chair to write and turn in a proposal to split GMU 19A into 2 separate subunits. It was written but not turned in, because that sort of issue is addressed at statewide BOG meetings, and the next one is in 2021. Does anyone want to discuss this proposal

further? Let's take another vote/ moved & seconded / unanimous in favor. OK - There is a May 1, 2020 deadline to get the proposal put in, so I'll do that.

SHAC comments on BOG Proposals –
The effects of proposals 2 & 46 were discussed – the committee supports both.
Proposals 44,117 &118 were discussed – agreement that C & T findings were not needed and already exist for small game. Also mentioned were long term effects in relation to possible future federal actions.
There was much discussion centered on proposals 97, 98, 99 - Also on proposals 100, 101, and 103.
If 105/predator control passes, it should be a separate program from the one that already exists in 19A.
Amended 115 to say, "prior to Oct.1"
Some proposals didn't require much discussion, since SHAC was supporting the actions of other ACs.
Some discussion is included on the comment forms.

Barb Carlson, Vice Chair / Fisheries Update
SHAC's Dipnet Proposal 107 passed – they can be used anytime.
Barb gave a talk on what the present regulations do and how they work.
The earlier Kings go to the headwaters, and there are now more getting there to spawn.
Reds are doing very well, and Kings are improving as well. Chums and dogs are not doing that well, but are OK.

Proposal 280 / BOF Statewide Meeting / March 7-11 / comment deadline Feb.21
This is the only proposal that affects our AC and it was submitted as an ACR, so it's not in the proposal book. This proposal would change the early net closure that is currently in regulation. It would allow 6" mesh openings with no bank orientation to occur during the closure.
Currently, only 4" or smaller mesh is allowed with the outer end of the net being within 100' of the high water mark.
Discussion mentioned that this proposal could easily lead to the catching of kings on their way to the headwaters, which is what this regulation was put into effect to prevent.
Present regulation already allows for an adjustable start date to the closure. Only the end date of June 11 is firm. The open start date is already built-in to allow for fishing longer before the closure starts, if King numbers indicate that the early run of upriver Kings can hold up to more fishing.
SHAC voted unanimously to oppose 280.

A motion was made, seconded & approved to appoint Barb to go to the BOF meeting.

Alaska Board of Game Interior and Eastern Arctic Region Meeting Proposals

March 6-14, 2020 | 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**
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44	Establish customary and traditional use findings for migratory birds and waterfowl in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, and 25, and modify regulations to provide reasonable opportunities		
OPPOSE	0	5	**C & T findings are not needed.**
45	Prohibit the use of moose, caribou and reindeer urine as scent lures in the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region		
SUPPORT	5	0	**There is no reason to take a chance of this disease taking hold or spreading in Alaska.**
46	Establish intensive management programs for bear across the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region		
SUPPORT	5	0	**Increase bag limits, allow snaring & baiting, get rid of tag fees or tag requirement altogether. These activities allow locals to take part in predator control. Aerial ADF&G bear removal programs are generally done by state personnel, and are done in more crucial, focused areas due to the huge expense of those programs.**
47	Prohibit nonresident hunting of any prey species under intensive management in the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region until harvest or population objectives are met		
OPPOSE	0	5	**Population & harvest objectives not being met does not mean there are not enough animals to justify a general hunt. This would cut out incidental predator control done by non-residents. It also cuts out any revenue the state would receive from license & tag fees – revenue used by ADF&G to fund wildlife conservation programs.**
48	Extend the season for taking wolves in Units 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C		
SUPPORT	5	0	**Opening the season on Aug 1 adds only 9 extra days to cover the start of sheep season, so hunters could also take wolves – This is a cost effective form of predator control**
49	For the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region, allow the use of crossbows in archery only hunt areas for hunters possessing permanent identification cards		

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NA			
50	Establish registration archery only hunts for bull moose in the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region Units that have general moose seasons		
NA			
51	Remove the bag limit restriction of one sheep every four years for nonresidents over the age of 60 hunting in the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region		
OPPOSE	0	5	**This would be an unnecessary regulation that would confuse things even more than they are now, and accomplish little.**
52	Change the nonresident general season sheep hunts in Units 20 Remainder and 19C to drawing permit hunts		
SUPPORT as amended	5	0	**Amend the number of permits to 80.** **No action taken in regard to GMU 20**
53	Establish an archery only registration permit hunt for Dall sheep in the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region		
NA			
54	Reauthorize resident grizzly/brown bear tag fee exemptions throughout Interior and Northeast Alaska		
SUPPORT	5	0	**This increases local resident take & is a cheap form of predator control**
55	Allow the use of dogs for hunting for lynx in Units 12 and 20		
NA			
56	Establish minimum distance requirements for trapping around dwellings in the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region		
OPPOSE	0	5	**This may be OK near villages and cities, and is for local govts to regulate or not.** **<u>It should certainly not be applied region-wide.</u>** **We are certain trappers don't like catching dogs and cats.** **Maybe these people should pursue getting a local leash law passed, or simply leash or chain their own animals.**
95	Establish a resident winter moose hunt in Unit 19D East		
SUPPORT	5	0	**There are plenty of animals and habitat is at risk**
96	Reauthorize the Unit 19D-East predation control program		
SUPPORT	5	0	**This is needed as an ongoing program**

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March 6-14, 2020 | 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**
97	Change the Tier II permit hunt for moose in Unit 19A to a registration permit hunt		
OPPOSE	0	5	**Some comments for 97,98, & 99 apply to all 3 of these proposals. SHAC opposes 97 & 98 as written. Any sort of registration hunt would need some restrictions & should have permits available in GMU 19A, and within the hunt area – just as it is done in GMU 18.** ***An unconditional hunt with an unlimited # of permits should NOT happen. This would be repeating the 19A RM640 hunt disaster of 2004 & 2005.*** **Some conditions are needed to protect this herd and allow it to grow** **SHAC believes conditions should include, but not be limited to, 1) A registration hunt with up to 300 permits, 2) Permits available within the hunt area. 3) A person won't qualify to receive a permit, if they have a permit to hunt moose anywhere in the Kuskokwim Drainage, 4) Only one permit per household, 5) Hunt reports turned in within 15 days of hunt closure.** **This comment also applies to Proposal 98.**
98	Change the Tier II permit hunt for moose in Unit 19A to a registration permit hunt		
OPPOSE	0	5	**Comments as shown above for Proposal 97, also apply for Proposal 98.**
99	Change the Tier II moose permit hunt (TM680) in Unit 19A to a household permit		
SUPPORT as amended	5	0	**SHAC supports this because this is what the local AC, (CKAC), has proposed, and the people of those villages in western 19A support it as well.** **If BOG decides to keep the Tier II hunt in place – then it's settled. Most importantly - the resource will not suffer. But with the harvestable surplus above the ANS, SHAC doubts that will happen. (In regard to the household portion of the proposal, the language in the proposal must be referring to the Tier I community hunt in GMU 13.)** **IF Proposal 99 is not approved by BOG, then a registration hunt makes sense - but not an unlimited one as proposed in 97 & 98.** ***An unconditional hunt with an unlimited # of permits should NOT happen. This would be repeating the 19A RM640 hunt disaster of 2004 & 2005.*** **Some conditions are needed to protect this herd and allow it to grow. The same conditions recommended in SHAC comments for Proposal 97 would be a good start, and are listed again below.** **SHAC believes conditions should include, and possibly not be limited to-**

Alaska Board of Game Interior and Eastern Arctic Region Meeting Proposals

March 6-14, 2020 | Fairbanks, AK

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			1) A registration hunt with up to 300 permits, 2) Permits available within the hunt area. 3) A person won't qualify to receive a permit, if they have a permit to hunt moose anywhere in the Kuskokwim Drainage, 4) Only one permit per household, 5) Hunt reports turned in within 15 days of hunt closure.
100	Extend the resident season dates for hunting moose in Unit 19A Remainder		
OPPOSE	0	5	**For proposals 100, 101,& 103 refer to AC # Extending the hunt into rut would increase hunter take. All the reasons for these restrictions still exist. Apparently the author doesn't understand that there is a low density moose population, that can't support the sort of hunt he wants. The RM 682 hunt, with its conditions, started in Fall, 2019. The 3 GMU 19 ACs and people in 19A support the hunt conditions in the new regs, as did the author's local AC - the Bethel AC. BOG approved the hunt in 2019 as amended by SHAC. This hunt was supported as an "Experimental hunt" by SHAC - ONLY if these important protective amendments/ conditions were included. BOG was aware of, and recognized their importance, as the BOG meeting summary and findings on 127 state. Proxies were kept out because they must be for "any bull." SHAC wanted the hunt to be restricted to "any antlered bull."**
101	Remove the horsepower restriction in the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area in Unit 19A		
OPPOSE	0	5	**Refer to ACs None of the conditions that led to this CUA's formation have changed. Documents provided at this meeting to BOG demonstrate what a beneficial action this has been, with better hunter success for all hunters, as well as addressing boat safety concerns and protecting salmon spawning beds.**
102	Shift the season dates for the Tier II moose permit hunt in Unit 19A		
OPPOSE	0	5	**This proposal would extend the hunt into rut and later, causing problems. Hunter success would increase, and possible overharvest could occur. Possible actions - ADF&G might be forced to decrease the number of permits issued, and/or have an Emergency closure.**
103	Establish a Tier II permit for moose hunting in Unit 19A Remainder		
OPPOSE	0	5	**SHAC and BOG support a closure rather than a Tier II hunt. They chose/choose to have any harvestable surplus used for recruitment as opposed to having a Tier II hunt.**

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			When the closure option was brought to BOG in 2006, it was supported by resolutions from all 4 Traditional Councils within the hunt area. **Residents of eastern 19A don't have comparatively near options with good moose populations, as exist in GMU 18.** **It's hard to understand the importance 19A has for subsistence users of GMU 18, when the distances involved are so great.** **The area needs very little hunting pressure, if any at all.** **SHAC <u>supported this hunt as an "Experimental Hunt",</u> and listed the conditions that are important & crucial to the success of the hunt.** **Returning to a closure is an important condition which SHAC included in its amended support of proposal 127 at both the 2018 and the 2019 BOG meetings. The GMU 19 ACs – McGrath, CKAC, & SHAC as well as the Bethel AC, supported SHAC's proposal with these conditions. BOG agreed in its 'Findings' that if/when necessary, the RM682 hunt will return to a closure rather than going into a Tier II hunt.**
104	Reauthorize the Unit 19A predation control program		
SUPPORT as Amended	5	0	**<u>Amend</u> to include the area referenced in <u>Proposal 106</u> on the Stony River -The Lime Village Management Area (LVMA).**
105	Authorize predator control for wolf and bear in Unit 19A		
SUPPORT as Amended	5	0	**This proposal makes no sense as it is written. It is as if there is not already a pred. control program in place in 19A. The existing program was originally approved for all of 19A & 19B in 2004 – 15 years ago. It was never applied in 19B, <u>but was in effect i ALL of 19A from 2004-2009.</u>** **The old CKAC, (in 2002-2004), supported pred. control and SHAC has as well, ever since it was created in 2007. Feds & TKC have prevented pred. control on their lands, which are large parts of 19A, ever since it was approved.** **In 2009 the aerial wolf program was altered & focused in parts of 19A where land ownership is not as confusing, including large areas of state land, which allows effective aerial wolf control.** **<u>Just last summer, the Kuskokwim Corporation Board voted to allow aerial pred. control on its lands. If BOG approves a program, SHAC believes it would be best to separate this new program from the existing one in 19A</u>.** **Some main reasons are, the existing program in 19A East, which has been operational for 15 years, has a different moose stock than 19A West, And**

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			different topography & use patterns. Also, in 19A East, the data collected over these years from moose & wolf surveys, and the bear control program, contributes to the successes experienced there. Adding 19A West, with large areas of federal land, and difficult topography could affect the success of pred. control there. SHAC does not want to see the existing program in 19A East affected negatively in any way.
106	Expand the predation control area for bear in Unit 19A		
SUPPORT	5	0	**Bear predator control in the LVMA will be important for the increase of moose calf survival. It will also help with the issues listed in the proposal itself.**
107	Establish a resident winter moose hunt in Unit 21E		
SUPPORT	5	0	**There are plenty of animals available, and habitat is at risk.**
108	Require trophy destruction of moose antlers taken from Unit 21E under RM836 permits, and establish check stations		
NA			**The way this is worded, this proposal would negatively affect local hunters, rather than limiting non-res hunters, which is probably not what the author intended.**
109	Replace the moose general season hunts for residents and nonresidents in Unit 21A with registration permit hunts		
SUPPORT	5	0	**Harvest reporting has been poor – with registration hunts it will improve.**
110	Allow proxy hunting for moose in Unit 19D		
SUPPORT	5	0	**This is the local AC preference**
111	Allow proxy hunting for moose in Unit 21A and 21E		
SUPPORT	5	0	**This is the local AC preference**
112	Open a registration permit hunt for moose in a portion of Unit 19C and eliminate the general season hunt		
SUPPORT	5	0	**Harvest reporting has been poor – with registration hunts it will improve.**
113	Require hunter orientation for nonresident moose hunters in Unit 21A and 21E		
SUPPORT	5	0	**This is a regulation in GMU 19B, and has caused no undue hardship.**
114	Establish a winter registration hunt for antlerless caribou in Units 19D and 21A and remove the winter harvest ticket hunt in Unit 19D Remainder		

Alaska Board of Game Interior and Eastern Arctic Region Meeting Proposals

March 6-14, 2020 | 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**
SUPPORT	5	0	**There are plenty of animals available.**
115	Require meat to be left on the bone for caribou, moose and bison in Units 19, 21A, and 21E		
SUPPORT as Amended	5	0	**Amend with the words - " prior to Oct.1"**
116	Adopt a Board of Game finding for the Unit 19A Portage Mountain Muskoxen Herd Strategy		
NA			**This does not appear to be a proposal. Whatever it is – it's premature. GASH has discussed the possibility that Wood Bison hunt plans in 21E could include a limited registration hunt for locals & a drawing hunt for the general population. That might be a possible plan for muskox as well. SHAC would also like to see the same thing for the established bison herds in the state.**
117	Determine a customary and traditional use finding for grouse in Unit 19 and modify regulations to provide reasonable opportunity for subsistence take		
OPPOSE	0	5	**C & T findings are not needed.**
118	Determine a customary and traditional use finding for ptarmigan in Unit 19 and modify regulations for provide reasonable opportunity for subsistence take		
OPPOSE	0	5	**C & T findings are not needed.**
119	Extend the lynx trapping season in Units 19C, 19D, and 21A		
SUPPORT	5	0	**Why not?**

Adjournment: Dec.17, 2019 @ 4:20pm

Minutes Recorded By: Barb Carlson & Nissa Pilcher
Minutes Approved By: Doug Carney
Date: December 20, 2019

Background & History of Holitna-Hoholitna /40hp CUA

In the years since the CUA was formed, (1992), there have been many proposals originating in GMU 18 to get rid of it. In 1994 there were Proposals 111-121, in 1996 Proposals 118-121, in 2004 Proposals 236 &238, 2008 Proposal 87, and 2017 Proposal 80. Now in 2020, there is Proposal 101 to get rid of the 40 HP CUA.
Nothing much has changed, except for the moose herd populations, which have decreased in 19A & increased in GMU18.

Due to the habitat on & between the two rivers, the Holitna drainage had a remarkable concentration of moose. That changed due to the ban on aerial predator control from the late 80s till 2004.
During the 90s, the Mulchatna caribou herd migration route changed, and for several years the migration turned north at the headwaters of the Holitna, and followed the valley. This also brought in wolves that accompanied the migration, some of which stayed in the Holitna.
The ban, along with the continuing access of many boat accessed hunters, finally took its toll, and the effect was visible by the late 90s.

Prior to 1992, there had been 4 proposals for horsepower limit regulation in the Holitna Drainage

Chronology of events

1986 Subsistence Act/AS 16.05.258 becomes law. Protecting users who rely economically on subsistence resources for basic necessities was a primary purpose of the 1986 Act, (McDowell Decision)

Nov. 21, 1990 – The Native Village of Sleetmute files suit against Alaska Commissioner of Fish & Game Don Collinsworth.
This suit was actually filed at the instigation of the Bethel-based Alaska Village Council Presidents, (AVCP), by one of its employees, who had lived in Bethel most of his life, but was still enrolled in the federally recognized tribe of "The Native Village of Sleetmute."
This suit blamed guided hunters for wanton waste, and creating an environment that affected / deprived local users of their ability to harvest subsistence moose. The suit claimed that commercial guiding interests were unfair competition for local hunters in moose hunting that they wasted meat, etc.

Nov.8, 1991 - Bethel Superior Court Judge Dale Curda made a "partial summary judgment" in favor of Sleetmute, saying that BOG failed to comply with state subsistence law, (AS 16.05.258),which gives priority to subsistence users over sport users. Curda remanded the issue to the Joint Boards, with the judgment saying, "the board's action will become effective only after being submitted to & reviewed by this court."

April 3, 1992 –At the Region 3 BOG Meeting, the board generated its own Proposal "D" - creating The Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area, (40 hp limit).This was in response to a number of proposals, and with Judge Curda's ruling in mind.
There was much testimony, and what became evident to the board, is that the largest user group hunting moose in the Holitna drainage were boat-accessed GMU 18 hunters. The main problem for Sleetmute hunters was created not by airplane-accessed, guided hunters, but by GMU18 hunters with large boats & large outboards. **The BOG Summary of Findings from that meeting are very clear. See the attachment below**

Fall, 1992 – AVCP meeting in Sleetmute –after the fall hunting season, AVCP found that the people of Sleetmute, including the tribal govt., were unanimously in favor of & satisfied with the new 40hp CUA .

May 7, 1993 After reviewing BOG's actions, Judge Curda made a final judgment on the case in favor of Sleetmute.

Fall, 1993 – The "Boat Owner's Association" of Bethel, obtains a court injunction to throw out the 40hp ruling. The injunction was thrown out one week later.

Spring, 1994 - At the Region III BOG meeting, there were proposals 111-121 to get rid of the 40hp CUA. Harvest success records kept by ADF&G again showed that GMU 18 hunters were by far the main competition Sleetmute hunters had for fall moose hunting. ADF&G records also showed that success rates for GMU 18 hunters had increased in the 2 years since the 40hp limit became regulation.**(See Aug, 26,1994 Memo below).**

Summer, 1996 – "Boat Owner's Association" files suit against state to get rid of the 40hp CUA, which the court throws out.

2002-2004, The Central Kuskokwim Moose Management Planning Committee, (CKMMPC), met. This committee was made up of members from advisory committees- Central Kuskokwim, Lower Kuskokwim, Anchorage, Mat-Su Valley, guides, transporters, Native organizations, & a conservation group.

2004 – **The completed CKMMP, listed the Holitna-Hoholitna CUA as one of the "Key Regulations"** that was in place before the planning project began, along with the Upper Holitna-Hoholitna Management Area, and the Non-resident Closed Areas in GMUs 19A & B, & a few others. The plan recommended & resulted in an aerial predator control program and BOG approving an unlimited Tier I registration hunt.

#92-59-BOG

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS
UNIT 19 A & B MOOSE

The Board of Game heard public testimony, staff reports, advisory committee reports, and discussed the issue of management of moose in Units 19A and 19B on April 1 and April 2, 1992. Based upon all the testimony and reports, both oral and written, the Board makes the following observations and conclusions:

Biological Findings:

1. The Board finds that the moose found in the Holitna and Hoholitna river drainages in 19A and 19B are a moose "population." AS 16.05.940 (18). The boundary between 19A and 19B was drawn to reflect different use patterns of the population. The Unit 19A and 19B portions of this population have been subjected to discreet management.

2. The moose population within the Holitna and Hoholitna river drainages in GMU 19A and 19B is of moderate density, increasing in size, and highly productive. Calf:cow ratios in the lower Holitna and Hoholitna rivers in the fall during the past 10 years have averaged about 50-60 calves per 100 cows. Calf:cow ratios in the upper Hoholitna drainage in Unit 19B over this time have averaged about 25 to 30 calves:100 cows.

3. Bull-cow ratios within the 19A portion declined from 60-70 bulls:100 cows to approximately 30 bulls:100 cows during the 1976-1990 period as a result of high hunting pressure. The current ratio remains biologically adequate for productivity and the population sex and age structure provides for high sustained harvests.

4. Bull-cow ratios within the 19B portion remain higher than 19A, reflecting lower hunting pressure.

5. An estimate of the annual moose harvest during the period 1985-1990 for the Holitna and Hoholitna drainage for all types of uses is approximately 300 bulls and 30 cows, which is well within sustained yield limits. Of this estimated harvest, an average of 40-50 bulls were harvested each year by non-residents during this period, with the remainder by Alaska residents.

6. In general, the harvest of moose in the 19A portions of the Holitna and Hoholitna river drainages is predominately by hunters using boats, primarily residents of Units 18 and 19. The harvest of moose in the 19B portions of the Holitna and Hoholitna river drainages is primarily by hunters using aircraft access. Wheel-equipped aircraft are used to access upland areas, and float-equipped aircraft are used to access Whitefish Lake and certain landing and takeoff points along the rivers, including the

confluence of the Holitna with the Kuskokwim, the confluence of the Hoholitna with the Holitna, and other locations downriver from the mouth of the South Fork.

Subsistence Use Patterns:

1. The Board of Game found in 1987 that there are subsistence uses of moose in Unit 19, including the Holitna and Hoholitna drainages described above.

2. There are at least three distinct subsistence use patterns for moose in the Holitna and Hoholitna river drainages: a Lower Kuskokwim Use Pattern by hunters from Unit 18, a Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern by hunters from Unit 19, and a Floater/Drifter Use Pattern by Alaska residents supported by floatplanes. In the Lower Kuskokwim Use Pattern, hunters tend to access 19A and 19B by boats powered by outboard engines often in excess of 70 horsepower, which is part of the means and methods of harvest. In the Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern, including Sleetmute residents, hunters tend to access the areas by boats with horsepower engines less than 70 horsepower. In the Floater/Drifter Use Pattern, hunters typically access the area by airplanes of transporters combined with float craft.

3. In addition, there is some non-Alaska resident guided hunting in 19A and 19B. Guided hunters typically access the area by airplane, and harvest is predominately large bulls. The number of moose taken by guided hunters in 19A is small; harvest information indicates 7 moose taken by guided hunters for all of Subunit 19A in 1991.

4. The success rate during the fall in 19A and 19B for hunters who are part of the Lower Kuskokwim Use Pattern is about 50%. The success rate during the fall in 19A and 19B for hunters who are part of the Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern is in the 70% range. The success rate for hunters who are part of the Floater/Drifter Use Pattern is estimated to be about 50%, although there is no detailed information on this group.

5. Hunters from Sleetmute hunt as part of the Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern. The Department estimated an annual subsistence harvest to be somewhat more than 1 moose per multiperson household during the 1980s. A high estimate of the traditional use level by Sleetmute residents for the 1980s was between 1 to 2 moose per multiperson household, or about 48 moose for the community; however, actual harvest levels fluctuate according to a number of factors including weather and competition from other hunters. The reported harvest during the September season was approximately 12 with an additional 7 taken in the November and February seasons during the 1982-83 season, or about .86 moose per multiperson household. There

probably also were moose taken outside the open moose hunting seasons, but there is no estimate of numbers for Sleetmute. Sleetmute residents have indicated increasing difficulties in hunting moose along the river corridor during the September season.

Moose Required for Subsistence Uses:

The Board concludes that there is not a Tier II situation for moose hunting in the Holitna and Hoholitna drainages, as there is a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses for the Lower Kuskokwim Use Pattern, the Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern, and the Drifter/Floater Use Pattern. The number of harvested moose necessary to provide for subsistence uses of this moose population for all subsistence uses is within a range that may fluctuate from year to year, and is estimated to be about 300 in the period 1985-90. This is also a reasonable estimate for 1992 based on available information.

Subsistence Use Concerns:

There is evidence that the Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern, particularly for Sleetmute, is being impacted by an increased number of hunters and increased noise and disturbance by hunters in the river corridor of the Holitna and Hoholitna river drainages of 19A and 19B. Most of the increase is by Unit 18 residents who hunt as part of the Lower Kuskokwim Use Pattern. There also may be an increase in hunters who hunt as part of the Floater/Drifter Use Pattern based on reports of local hunters, although the Department has no firm estimate of trends in numbers for this user group. The board recieved testimony from local residents who perceived that the use of aircraft in Units 19 A and B contributed to disturbance of moose and competition from urban hunters. The board found that the disturbance exists primarily along the river corridor from boat traffic, and that the use of aircraft for access to this population for hunting is not a significant disturbance factor. The major impact on the Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern has been that there are fewer bull moose available along the Holitna and Hoholitna river corridor. Hunters of the Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern report having to spend more days afield and spend more money hunting in the fall to obtain moose. A shortfall of fall moose takes are made up to some extent by harvests in the November and February seasons.

Board Regulatory Action:

The board adopted the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area (5 AAC 92.540 (e) (2)) at the Spring 1992 board meeting. The board finds that this regulation, combined with the moose hunting seasons for Unit 19 A and B, provide a reasonable opportunity to satisfy the subsistence uses of this moose population. The moose seasons for Units 19 A and B (outside the Lime Village Management area) are as follows:

Unit 19 A (except the Lime Village Management Area):

Resident hunters: Sept. 1 - Sept. 20; Nov. 20 - Nov. 30; Feb. 1 - Feb 10: 1 moose; however, antlerless moose may be taken only during the Nov. 20 - Nov. 30 and Feb. 1 - Feb. 10 seasons.

Nonresident hunters: Sept. 1 - Sept. 20: 1 bull with 50 inch antlers.

Unit 19 B:
Resident hunters: Sept. 1 - Sept. 25: 1 bull.

Nonresident hunters: Sept. 1 - Sept 25: 1 bull with 50 inch antlers.

The purpose of the controlled use area is to minimize disturbance along the Holitna - Hoholitna River corridor which has tended to displace moose, especially bull moose, making moose less accessible to subsistence users who rely on river access. The horsepower restriction is intended to limit noise disturbance while still allowing reasonable access by the method primarily used by subsistence users of this moose population. The board is also recommending that the department establish a check station at Whitefish Lake to further document the use pattern for Floater/Drifter hunters and better assess the extent of this use.

Based upon the best available information presented to it, the board believes that the regulations now established for moose hunting of this population will provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence users of this population to satisfy their subsistence needs.

Dated: April 3, 1992

Location: Anchorage, Alaska

Richard Burley

Richard Burley, Chairman
Board of Game

1994 Proposals – Repeal 40HP Controlled Use Area (CUA)

Included are –

- 1994 proposals 111, 112,119, 120, &121. (111-121 were very similar, & originated in GMU18)
- An August 26, 1994 memo from former McGrath Area Biologist Jack Whitman to Wildlife Conservation Director Chris Smith. It discusses the effectiveness & increased success rates of hunters, with the 40 HP in place its first 2 years.
- The ADF&G Wildlife Conservation comment on 1994 Region III BOG Proposal 119. This has virtually the same information as the memo listed above.
- **The Board action FAILED Proposal 111** There was no board action needed or taken on Proposal 119 or the other proposals to repeal the 40hp CUA, due to action taken on Proposal 111.

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PROPOSAL **111** - 5 AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Change the Upper Kuskokwim and Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area as follows:

Delete aircraft and outboard motor restrictions in these controlled use areas.

PROBLEM: Non-biologically justified restriction on access for hunting in the Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area and the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area. These two areas have the highest moose density and healthiest populations in the state. The current access restrictions (aircraft and outboard motor restrictions) are racially and/or residency based and cannot withstand legal scrutiny.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The board should manage the State's wildlife and not our human population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Persons who believe in equality and equal access.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? User groups who live inside the limited access areas.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Lynn Levengood (HQ-94-G-92)

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PROPOSAL **112** - 5 AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Change the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area as follows:

Erase the horsepower limitation on boat motors as there is no need for it.

PROBLEM: The limit of only 40 horse engines on the Holitna River during the fall hunting season.

PROPOSAL 119 - 5 AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Change the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area as follows:

That the motor horsepower limit be removed to accomodate the boat that is being driven on state navigable waters.

PROBLEM: 40 horsepower limit on Holitna River.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The people of the Lower Kuskokwim will not be able to buy a 40 h.p. outboard and pay a $400 hunting fee and pay a $150 storage fee at Red Devil. We will not get into state owned country to hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The people that don't have money to buy a 40 h.p. and people who hunt on the Holitna for moose and caribou.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Jerry Demientieff (HQ-94-G-28)

PROPOSAL 120 - 5 AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Change the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area as follows:

All outboard motor restriction would be removed. If hunter number needs to be controlled by state law restrict non-residents first. No float planes on Holitna.

PROBLEM: Remove 40 HP limitation from Holitna River for moose hunting.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters from down river use larger motors. This rule prevents down river hunters from using Holitna River while allowing non-resident hunters to sport hunt using airplanes. There isn't any biological reason to limit access to the Holitna. Down river hunters will be banned from area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters on Kuskokwim River with motor larger than 40 H.P. This is almost all of the hunters from Aniak down river.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? A couple of guides or outfitters who want the Holitna River as their private hunting area.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Eric Shrum (W-94-G-1)

PROPOSAL 121 - 5 AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Change the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area as follows:

Date: 26 August 1994
To: Chris Smith
From: Jack Whitman
Re: Notes on Holitna CUA

Figure 7 displays reported hunter success rates in Subunit 19A of hunters from GMU 18, as well as depicting success rates by all hunters combined (including GMU 18 hunters). This clearly indicates that GMU 18 hunters have enjoyed higher moose hunting success rates than other segments of the hunting population during 4 of the last 6 years. Most notably, the success rates increased substantially during the 1992 and 1993 seasons, during which time the horsepower restrictions have been in effect. I hesitate to get too froggy, but Figure 7 kinda smacks of good management.

Figure 8 shows reported hunter success rates in GMU 19B by hunters from GMU 18 and hunters from all residences. It too, indicates that GMU 18 residents have enjoyed higher success rates during 5 of the last 6 years than the general hunting populace in GMU 19B. I really don't understand the lawsuit. Please explain.

Figure 9. It's obvious from the mandatory hunter reports that success rates throughout GMU 19 by GMU 18 residents has increased substantially during the 2 years that the horsepower restrictions have been in place. Further, during 1992 (the first year of the horsepower restriction), GMU 18 hunters harvested more moose than at any time during the previous 6 years in GMU 19.

Further, I would bet that if the GMU 18 hunters would quit poaching the Unit 18 moose and let them build to reasonable population levels, they wouldn't have to travel to GMU 19 to hunt; they would have plenty to go around if they'd allow them to become established.

It should be noted, that if subsistence harvest of moose is the real issue, the total reported take in the Holitna and Hoholitna River drainages (where local hunters, both Unit 18 and Unit 19 residents, make up the vast majority of users) was higher during the 2 years of the horsepower restrictions than during any of the 3 preceeding years.

If safety of boaters is the issue, the bigger the boat, the bigger the wake. It could be argued that the big boats (generally from GMU 18) are a hazard to the local (GMU 19) residents. The GMU 18 hunters should learn how to pack a boat reasonably and not overload.

There are myriad variables in regards to the question of number of river miles available to hunters, making it very difficult to obtain a pat answer. Annual (or daily) water levels, whether the boat is equipped with a lift, short shaft, jet unit, etc., as well as knowledge/skill level of the pilot all make a tremendous difference in whether a stream is "navigable". Nevertheless, I've made a stab at estimating the miles of navigable waterways in GMU 19.

When the entire Kuskokwim upstream of Kalskag (including the tributaries) is considered, I estimate there are about 650 river miles navigable by "large" boat, of which about 200 miles are on the Holitna/Hoholitna (31%). When smaller and/or shallower streams are considered, about 1,900 miles of waterways are available, of which the Holitna/Hoholitna Rivers make up less than 14% (about 260 miles).

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION DIVISION

PROPOSAL 119. 5AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS.

This proposal would delete the Holitna/Hoholitna Controlled Use Area.

Moose populations, as reflected by composition/trend surveys in the lower Holitna and Hoholitna Rivers, are doing well. No surveys were conducted during fall 1995 because of the lack of adequate snow cover, but until that time, populations appeared to be increasing (Figures 1, 2). With the increases in moose populations, there were limits imposed on motor size, but the reported harvest remained high (Figure 3). Throughout 19A, hunters from Unit 18 had very high reported success rates immediately following the instigation of the 40-hp limit, as did hunters from other areas (Figure 4). According to hunter harvest reports, the 40-hp restriction has resulted in marginally fewer Unit 18 hunters using 19A, but those that chose to hunt there had higher success rates. With the increases in the moose population, the increased harvest, and the increases in reported hunter success rates, the regulation prohibiting boats with motors in excess of 40-hp has apparently worked well.

Figure 1. Moose per hour figures from Holitna/Hoholitna Trend Area during the period 1976-1994.

Figure 2. Number of bull moose observed in the Holitna/Hoholitna Trend Area during 1976-94.

Figure 3. Total reported harvest of moose from 19A from 1983-1994.

Figure 4. Comparison of hunter success rates in 19A during the period 1983-94.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS
BOARD OF GAME

MARCH 26 - APRIL 5, 1994
ANCHORAGE WESTCOAST INTERNATIONAL INN

DESIGNATED REPORTER: Nancylee S. Babbitt

This summary of actions is for information purposes only and is not intended to detail, reflect or fully interpret the reasons for the Board's actions.

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SOUTHEAST REGION PROPOSALS

PROPOSAL NO. 1 **ACTION:** Failed

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 85.015. Reduce Unit 1C black bear bag limit to one bear.

DISCUSSION: There is no problem with bear population in this area.

PROPOSAL NO. 2 **ACTION:** Failed

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 85.015. Reduce Unit 3 black bear bag limit by one bear.

DISCUSSION: Bear in this area remain constant, only 13 second bears have been taken.

PROPOSAL NO. 8 **ACTION:** Failed

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 85.020. Change Unit 1B brown bear season to September 1 - December 31.

DISCUSSION: There is not an over abundance of bears in this area only one bear killed in the time period when the season was opened this early.

PROPOSAL NO. 107 **ACTION:** Failed

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.540. Add aircraft to motorized vehicle restrictions in the Yanert Controlled Use Area.

DISCUSSION: Proposal is probably in response to tourist air traffic east of Denali Park which causes disturbance to horseback hunters. Most hunting access is by horseback. Adoption of this proposal would reallocate the harvest among different user groups. The problem is tourist flights and the board cannot create a CUA that eliminates people from flying in for non-hunting purposes.

PROPOSAL NO. 111 **ACTION:** Failed

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.540. The Upper Kuskokwim and Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area. Delete aircraft and outboard motor restrictions.

DISCUSSION: People from 19A generally use small river boats with 40 h.p. or less. Down river residents were using commercial fishing boats with 100/200 h.p. motors. Down river residents generally felt the problem was aircraft into upper portions of watershed. A check station established in the late 1980's and harvest tickets showed increasing resident use, but little impact from aircraft. Moose and caribou are at moderate density in the area. Effects of the CUA has been to displace hunting effort upstream in the Kuskokwim. Other hunters have found a way around regs by towing a small boat behind big boat till they get to the Holitna than towing their big boat with a small boat. Also some have taken larger boats up the Holitna and indicated they are not hunting while in their larger boats. 19A residents are happy with and support current regs. Lower Kuskokwim residents opposed. One board member noted that he had heard no compelling reason to change the 40 h.p. restriction. Another board member noted testimony from one Bethel resident who was initially opposed to the restriction and now is satisfied with the reg.

PROPOSAL NO. 112 **ACTION:** No action

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.540. Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area. Delete the horsepower limitation on boat motors.

DISCUSSION: No action due to action on Proposal No. 111.

PROPOSAL NO. 113 **ACTION:** No action

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.540. Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area. Delete the horsepower limitation on boat motors.

DISCUSSION: No action due to action on Proposal No. 111.

PROPOSAL NO. 114 **ACTION:** No action

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.540. Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area. Delete the horsepower limitation on boat motors.

DISCUSSION: No action due to action on Proposal No. 111.

PROPOSAL NO. 115 **ACTION:** No action

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.540. Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area. Delete the horsepower limitation on boat motors.

DISCUSSION: No action due to action on Proposal No. 111.

PROPOSAL NO. 116 **ACTION:** No action

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.540. Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area. Delete the horsepower limitation on boat motors.

DISCUSSION: No action due to action on Proposal No. 111.

PROPOSAL NO. 117 **ACTION:** No action

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.540. Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area. Delete the horsepower limitation on boat motors.

DISCUSSION: No action due to action on Proposal No. 111.

PROPOSAL NO. 118 **ACTION:** No action

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.540. Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area. Delete the horsepower limitation on boat motors.

DISCUSSION: No action due to action on Proposal No. 111.

PROPOSAL NO. 119 **ACTION:** No action

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.540. Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area. Delete the horsepower limitation on boat motors.

DISCUSSION: No action due to action on Proposal No. 111.

Documents Supporting SHAC opposition to Proposals, 100, 101, & 103 – Repeal Conditions of RM682 Moose Hunt (includes 101 - Repeal of 40HP CUA)

2006 – At the Region III BOG meeting, three CKAC members and four village councils advocated for a moose hunting closure in 19A East. There were several proposals, (62-67 & 69-70), including Proposal 64 from the Sleetmute Traditional Council and proposals 65 & 66 from the CKAC.
ADF&G Proposal 70 carried, establishing a closure in 19A East and a Tier II hunt in 19A West. Since that time 19A East remained closed until the fall of 2019.

2018 – At the Feb. BOG Meeting - Proposal 165, (ARC1) - To open a registration hunt in 19A. The Stony Holitna F & G Advisory Committee (SHAC) comments **OPPOSING** 165 – included hunt recommendations if hunt were to be opened. BOG defers the proposal to 2019.

2019 – BOG Proposal 127, (formerly 165), was **SUPPORTED** as amended by SHAC, carried. This opened an experimental registration hunt in fall, 2019 – RM682.

The last two moose compositions surveys, (table at end of this document) show –

- 2018 / 40 calves- 100 cows & 52 bulls – 100 cows.
- 2019 / 21 calved – 100 cows & 40 bulls – 100 cows

The bull-cow ratio is still okay, but these ratios have decreased substantially from 2018, and recent years.

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Included here are documents from the 2006 Region 3 BOG Meeting, establishing the GMU19A hunt Closure.

- ADF&G Proposal 70
- Summary of Board Actions

Docs from the March, 2019 Southcentral Region BOG Meeting / Proposal 127-(Deferred Prop 165) to open 19A Registration Hunt, RM 682

- Proposal 127 (formerly ACR 1 & Proposal165)
- BOG Summary of Actions
- Findings of the Board of Game
- 2007 – 2019 Moose Composition Surveys

PROPOSAL 70 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(17). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Retain the Unit 19A nonresident moose season closure that is due to sunset in September 2006; close the resident moose hunting season in the portion of Unit 19A upstream from the Oskawalik River (excluding the Lime Village Management Area); and implement a Tier II permit system in Unit 19A downstream from the Oskawalik River as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(17)		
Unit 19(A), that portion within the Lime Village Management Area		
2 [ANTLERED] bulls per regulatory year; up to 28 [ANTLERED] bulls may be taken by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only; up to 14 permits may be issued	Aug. 10–Sept. 25 (Subsistence hunt only) Nov. 20–Mar. 31 (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season.
Unit 19(A), that portion upstream from the Oskawalik River, excluding the Lime Village Management Area		
RESIDENT HUNTERS	**No open season**	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS		**No open season.**
Remainder of 19(A)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS **1 antlered bull by Tier II** [REGISTRATION] **permit only**	Sept. 1–Sept. 20	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side		[UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1, 2006,] No open season. [BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2006, SEPT. 1–SEPT. 20]

Unit 19(B) within the Nonresident Closed Area	
RESIDENT HUNTERS:	
[1 ANTLERED BULL BY REGISTRATION PERMIT ONLY, OR]	[SEPT. 1–SEPT. 20]
1 bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side	Sept. 1–Sept. 20
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:	No open season.
Remainder of Unit 19(B)	
RESIDENT HUNTERS: [1 ANTLERED BULL BY REGISTRATION PERMIT ONLY; OR]	[SEPT. 1–SEPT. 20]
1 bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side	Sept. 1–Sept. 20
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side	Sept. 5–Sept. 20

....

ISSUE: The Central Kuskokwim Moose Management Plan (CKMMP) was endorsed by the board in March 2004 as a guide to rebuilding the moose populations in Unit 19A and Unit 19B. Since that time, the department has conducted additional moose surveys in Units 19A and 19B. These surveys have verified the concerns about declining moose populations expressed by local residents and others during the planning process. The spring 2005 moose population estimate in Unit 19A was 2350–3250 moose, with a harvestable surplus of 94–130 moose. These data suggest that the reported fall 2005 harvest of 171 moose exceeded sustained yield. In addition, November 2005 composition counts showed low bull:cow ratios and low numbers of calves per 100 cows. In the Holitna River drainage there were 8 bulls:100 cows and most were yearlings. In the Aniak River drainage and along the Kuskokwim River between Kalskag and Napaimiut there were 20 bulls:100 cows.

The Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee (CKAC) met on November 21, 2005 and developed recommendations for further reductions in moose harvest to help the population recover. Recent composition count data was not available at the time of their meeting. The CKAC recommended a moose hunting closure in Unit 19A above the Oskawalik River and that is reflected in this proposal. The CKAC recommended a five day reduction in the season length and bag limit of one moose per household in Unit 19A below the Oskawalik River. These recommendations are included in a separate proposal to be submitted by the committee. The CKAC hopes to meet again prior to the March 2006 board meeting and may have the opportunity to reconsider their recommendations based on the recent composition count data.

This proposal conforms with the CKAC proposal to close the moose season above the Oskawalik River, excluding Lime Village Management Area. As per the CKAC recommendation the moose hunting closure should be revisited at the 2006 board meeting.

With the moose hunting moratorium in the Kuskokwim drainage in Unit 18 and a possible moose hunting closure above the Oskawalik River, the portion of Unit 19A between the Oskawalik River and Unit 18 could be the only area open to moose hunting along this stretch of the Kuskokwim River. The reduced season length and registration permit provisions recommended by the CKAC may help but do not provide a mechanism to ensure that harvest remains within sustained yield. This uncertainty is too risky, given the poor biological status of the Unit 19A moose population. In consideration of other moose hunting restrictions in the area and the fall 2005 composition surveys in Unit 19A, the department recommends the board implement a Tier II permit system in the portion of Unit 19A below the Oskawalik River.

The bag limit for the Lime Village Management Area is proposed to be changed to "bulls only" to reflect the fact that this season is open until March 31 when bulls have lost their antlers. Harvest in the Lime Village Management Area is restricted through the Tier II permit system.

We recommend the board eliminate the any-bull registration permit hunt in Unit 19B and retain the more restrictive general spike-fork-50 season. Because of current and proposed restrictions downstream from Unit 19B, hunting pressure may increase significantly under the current Unit 19B any-bull registration permit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Harvestable surplus will be exceeded and the moose population will likely decline further.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it may help slow the moose population decline by keeping harvest within sustainable limits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Future moose hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Resident and nonresident hunters, guides, and transporters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The CKAC and department have considered many options to ensure that moose harvest in Units 19A and 19B does not exceed sustained yield. A moose hunting closure or Tier II was considered for all of Unit 19A. The department considered the recommendations of the CKAC for modifying the registration permit hunt in the portion of Unit 19A below the Oskawalik River, but felt that the board must also have the option of greater certainty that harvest will be maintained within sustainable levels. This can be accomplished by using Tier II permits. Reductions in the length of the resident and nonresident moose hunting season in Unit 19B have also been considered (as recommended by the CKAC in their proposal.) Another option considered was to apply the moose hunting closure in 19A above the Oskawalik River to the Holitna River corridor in Unit 19B and apply the Tier II system proposed for Unit 19A below the Oskawalik to the Aniak River drainage in 19B.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-042)

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Summary of Actions
Alaska Board of Game

INTERIOR REGION
BOARD OF GAME MEETING
March 10-21, 2006
Princess Riverside Lodge, Fairbanks, AK

DESIGNATED REPORTERS: Rita St.Louis
This summary of actions is for information purposes only and is not intended to detail, reflect or fully interpret the reasons for the Board's actions.

PROPOSAL NO. 70 **ACTION: Carried as Amended**

DESCRIPTION: Retain nonresident closure; close resident moose hunting and implement a Tier II hunt in portions Unit 19A.

AMENDMENTS: The language was amended to change the boundaries from those in the original proposal to exclude the George River drainage but to include the Downey River drainage for the 'No open season' area. Retained the Sept. 5-20 season in the remainder of 19B for nonresidents. Adopted ANS range 19A to 175-225 and the ANS range to 20-24 for 19B.

DISCUSSION: Given the dangerously low moose numbers, the board agreed that the challenge is immense. The board had lengthy discussion on different options to avoid Tier II and to provide opportunity for the various users. Many of the local users clearly did not want a Tier II situation, but after reviewing extensive research and thereby establishing the ANS for 19A and 19B, the board found compelling legal evidence for a Tier II hunt in the downriver portion of 19A. The board discussed including Lime Village in the entire Tier II hunt and the history of the establishment of the Lime Village Management Area. After discussing the history of extensive use in the Holitna and Hoholitna drainages together with trying to oblige the local residents of the upriver villages, the board closed a portion of 19A to all hunting. It was determined that 19B provides ample opportunity for subsistence as well as some non resident opportunities.

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the Central/Southwest Region Meeting in February 2018. It was previous numbered Proposal 165.

PROPOSAL 127

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Open a registration hunt for moose in Unit 19A as follows:

Replace the closed area of Unit 19A with a registered Tier I permit hunt. Permits would be available at the store in Sleetmute. Permit application would be for one week, one month before opening season. Anyone acquiring this permit can have no other hunting permits in the Kuskokwim drainage.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The closure of Unit 19A above the George River to moose hunting. The fish and game survey of spring 2017 show there is a harvestable population for the first time since the closure in 2006.

This hunting season should have been available in the 2017 cycle of the Board of Game for Interior/Northeast Arctic Region (Region 3), however weather conditions did not allow for aerial surveys to validate this opening until the board cycle was past. The AC was not able to put an agenda change request together because of all the summer activities of its members.

This would not allow for local people to have an opportunity to take moose in close proximity of their communities.

This will be a Tier I registration permit hunt available to all Alaskans.

PROPOSED BY: Henry Hill (HQ-F17-ACR1)

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ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Southcentral Region Meeting
March 14-20, 2019 | Anchorage, Alaska
MEETING SUMMARY

CA (7-0) PROPOSAL 127: Open a registration hunt for moose in Unit 19A. *The board adopted the proposal with the following changes recommended by the Stony-Holitna AC, found in AC 27, page 4: Up to 75 permits for one antlered bull to be issued; only 30 permits will be issued the first year. Permits are available within the hunt area only, during the month of July. Permit holders cannot apply for or hold other moose permits in the Kuskokwim River drainage. Only one permit is allowed per household, and successful hunters must report within 15 days of harvest. Proxy hunting is not allowed. If the 2-year average bull: cow ratio drops below 35 bulls: 100 cows the hunt area will close; and if the harvestable portion drops below the lower range of the ANS - the area will return to a closure rather than go to a Tier II hunt. Note: deliberation of this proposal occurred 3/17 at 4:13:15 PM.*

Findings for the Alaska Board of Game

2019-225-BOG

Board Recommendation to the Department of Fish and Game on Subsistence Moose Hunting in Unit 19A Remainder Provided during the Southcentral Region Regulations Meeting

The Board of Game finds as follows, based on information provided by Department staff, Advisory Committees, Alaska residents and other wildlife users:

The Board recommended the department take the following actions:

1. Registration permits for moose in the remainder of Unit 19A will be available in person in communities in the hunt area only, during the month of July, and only one permit is allowed per household.
2. A person holding a permit for this hunt may not hold another moose permit in the Kuskokwim River drainage for that regulatory year.
3. 30 permits will be issued the first year. Up to 75 permits may be issued in subsequent years at the department's discretion. In exercising this discretion, the department should consider the harvestable portion of the moose population, the success of hunters in harvesting moose under these permits, and the potential for overhunting that could result in a population decline.
4. If the 2-year average bull:cow ratio decreases below 35:100 the hunt will close until a 2-year average bull:cow ratio is at least 35:100 within the hunt area.
5. If the harvestable portion of the population decreases below the lower range of the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence for 19A, the hunt will close until the harvestable portion reaches the minimum ANS for 19A.
6. No proxy hunting will be permitted for this hunt.

Vote: 5-0-2
(*Members Hoffman and Burnett Absent*)
March 20, 2019
Anchorage, Alaska

Ted N. Spraker

Ted Spraker, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

19A Holitna Composition Surveys 2007-2019.

Regulatory year	Moose	Cows	Calves	Calves: 100 cows	Bulls	Bulls:100 cows
2007–2008	200	111	50	45	39	35
2008–2009	124	77	21	27	26	34
2009–2010	129	69	25	36	35	51
2010–2011	212	127	24	19	61	48
2011–2012	164	97	30	31	37	38
2013–2014	244	119	59	50	66	55
2016–2017	273	128	71	55	74	58
2017-2018	300	176	60	34	64	36
2018-2019	343	179	71	40	93	52
2019-2020	275	171	36	21	68	40

Tanana Rampart Manley Advisory Committee
January 28, 2020
Elders Basement, Tanana

I. Call to Order: by Chair Stan Zuray

II. Roll Call
Members Present: Stan Zuray, Tanana
Cliff Wiehl, Rampart
Ashley Woods, Manley
Aaron Kozevnikoff Sr, Undesignated
John Huntington, Tanana
Kathleen Peter Zuray, Tanana (Tribal Council representative)
Una Edwardson, Tanana
Curtis Sommer, Tanana
Charlie Campbell, Tanana

Due to bad weather, additional members from Manley and Rampart were not able to make it to the meeting

Number Needed for Quorum on AC:7

III. Fish and Game Staff Present: Mark Nelson & Sara Longson (DWC), Nissa Pilcher (BDS)
IV. Guests Present: various members of Tanana drifted in and out during the meeting***
V. Approval of Agenda; approved
VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes; Approved
VII. AC Reports

AC Comments

- Members had concerns about the fishing for last year; how so few made it to the spawning grounds. Would like someone with DCF to let him know. 100K past the sonar below the dept noted, but we didn't see that here. We did get what we need. We hear it that we are going to have a good year but we are still in times of conservation, and we did not get enough fish into Canada and that is concerning.
- Concern with fish die-off's in Yukon Tribs- ask DCF- one member noted some crazy diseases he has pictures of on fish
- Manely had been having issues with wolves coming close to town, even killing some pets. Noted she had been in touch with ADF&G, and that people are protecting their dogs more so the interactions are going down. Encourage people to go trap them but their pelts are not that good right now.
- There was a pack of 20-30 near Kosna/Redlin. (Department noted that there was 100 wolves in 10000 sq miles in minto last year and this year only 50 so a lot prob moved/killed so some could be displaced into this area)

- There used to be a lot more trappers taking a lot more animals- own trap line used to meet up with Allakaket traplines. Seems to be a lot more wolves on the landscape now. (before the AC meeting started there was a discussion on how trapping is no longer as lucrative as it was and people are not doing it anymore. It is hard to find buyers; Department discussed with those in the room about the ATA auction in the spring)
- Discussed the recent newspaper article about trapper who was just caught on Hess creek (admitted to taking up to 25 moose to use as wolf trapping bait). So many moose taken and also giving a bad name for trappers.
- Members discussed a lot of moose sign near tow, and that caribou (40mile) have been seen near Minto, may be in the flats. Big fire by Livengood a while ago, maybe made them more food. Not everyone got a moose this year, which is how it goes, but we really need protect our fish lake area in terms of Tanana/Manley, protect habitat and cut all of the burned trees out and that will help. The little bit of moose that are left in the flats are hard for residents of Minto to get, concerned that outside pressure is to high Would be nice if tribe could pay a small bounty for wolves. Manley didn't get enough moose, don't see them there anymore.
- Members discussed nonlocal hunters going past Tanana, the belief was that many were heading to Unit 18 where there is a 2 moose bag limit, the impacts of outside hunters have on local hunters

Old Business
Stan noted that we need to have good communication and notify our tribal council and the Intertribal Fish commission so that they know our opinions and know what we are doing. We should do this every time for both boards, that is one of the reasons that we have tribal representation on the AC. Draft a letter to council, have Kathleen and Curtis sign it to sign off and send it to the Intertribal Fish Commission.

ACTION ITEM
Motion to encourage communication with other TRM tribes to develop some sort of education patrols and/or signage from time to time on the road, and send the encouragement to Manley and Rampart Tribal Council. Noted this was done one year but Tanana dind't really help, all three should help to ensure it continues to happen. With the educational patrols there was very limited trespass on private property for hunting or camping.

Ashley noted that there was a notice put in the paper- picture taken- would be nice to communicate with the military about the private lands (Charlie Wright is going to hopefully talk to military about this).

Department Report
Minto Flats; moose population and ceremonial harvest information given by Mark Nelson
Much discussion focused on the proposals that deal with antlerless hunting in GMU 20, further discussion in the proposal template below

Population estimate, Twinning rate, recent weather issues given. Due to flow of conversation, department also gave an update on the wolf packs and hair issues in the flats that were discovered last winter.

- Members asked about Illegal take, department survey practices, predator take of moose/calves (members noted there is a lot of black bear and wolves in the area) questioned
- Department noted that there is hope to conduct a radiotelemetry project on these moose to see how they move soon.
- Members expressed concern over the changing weather patterns and the inability to call moose in during the hunting season. Department noted that calves are still being dropped at the 'normal' time which would mean that the moose are still breeding at the normal time.
- Members expressed concern over the ticks and other bugs that seem to be moving north with the changing seasons. A member noted that they had seen a mountain lion in Tanana. Department noted that no ticks had been discovered on moose yet.
- Members expressed concern over less moose in local freezers, more wolves, less trappers, all of these are concerning.
- We are conflicted, so we were against moose hunts in the flats because the pop is too low but the department noted that there is some biological concerns with the population being high. We would like to support Minto, but then it looks like RM785 is a necessary tool, and we have people that grew up here use this hunt because they work in September. We can't see any other way to reduce/stabilize population.
- Members noted that a component of this is traditional knowledge from elders that say don't hunt cow, and that is something that should be taken into account. We are using our voice to remind people of this.
- We don't like idea of cow hunts, but there are biological reasons for it, and there are people from here that utilize these hunts. We don't want to eliminate the tool, but we do have concerns with current population, we don't like the idea in general but if the department feels it is necessary now then we could support it.
- Manley was concerned last meeting, and we took that to heart. These are traditional hunting grounds for Minto that aren't ours. The state has opened hunts in these areas, and that is fine, but some members would like to see this AC support Minto in their wants for this area. The permits should go to local users, so that elders and females can fill their freezers. The hunting season this last year was tooooo hot, it was still summer. Then when the hunt was open it wasn't good for hunting.
- We should support the MNAC whether we like it or not. They are our neighbors, and our support of them might cause the BOG to take their concerns more seriously, there is something to be said for TCK. This is a complex issue and Stan should explain our concerns to the Board when he goes.

DCF Concerns- fish dieoffs in tribs from 2019, Fukushima/Soviet sub sinking, how last season got off track so much.

OTHER
BOF Proposal for next season- boundary change in Y5
BOG Proposal for 2 cycles from now - CUA for road/Fish Lake

VIII. Select representative(s) for board meeting; Stan Zuray to attend BOG in March

Adjourn

Alaska Board of Game Interior and Eastern Arctic Region Meeting Proposals

March 6-14, 2020 | 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**
56	Establish minimum distance requirements for trapping around dwellings in the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region		
O	0	9	Our kids' trap lines were all within a mile of town, and our dogs are not allowed to be loose in our areas. Maybe a localized issue for the author
65	Establish a new resident, general season for caribou in Unit 20F		
VOTE TO WITH-DRAW			Question asked about survey practices, core caribou habitat, distribution. Large migratory herd movement compared with small mountain herds- smaller, predator limited, and stay put. Predator question- wolves/bears but no study to show. Hunting pressure, population decline and access questioned. Members noted that they can see the writing on the wall, that the data is saying that this bag limit increase isn't a good idea right now, and its fine. Been out there this winter, there is too much snow for them to move in this winter. Last winter, were there 2/3 of the winter, brought in wolves. Before the Dalton hwy went in we used to have a lot of caribou around. Now we don't see them anymore.

Alaska Board of Game Interior and Eastern Arctic Region Meeting Proposals

March 6-14, 2020 | 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**
			When presented with the data for the herd at the AC meeting, the committee unanimously approved to withdraw the proposal.
140	Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20B		
TNA			if we believe the science then it is a nonissue, but you throw in the TCK and then things get messy. We also have to believe in the science that is being presented to us. Similar to the fishing that happens, there is always a balance.
141	Eliminate registration moose permit hunt RM785, in the Minto Flats Management Area in Unit 20B		
S	9	0	See comments of committee discussed earlier in the meeting
142	Eliminate registration moose permit hunt RM785, in the Minto Flats Management Area in Unit 20B		
S	9	0	See comments of committee discussed earlier in the meeting
143	Eliminate all antlerless moose drawing hunts in Unit 20B except for the Minto Flats Management Area		
S	9	0	See comments of committee discussed earlier in the meeting
153	Extend the trapping season for wolverine in Unit 20F		
S	9	0	

Adjournment: 315pm

Upper Tanana Forty Mile Fish and Game Advisory committee meeting

December 17, 2019

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Members Present: Peter Talus, Frank Entsminger, Jake Combs, Lyle Cronk, Matt Snyder, Barb Pine, Thor Jorgensen, were present. A quorum was established.

Introduction of quests: Danny Grangaard, Jeff Wells, Jeff Gross, Tim Lorenzini, Russ Landers, Aaron Atchley, Sue Entsminger, Silvia Pitka(NW), Don Pitka(NW), Glen Marunde (NW), Mike Kendall, Verta(NW), Marilyn (NW).

Approval of the agenda:

Approval of the Minutes: Peter Talus made a motion to approve the Minutes of the July meeting, Frank Entsminger seconded. Motion Carried.

Approval of the April 16 minutes: Peter Talus made a motion to approve the minutes with correction Jake Combs seconded. Motion carried.

Jeff Wells presented data on the TMA sheep numbers and data on the 20E Moose survey results.

Tim Lorenzini presented 2019 TNWR Update. Moose survey 56 bulls per 100 cows. An increase in bull/cow ratios. Fed Subsistence season still open. Caribou to remain open until April 30. Nelchina numbers are up. Low harvest. Twenty-three active collars, more to be put out. Subsistence fishing permit is available at the Refuge. Humpback whitefish population age structure. Oldest is 33. Come back to spawn at 7 to 8 years. Eat things that are in the mud. Lynx data: movement, home range, breeding, other attributes. Very interesting. Rabbits currently in decline. Duck banding at Yarger lake and Scottie. International banding unit. Fire management map options. Visitor services were busy. Hunter education and spring fishing are in the plan.

Chicken. Hunting around the airport.

Wrangell-St. Elias and RAC happenings by Sue Entsminger. The proposal to force people to mark traps must be marked did not pass.

Elder/minor sheep hunt. Attorney said couldn't do that but it's going on anyway. Federal Subsistance board may meet in Gakona in early April.

State Proposals:

Proposal 86 Frank Entsminger made a motion to support proposal 86 to reauthorize the wolf control project. Peter Talus seconded. Motion carried Seven to zero.

Proposal 87. Jake Combs made a motion to support Proposal 87. Frank Entsminger seconded. Seven opposed. Motion failed.

Proposal 88 Jake Combs made a motion to support Proposal 88. Peter Talus seconded. Seven supported. Motion Carried.

Proposal 89 Frank Entsminger made a motion. Jake seconded. Six opposed. One sustained. Motion Failed.

Proposal 90 Thor Jorgensen made a motion to proposal 90. Frank Entsminger seconded. Seven opposed. Motion failed.

Staff Comments

Staff Updates:

Next meeting: January 14, 2020

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:07PM.

Yukon Flats Advisory Committee
February 20, 2020
Pikes Waterfront Lodge, Fairbanks

I. Call to Order: 2:25 by Chairman Larry Williams

II. Roll Call
Members Present:
Jerrald John, Arctic Village
Charles John, Circle
Ben Stevens, Don Stevens, Stevens Village
Andrew Firmin, Walter Peter, Fort Yukon
Larry Williams, Venetie
Edward Wiehl, Beaver

Members Absent (Excused): Faith Gemmil, Arctic Village; Paul Williams Sr*, Beaver; Richard James Sr, Birch Creek; Jamey Joseph* Stevens Village; Bobby Tritt, Venetie
* Paul and Jamey were unable to get into Fairbanks due to inclement weather
Chalkyitsik has 2 vacant seats
Circle has 1 vacant seat
Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 7

III. Fish and Game Staff Present: Beth Lenard & Jason Caikoski, DWC; Nissa Pilcher, BDS. Jeff Gross, DWC, participated via teleconference for the Fortymile Caribou discussion
IV. Guests Present: Vince Mathews & Nathan Hawkaluk & Cody Smith (USFWS)
Debra Lynn & Madilne Nice & Brook Woods (TCC)
Lonie Stevens (Stevens Village), Bruce Thomas (CATG), Rhonda Pitka (Beaver), Al Barrette (BOG), others that cycled through
V. Approval of Agenda; approval with addition of a Fortymile Caribou update & discussion of Doyon's resource development meetings
VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes; approved
VII. New Business

Doyon Resource Discussion

When Doyon has a meeting to discuss resource development, the AC should have a representative at the table. We don't want to get biological information from the same guy

that is going to be drilling for oil the next day. We should have a representative from this AC at the table during these discussions and meetings.

There is no funding to send an AC member to these meetings, so the AC proposes that when these meetings are held in our communities we attend as a Yukon Flats AC member and we involve ourselves.

Fortymile Caribou Discussion

Charles was really concerned with wanton waste on the 40mile caribou, had heard a lot of people in Circle were also really concerned. There seems to be a lack of ethics of those out hunting.

Department gave information on current hunt management on the Taylor and Steese, historical and current herd population, current nutritional information and stress on herd.

Questions were asked about herd range expansion, historic populations of the White Mountain herd, predator control in the area, rumor of expansion of herd near Minto, how 'harvestable surplus' is established, .

AC expressed interest in growing herd to allow for more rural users to harvest animals, that currently it seems more of a weekend urban hunt. It seems odd that mother nature starves itself, don't go search out new places instead of laying down and dying

Alaska Board of Game Interior and Eastern Arctic Region Meeting Proposals March 6-14, 2020 | 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**
48	Extend the season for taking wolves in Units 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C		
S	8	0	In support because there are not a lot of people out there hunting wolves already out there. More the merrier that want to take them. People will be out berry picking, people are traveling between fishing seasons, why not be opportunistic, their fur is good in our area

Alaska Board of Game Interior and Eastern Arctic Region Meeting Proposals

March 6-14, 2020 | 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**
49	For the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region, allow the use of crossbows in archery only hunt areas for hunters possessing permanent identification cards		
NA			This does seem like a great idea. If you can't pull the bow back, maybe go to some other gear.
50	Establish registration archery only hunts for bull moose in the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region Units that have general moose seasons		
O	0	8	This proposal is asking for just more time to hunt during the federally season. These hunters would also be be bear and wolf hunting too and this will be user conflict with the federal hunters This is a good time to hunt and this could be a biological issue
51	Remove the bag limit restriction of one sheep every four years for nonresidents over the age of 60 hunting in the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region		
O	0	8	WE don't like this one either, more hunting opportunity for outsiders who have a lot of money; if you couldn't get a sheep in the first 60 years why do you need more opportunity
53	Establish an archery only registration permit hunt for Dall sheep in the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region		
O	0	8	This proposal is asking for just more time to hunt during the federally season. These hunters would also be bear and wolf hunting too and this will be user conflict with the federal hunters This is a good time to hunt and this could be a biological issue One member noted that it is really hard to hunt sheep normally and if someone wanted to go do this, why not let him, but then changed his mind when it was brought up that this proposal would put adult archery hunters in the field at the same time as the youth hunt.
54	Reauthorize resident grizzly/brown bear tag fee exemptions throughout Interior and Northeast Alaska		
S	8	0	
56	Establish minimum distance requirements for trapping around dwellings in the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region		
O	0	8	Seems sort of broad, can see where it would be good in some places. Would hate to see a dog get caught in a trap, but we shouldn't restrict someone from trapping around their own house. This makes sense more

Alaska Board of Game Interior and Eastern Arctic Region Meeting Proposals

March 6-14, 2020 | 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**
			around Fairbanks but not rurally. Too vague to support and one mile is a long way.
63	Repeal the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area		
NA			These are really complex issues; Stevens Village is very close to this corridor and have had concerns with hunters and trappers that access this area via the road. We don't want any easing of any regulation in this area. Our position will be to remain neutral at this time, but if any change is to actually occur that an actual proposal with language of the change should be created.
64	Clarify the legal use of highway vehicles, snow machines and off-road vehicles in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area (DHCMA) for hunting and trapping. Clarify the use of firearms, and transport of furbearers and trapping bait when trapping in the DHCMA		
NA			These are really complex issues; Stevens Village is very close to this corridor and have had concerns with hunters and trappers that access this area via the road. We don't want any easing of any regulation in this area. Our position will be to remain neutral at this time, but if any change is to actually occur that an actual proposal with language of the change should be created.
82	Establish the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area in Unit 25A, open a new resident and nonresident drawing hunt for sheep within the area, and change the bag limit for the resident registration permit, RS595		
O	0	8	The Arctic Village representative spoke first. There are allotments in this area, there are unmarked graves. We also use this area to hunt- generally we hunt with younger and older people together; there is hesitation especially with the older folks to report their hunt. They never had to when the were younger and are resistant to start now, so what is reported is not what is actually happening.

Alaska Board of Game Interior and Eastern Arctic Region Meeting Proposals

March 6-14, 2020 | 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**
			Other members comments were there were portions of this proposal that has merit and that the EIRAC had spend a lot of time and effort to write it and submit it. Questions were asked about how many people might be going in there if this was to pass and the history of the management area, as well as current regulations. The AC is ultimately **opposed** to this proposal and would like the board to **institute a sunset clause on this topic for a cycle**. We are tired of talking about it and would like to have one board of game cycle when we do not have to discuss it; it seems like every year since the early 1990s we have had to discuss it.
83	Modify the bag limit for sheep in the RS595 hunt in Unit 26C		
NA			Seems crazy to be archery hunting in the mountains in October
140	Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20B		
O	0	8	
141	Eliminate registration moose permit hunt RM785, in the Minto Flats Management Area in Unit 20B		
S	8	0	Want to support our brothers over the hill, we support this. we know people that don't get moose and yet there are antlerless hunts The department denying the taking of cows for ceremonial and religious purposes but still allowing the RM785 to occur is not ok. This goes in hand with this committees previous proposal to the board to have a celebratory moose permit
142	Eliminate registration moose permit hunt RM785, in the Minto Flats Management Area in Unit 20B		
S	8	0	Want to support our brothers over the hill, we support this. we know people that don't get moose and yet there are antlerless hunts The department denying the taking of cows for ceremonial and religious purposes but still allowing the RM785 to occur is not ok. This goes in hand with this committees previous proposal to the board to have a celebratory moose permit
143	Eliminate all antlerless moose drawing hunts in Unit 20B except for the Minto Flats Management Area		

Alaska Board of Game Interior and Eastern Arctic Region Meeting Proposals March 6-14, 2020 | Fairbanks, AK			
Proposal Number	**Proposal Description**		
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S	8	0	Want to support our brothers over the hill, we support this. we know people that don't get moose and yet there are antlerless hunts The department denying the taking of cows for ceremonial and religious purposes but still allowing the RM785 to occur is not ok. This goes in hand with this committees previous proposal to the board to have a celebratory moose permit

I. Select representative(s) for board meeting; Andrew Firmin chosen, Walter Peter as the alternate

II. Other

Long serving chairman Larry Williams resigned at the meeting

He stated that he grew up in the old way, where a person taught to respect animal and land and their hunting grounds, not a piece of paper to say that we own this but we all know where everyone hunts and all these new rules and regulations about what you can do and what you can't and when is just too much. It is just a foreign language to me. We just don't know what the heck to say. This meeting is getting away from me and I will just step down. Man does not control the animals, if you don't eat it, don't take it. These things show no respect, we don't say we are going hunting, we just go out and go see what you can see. We didn't used to have these little tables where everyone sat around them only speaks English. We just didn't take more than we need. The animals were around before we were, and they will be here after we go.

Andrew Firmin stepped up as vice chair to chair the remaining portion of the meeting

Federal Game Proposal WP20-49

The AC would like to assist in sending Arctic Village's message to the FSB that we do not want this hunt opened to non-federally qualified users. There are currently not sufficient regulations in place from the

state to allow us to support a hunt within these boundaries, and we did not feel that the EIRAC proposal to the BOG from this cycle went far enough.

The Yukon Flats Fish and Game Advisory Committee is opposed to WP20-49

Adjournment: 5:45pm

Minutes Approved By: _____

Date: 2-21-2020