



Craig AC Meeting December 6 2022

Call to Order: 6:06pm

Roll Call:

Members present: 8

11 total Members

Number needed for a quorum: 6

Craig AC Members	Officer	Designation	Present	Absent	Unexcused	Expiration
Ellen Hannan	Chair	Hunting	x			June 2023
Fred Hamilton	Vice Chair	Subsistence		x		June 2023
Kurt Whitehead	Secretary	Hunting Guide	x			June 2023
Kirk Agnitsch		Charter	x			June 2024
Brian Castle		Trapping		x		June 2023
Dave Creighton		Charter	x			June 2024
Mike Douville		Longline	x			June 2025
Ray Douville		Shellfish	x			June 2024
Chuck Haydu		Charter		x		June 2025
Mike Kampnich		Gillnet	x			June 2025
Joel Steenstra		Herring Pound	x			June 2024

ADFG Staff present: Craig Schwanke (Sport fish), Tessa Hasbrouck Unit 2 Asst. Area Biologist (phone), Ross Dorendorf Unit 2 Area Biologist (phone), Henry Lesia Boards Support (phone)

Guests present: None

Approval of Agenda:

Moved and seconded to approve the agenda for 12.6.2022

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Moved and seconded to adopt the meeting minutes from 2.16.2022

Reports:

Chair: None

ADFG: None

Other: None

Public Comment: None

Old Business: None

Elections:



Moved and seconded to have elections.

Expired seats: Mike Douville, Chuck Haydu & Mike Kamprich were all unopposed and reelected unanimously.

Select representative for Board of Game meeting Jan. 20-24, 2023:

Moved and seconded to have **Mike Douville** represent the Craig AC at the BOG.

New Business:

Proposals:

We will start with the PoW props first.

Prop 45-Raise the population objective from 150-200 to 250-350 wolves in Unit 2 and raise the threshold for closing the season from 100 to 200 wolves.

Moved and seconded to Oppose.

Discussion:

Kurt Whitehead: Asked Ross for more info about the genetic diversity arguments.

Ross Dorendorf: There is limited genetic diversity on PoW but every year they improve their data and methods/ means for wolf population estimates and management.

Mike Douville: The deer population is still trending down, the wolf population is still trending up when there is the correct balance of wolf management that our deer herd will increase and stabilize instead of trending down which is why he believes we are NOT currently harvesting enough wolves.

Mike Kamprich: The genetic diversity of our wolves is tight but ADFG will have a report within the next year with more/better data from a much larger sample size that will help determine gene flow amongst the islands. There are wolves that keep trickling into PoW. It is important that we maintain status quo management until we have new data/info. In the last full paragraph of this prop, the data the authors are using is old and outdated. Current data and cameras have confirmed and refuted their outdated info. Wolves are reproducing on Sukkwan, Baker, Noyes, Lulu, San Fernando, Suemez, & Warren Islands and every large island in the PoW Archipeligo. Water is NOT a barrier for wolves. In British Columbia it was documented that they can swim at least 7 miles in one crossing.

Vote: 8-0 Motion passes to Oppose.

Prop 46-Lengthen the hunting season for wolves in Unit 2 to open Sept. 1. This would align the state seasons with the federal seasons.

Moved and seconded to Oppose

Discussion:

Mike Douville: The hides are in good shape by Sept. 1 and the reason the federal season is open at that time is for more hunting opportunity.

Vote: Fails 8-0.

Moved and seconded to Support

Mike Douville: There were only 17 wolves taken between Sept/Nov a few years ago during the federal season and extending the state season would give us more hunting opportunity and will align the federal and state seasons thus making the regs easier to interpret, easier to enforce and will be a good thing overall.

Vote: 8-0 Motion passes to Support.

Prop 47-Require Wolf Harvest info to be reported within 48 hrs of recovery and sealing within 14 days in Unit 2.

Tessa Hasbrouck: The current reporting period is 7 days.

Moved and seconded to Oppose

Discussion:

Ellen Hannan: It would be difficult to report within 48 hours for boat based trappers that are out of cell service and/or trappers that are camping.

Dave Creighton: It would be difficult for trappers to have a 48 hour reporting period.

Mike Douville: It would be onerous and difficult to have a 48 hr reporting period.

Kurt Whitehead: 48hrs will be difficult for boat based trappers and campers in limited cell service areas.



Mike Kampnich: This prop is operating off old data from the '80's/'90's. There is factual evidence of wolves moving back and forth to PoW.

Vote: 8-0 Motion passes to Oppose.

Prop 48-Change the methodology for setting the population objective for wolves in Unit 2.

Moved and seconded to Oppose

Discussion:

Kurt Whitehead: asked Ross his thoughts and later spoke about how he doesn't support it either.

Ross Dorendorf: talked at length about why this prop would not work very well, how hiring a contractor doesn't work, etc.

Vote: 8-0 Motion passes to Oppose

Prop 49-Utilize the lower confidence interval of the wolf population for estimating the population in Unit 2.

Motion made and seconded to Oppose

Discussion:

It was noted by several that the authors are using outdated data and to see our comments above.

Vote: 8-0 Motion passes to Oppose

Prop 50-Establish a population estimate and harvest limit based on PoW wolf population that excludes extrapolation from outer islands in Unit 2.

Moved and seconded to Oppose

Mike Kampnich: spoke about the 55 different prey species found in the recent scat DNA analysis done by ADFG and he also found sea otter hair, crab apples, sand fleas and chitons in recent scat he studied.

Mike Douville: Asked Ross about prop 50 citing that the authors work was done in the '80's and '90s.

Ross Dorendorf: There are wolves everywhere in SE AK and Pow and/or move through the landscape and how ADFG has lots of data that conflicts with the proposals authors. The authors of this prop don't have all the facts. The authors did not get accurate info.

Mike Douville: There have been wolves that have been reproducing on the islands of Suemez, Dall, Sukkwan, PoW,, Lulu, Noyes, Long, Heceta, Marble, Tuxekan, Warren, etc. for over 30 years. They've also had pups on St. Johns.

Kirk Agsnitch: There's a lot of wolves currently on Dall and large packs.

Mike Kampnich: He's relatively certain that wolves are migrating from the smaller islands to PoW because they are overpopulating the islands they are on and moving off of them.

Vote: 8-0 Motion passes to Oppose

Prop 51-Establish a percentage of the Unit 2 wolf population that can be harvested on a sustainable basis, develop a harvest quota each season, require in-season reporting, provide the harvest in real time and allow 3 days notice before closing the season by emergency order.

Moved and seconded to Oppose

Discussion: All the reasons cited in the previous proposals.

Vote: 8-0 Motion passes to Oppose

Prop 52-Establish a harvest quota for wolves, between 20-35% of the estimated wolf population in Unit 2.

Moved and seconded to Oppose

Discussion: All the reasons cited in the previous proposals.

Vote: 8-0 Motion passes to Oppose

Prop 53-Establish an estimated unreported mortality rate for the Unit 2 wolves to be used for establishing the harvest quota.

Moved and seconded to Oppose.

Kurt Whitehead: Asked Ross for an update on cameras.



Ross Dorendorf: Cameras are being used in conjunction with hairboards and their first graduate student hired to oversee the project quit but they are actively looking for another researcher to take over the study. In the meantime, the cameras are out there and taking photos and they are optimistic it will improve their data.

Mike Douville: He can usually tell the specific wolves that come through in the same area time after time because they have a circuit they run and they usually go the same direction and come through roughly the same time i.e every week or so. He can recognize some specific wolves due to certain characteristics. There is currently no harvest quota with the current management. He said in the 80-90s when the ex ADFG biologist that the Alaska Wildlife Alliance(AWA) hired to help write these proposals collected the data he is using, there were timber crews all over PoW. Those timber crews were very good outdoorsmen/hunters and they were very effective at predator control. Times have changed dramatically since then and there are not nearly as many timber crews on PoW and the majority of those folks have left. They had much larger effect on fish and game populations because they were such good anglers/hunters. The outdated data AWA is using in these props is biased.

Mike Kampnich: Asked Ross how the camera work being discussed works.

Ross Dorendorf: The camera work ADFG is studying doesn't rely on identifying specific animals but rather on the numbers of animals photographed by randomly placed cameras. Random detection is important on this study so nothing is biased. The general location is random but you can move it about 100' or so within that area so you get the best spot to take photos.

Vote: 8-0 Motion passes to Oppose

Prop 54-Identify an area in Unit 2 for protected status for wolves.

Moved and seconded to Oppose

Discussion: All the reasons cited in the previous proposals.

Vote: 8-0 Motion passes to Oppose

Prop 202-Set the season length for taking wolves in Unit 2, without closing early due to emergency order.

Tessa Hassbrouck: They do not have staff comments for this prop yet. The board of game said they will not discuss removing emergency orders but they will discuss season length.

Mike Douville: Spoke extensively about where we've been with wolf management and how we got to our current system. he's opposed to this but has also asked for an extension to this years trapping season due to the bad weather that's been limiting the trapping effort.

Ross Dorendorf: The author was referring to the wolf trapping season.

Kurt Whitehead: Spoke about the reasoning behind this prop and why it was written which is because ADFG is not following their current management system. In the current system or tiers, if the population estimate puts us in Tier 1,2 or 3 then the season length should be a specific timeframe. That is not happening. ADFG is still closing the season early and is basically still operating on a quota system. This prop is asking ADFG to stick to their management system and have the season length that the specific Tier says we should have not closing it early.

Ellen Hannan: Has sealed several wolves this year and all have been reported in a timely manner.

Ross Dorendorf: USFS will have their decision on the ESA listing sometime between July-Sept. of 2023.

Vote: 8-0 to Take No Action

Prop 201-Create a Sea Otter Management Plan to begin the process of a state hunting season for sea otters.

Dave Creighton: We should support if for no other reason than to highlight this huge problem.

Moved and seconded to support.

Group: Otters have made it all the way down to Kasaan and are all over Whale Pass. The otter population is exploding/expanding on the E side of PoW and coming up from the S and down from the N on the inside of PoW and they are everywhere on the W side of PoW. It is almost impossible to catch a crab on the W side of PoW unless you are right in front of Craig, Klawock or Hydaburg.

Dave Creighton: estimates they are increasing 10-15% per year and cited one otter that was emaciated and dying.

Kurt Whitehead: Has anyone else seen otters that can't dive?

Ray Douville: Yes, he thinks the otters that can't dive could possibly have the bends. They act very strange and are in distress and can't dive.

Mike Douville: Maybe they are having a pup? Didn't know.



Vote: 8-0 Motion passes to Support.

The Craig AC agrees we want the following message sent to the BoG and ADFG “The sea otter population is overpopulated and is severely impacting our subsistence needs and commercial shellfish fisheries including our dungeness crabs, urchins, clams, sea cucumbers, geo ducks, abalone, etc.”

Mike Douville: Harvesting sea otters is a lot of work and very expensive.

Mike Douville & Dave Creighton: Gave background info and how/where sea otters came from and where they transplanted.

Kurt Whitehead: read the following letter and solicited feedback on it prior to dispersing to SE AK.

The Wolves of Southeast Alaska should NOT be listed under the Endangered Species Act

On July 15, 2020, the Center for Biological Diversity, Alaska Rainforest Defenders and Defenders of Wildlife petitioned the Secretary of Interior/US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW) to list the Alexander Archipelago Wolf in Southeast Alaska as Threatened or Endangered Under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Petitioners also request that critical habitat be designated for the wolf in SE Alaska concurrently with the species being listed. The USFW has jurisdiction over this petition. The 111 page document can be found online and the thorough response from the State of Alaska/Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) has been filed. USFW will make their decision between July/September 2023.

Prince of Wales Island Archipelago (PoW) in Southeast Alaska is home to 3500 residents that reside in 12 different communities ranging in size from Point Baker’s 35 residents to Craig’s 1,036. PoW is the 3rd largest island in the US and its 3500 residents rely on a largely subsistence way of life. PoW has three grocery stores located in Craig and Klawock and a smaller one in Thorne Bay.

The 128 residents of Coffman Cove have to drive 55 miles of winding roads to buy groceries in Klawock then pay \$6.49 for a gallon of milk and \$5.19 for a dozen eggs before pumping \$6.49/gallon gasoline and returning home for their 1 hour 15 min/one way drive. The 300+ residents of Hydaburg also have to drive 50 miles from the opposite end of PoW to do the same shopping in Klawock. The residents of Hydaburg are almost all Haidas. 50% or more of the 850 residents of Klawock are all Tlingits. Craig also has many Haidas. Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian indigenous people all live on PoW and the vast majority of them practice a subsistence lifestyle as well as everyone else residing on PoW.

On any given day you will find discarded crab, shrimp or clam shells, deer bones or fish scraps at every boat launch on PoW. If we don’t practice a subsistence lifestyle, we can’t afford to live here.

PoW locals have relied on deer to feed us for generations. One deer yields approximately 55lbs of pure meat. One pound of ground beef at the Klawock grocery store costs \$5.99/lb and doesn’t taste nearly as good as blacktail deer meat. One deer saves a family \$330 dollars at the grocery store.

Our families, friends, relationships, mental/physical health and economic well being all benefit from deer hunting. Our freezers are fuller and our lives are enriched when we can harvest deer. Deer hunting on PoW is vitally important to all PoW locals and our subsistence lifestyle.

This subsistence lifestyle relies on putting arguably the only good tasting big game animal in our freezers, the Sitka Blacktail Deer.

PoW only has three big game animals: Black Bear, Sitka Blacktail Deer and Wolf. There are no moose, caribou, mountain goat, elk or any other ungulates on PoW. PoW is the only Game Management Unit (GMU 2) in the entire state with just one good eating big game animal.



If the wolf gets listed under the ESA, the Federal Government will takeover management from the state. This means no more wolf hunting. This also means they will severely limit deer hunting and as noted in the petition "critical habitat be designated for the wolf in SE Alaska concurrently with the species being listed."

If the wolf gets listed there will be far reaching, severe consequences for all of us that live on PoW and many of those will be negative consequences.

This petition threatens our way of life, our ability to secure food, our hunting lifestyle, the economic development of PoW, our cultures, our families and our children.

Trying to accurately assess the population of wolves in a Temperate Rainforest has always been difficult but ADFG continues to improve, adjust and refine its methodology and is dedicated to managing wolves responsibly and effectively.

ADFG has provided thorough and exhaustive data and science proving the Alexander Archipelago Wolf should NOT be listed under the ESA.

The following tribes, entities, organizations and people agree that the Alexander Archipelago Wolf should NOT be listed under the ESA.

Kurt Whitehead & Trina Nation
Treasure Hunter Lodge

Dave Creighton: Suggested adding that a decision to list will have far reaching impacts.

Ross Dorendorf was asked how many wolves have been sealed so far this season and as of now, there were only 23.

Kurt Whitehead: Asked Ross to remember the heat ADFG got last year for not extending the wolf trapping season last year due to the bad Wx and reiterated that Mike Douville has already asked ADFG to extend the current season for the same bad Wx reasons.

We will revisit the following props at our next meeting:

Prop 1-Require Hunter Safety Education to hunt in Units 1-5.

Prop 3-Remove the requirement for residents to seal Black Bear skulls in units 1-4.

Prop 5-Change the waterfowl season in units 1-4 by creating a split season.

Prop 6-Lengthen the river otter trapping season in Units 1-4 to align with Unit 5.

Prop 7-Extend the marten trapping season to align with wolverine season in portions of units 1-5.

Prop 8-Extend the marten trapping season in Units 1&2.

Prop 17

Prop 18

Prop 19

Prop 20



Prop 21

Prop 32

Next meeting is December 14, 2022.

Meeting adjourned: 8:16pm

Minutes recorded by: Kurt Whitehead

Minutes approved by: Ellen Hannan

Date: 12.6.22



Craig AC Meeting December 14, 2022

Call to Order: 6:14pm

Roll Call:

Members present: 8

11 total Members

Number needed for a quorum: 6

Craig AC Members	Officer	Designation	Present	Absent	Expiration
Ellen Hannan	Chair	Hunting	x		June 2023
Fred Hamilton	Vice Chair	Subsistence		x	June 2023
Kurt Whitehead	Secretary	Hunting Guide	x		June 2023
Kirk Agnitsch		Charter	x		June 2024
Brian Castle		Trapping		x	June 2023
Dave Creighton		Charter	x		June 2024
Mike Douville		Longline	x		June 2025
Ray Douville		Shellfish	x		June 2024
Chuck Haydu		Charter		x	June 2025
Mike Kampnich		Gillnet	x		June 2025
Joel Steenstra		Herring Pound	x		June 2024

ADFG Staff present: Craig Schwanke (Sport fish), Tessa Hasbrouck Unit 2 Asst. Area Biologist (phone), Ross Dorendorf Unit 2 Area Biologist (phone), Henry Lesia Boards Support (phone)

Guests present: None

Approval of Agenda:

Moved and seconded to approve the agenda for 12.14.2022

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Moved and seconded to adopt the meeting minutes from March 21, 2022.

Moved and seconded to adopt the meeting minutes from December 6, 2022 with the adjustments we just received.

Reports:

Chair:

Ellen Hannan: Copies of the props passed that Craig Schwanke prepared are available from BOF meeting:

Prop 82: Modifies the provisions in the SE AK King Salmon Management Plan. Specifically, changes to resident and non-resident bag limits based on the SE AK winter troll fishery CPUE and adds provision that any unused balance of the allocation percentage of the annual harvest ceiling established by the Pacific Salmon Commission be allocated to the troll fishery. Annual limits are changed for nonresidents according to date and creates requirement of a harvest record as specified in 5AAC75.006. Area specific provisions for bag and possession limits are eliminated and limits



now apply to the entirety of Southeast. A provision is added for resident priority for closures or restrictions.
Implemented by EO June 20, 2022.

Prop 134: Adds language stating that a gill net or beach seine used for subsistence fishing may not block more than one-half the width of any bay, river, creek or stream. **Implemented Jan. 1, 2023**

Prop 172: Changes the commercial pot shrimp fishing season from Oct. through Feb. to May through July.
Implemented May 15, 2023.

Prop 200: Close commercial fishing for Dungeness crab in the surrounding waters of the community of Klawock.
Prop 200: Closes sport fishing for Dungeness crab in the surrounding waters of the community of Klawock.
Implemented Jan. 1, 2023.

Prop 204: Closes sport fishing for Dungeness crab in the surrounding waters of the community of Coffman Cove.
Implemented Jan. 1, 2023.

Prop 206: Closes the Dungeness crab sport fishery in the vicinity of Whale Pass.
Implemented Jan. 1, 2023.

Prop 207: Closes commercial fishing for Dungeness crab in the surrounding waters of Whale Pass.
Implemented Jan. 1, 2023.

Prop 210: Closes commercial fishing for Dungeness crab in the surrounding waters of Hydaburg.
Implemented Jan. 1, 2023.

Prop 226: Prohibits retention of yelloweye, while allowing residents to harvest 1 Demersal Shelf Rockfish. Residents and nonresidents can harvest 1 slope rockfish.
Implemented by EO, April 14, 2022.

Ellen Hannan: Encourages all to attend a BOF meeting if possible. Spoke about our Resident Non Resident issues that she relayed to the BOF at the statewide meeting in March and has copies of her testimony here. They could not address the issue b/c it will require a salute change not a regulation change. Other areas of AK commented they are seeing the same issue. Spoke about the Deer Summit held in Craig in October and how it was attended by multiple agencies that presented alot of good information about our deer herd, habitat and deer predators.

ADFG: None

Other:

Mike Kampnitch: Spoke about the Deer Summit and the combination of issues affecting the deer; food, habitat and predation. Also mentioned a finalized draft to summarize the summit information.

Mike Douville: Everyone at the Deer Summit agreed there are more wolves and less deer than in prior years. Habitat improvement presentations spoke about better thinning practices. Everyone was in agreement that old growth logging should end. The data for winter habitat for deer shows it is critical. Most female deer found a home territory and wouldn't move even if it meant starvation. They do not move from their home base.

Public Comment: None

Old Business: review the wolf letter after Kurt Whitehead returns from speaking with the Ketchikan AC about wolves.

Proposals:

Prop 1-Require Hunter Safety Education to be able to hunt in Units 1-5.

Ellen Hannan: There is a lack of availability for classes in remote locations. Demand is really only once per year. Other areas in Alaska are pushing to accomplish this. Some permit hunts require it.

Moved and seconded to OPPOSE

Discussion:



Dave Creighton: Does not support.

Joel Steenstra: Mentions a lack of gun issues

Mike Kampnich: Mentions that we do not want to reduce new hunters or reduce opportunities.

Vote: 7-0 (Kurt is absent)

Unanimous vote to NOT SUPPORT (oppose)

Prop 3-Remove the requirement for residents to seal Black Bear skulls in units 1-4.

Ellen Hannan: Gave background info on sealing.

Mike Douville: Supports the sealing requirement.

Mike Kampnich: Supports the sealing requirement.

Ellen Hannan: Is ADFG trying to manage to an average size of boar?

Tessa Hasbrouck: Yes, 18.5" skull in Fall and 19.1" skull in the fall.

Raymond Douville: What is the difference b/n res and non-res harvest?

Tessa Hasbrouck: The non-res harvest always exceeds the resident harvest except in 2020 due to Covid/cancellation of the non-res spring hunting season.

Ellen Hannan: She is an authorized state sealer and seals less than a handful of resident taken bears every year.

Tessa Hasbrouck: In 2021, there were 140 Non Res harvested black bears and 75 Alaska residents harvested black bears.

Ellen Hannan: Age is helpful data for ADFG and a tooth extracted during the sealing process provides the age data and this would be lost if there was no sealing. The age structure is monitored by ADFG and some genetic material is also taken at the time of sealing.

Moved and seconded to OPPOSE

Discussion:

Mike Kampnich: Black bear hunting on POW is managed as a trophy hunt and the data obtained during sealing is important for ADFG to continue to manage for a trophy hunt.

Mike Douville: Supports the sealing of bears.

Mike Kampnich: Supports the sealing of bears.

Vote: 7-0 (Kurt is absent)

Unanimous vote to NOT SUPPORT (oppose)

Prop 5-Change the waterfowl season in units 1-4 by creating a split season.

Ross Dorendorf: ADFG drafted this proposal. Issue is that they have been bouncing back and forth between earlier season and later season. The department is looking for suggestions on a split season. Trying to find out when the break should be to capitalize on birds in our region.

Mike Douville: The old vs proposed are both difficult. Neither are ideal.

Ellen Hannan: The federal requirement for the waterfowl season is 107 total days. Gave background info on how we got to the current season and finds it difficult to decide on where the break should happen if passed. The whole month of October has tons of migrating birds and the hunting is good.

Kurt Whitehead: If passed, the break should be in late Sept or early Oct.

Mike Douville: We don't have many birds until October.

Joel Steenstra: Asks to clarify the requirement of a 15 day break.

Ellen Hannan: Gave an example of break between Nov 24th to Dec 8th.

Kurt Whitehead: We can always support the prop and let the BOG decide on the break.

Craig Schwanke: As a private bird hunter, there is no good time for a break. It's difficult to select a down time. He recommends leaving it as is. Breaks are disruptive and can be confusing to many.

Kurt Whitehead: What about the last two weeks of September?

Ellen Hannan: Thought that would be a good suggestion.

Mike Douville: Agreed that the last two weeks of September is a good time if we had to choose.

Craig Schwanke: As a private hunter, SE AK is a huge area and what may work well for S SE might not be as good for N SE do the size of the range.

Ellen Hannan: The end of September to first week of October can be a dead time here for waterfowl.



Kurt Whitehead: We can always vote it down.
Moved and seconded to SUPPORT

VOTE: 8-0 (Kurt is back in meeting)
Unanimous vote to NOT SUPPORT (Oppose)

Prop 6-Lengthen the river otter trapping season in Units 1-4 to align with Unit 5.

Kurt Whitehead: If we don't agree with the prop we should vote it down instead of taking NO ACTION. Asks Mike D. about the fur quality during the month of March. Stated that trappers on North POW don't like this prop due to poor fur quality.

Mike Douville: Even if north POW folks don't like it, it doesn't matter because no one is trapping otter in March.

Ellen Hannan: Bycatch is going to be an issue if they extend the season into March.

Ross Dorendorf: If the season is extended, yes you might catch mink or muskrat and it would be out of season for them. Muskrats used to be greater in numbers in SE but very few now. ADFG is NEUTRAL and they don't think there's much of a biological concern. Otters are difficult to deal with, fur prices are low. If trapping levels went back to historic levels there would be some population issues in local areas. He believes POW catch rates of otters went really high in 2012. Since then numbers of trappers have declined.

Moved and seconded to SUPPORT

Vote: 8-0
Unanimous vote to SUPPORT

Prop 7-Extend the marten trapping season to align with wolverine season in portions of units 1-5.

Kurt Whitehead: asks Tessa about the current martin season dates.

Tessa Hassbrouk: Dec 1 Feb 15 is current season.

Ellen Hannan: The marten fur is not good Dec. 1 so starting earlier would not help.

Mike Douville: Marten fur is no good on POW on Dec. 1.

Moved and seconded to SUPPORT

VOTE:
Unanimous vote to NOT SUPPORT (OPPOSE)

Prop 8-Extend the marten trapping season in Units 1 & 2.

Moved and seconded to SUPPORT

Discussion:

Mike Douville: Most marten are prime starting Dec. 1 Martin are an introduced species to POW. Is in support of this prop.

Ellen Hannan: Skulls showed marten have been here a long time, some came from Haida Gwai.

Mike Douville: Dont' know where marten came from.

Ellen Hannan: asked if anyone knew where marten were transplanted from?

Mike Douville: In the 1930s, they were planted here. Prior to that there were a lot more Ptarmigan. Now they are rare. There are no marten on St. Johns island.

Tessa Hassbrouk: Marten were Transplanted from KTN and Petersburg to POW.

Mike Douville: There used to be lots of fox farms that were here. When they no longer became profitable due to the drop in fur prices, the animals were released.

Craig Schwanke: As a private trapper, there will be bycatch that needs to be turned in if this is passed.

Vote: 8-0
Unanimous to SUPPORT

Prop 17-Establish a fall drawing permit elk hunt on Zarembo Is.

Ellen Hannan: There is a lack of data on the elk herd.

Joel Steenstra: Some locals believe there are plenty of elk on Zerembo.

Ellen Hannan: Petersburg locals are concerned that the elk outcompete the deer for food.



Mike Kampnich: Is inclined to allow a few permits to potentially help generate data.

Joel Steenstra: It could ease the draw number for Etolin.

Ellen Hannan: There is a low harvest on Etolin. Less than 6 potentially. Highs of 12-14 she guesses.

Tess Hassbrouk: From 1997-2005, Zerebo's harvest was between 1 and 6 animals/year. ADFG is opposed to this prop.

Joel Steenstra: How is ADFG counting?

Tess Hassbrouk: The elk population census is done by flying. She is not certain if that is for Zerebo only or etolin as well.

Ross Dorendorf: It is very difficult to get accurate counts due to the habitat. They have gotten counts on beaches late in the year when snow pushes them down. Summer counting seems to be best for Etolin. None of the counts are given much confidence. Some counts have been spastic and had poor ratios of Cows to calves and low numbers of bulls.

Moved and seconded to SUPPORT

Discussion:

Mike Douville: Gives more credibility to hunters on the ground. They are stating they see them and have concern. Asks why is there concern for Zarembo population when there was never an intention for them to be there in the first place. They SWAM there.

Ross Dorendorf: There is no population goal for either island. They were transplanted on Etolin but didn't stay. People are seeing large bulls that are not being harvested on Zarembo. Goals for elk management are not related to population but more to manage harvest opportunity.

Kurt Whitehead: Start with a low number of tags and manage accordingly.

Mike Douville: He doesn't see a problem with it either. There used to be some elk on POW but the wolf population was too high and they killed them.

Vote: 8-0

Unanimous To SUPPORT

COMMENTS to BOG FOR Prop 17 :

Start with a small number of permits with concern for too great of success due to easy access.

Prop 18-Establish a fall drawing permit on Zarembo, Brushy, Shrubby Etc.

Ellen Hannan: This could create management issues. We don't want to include other islands, just Zarembo.

Moved and seconded to OPPOSE

Vote: 8-0

Unanimous to NOT SUPPORT (OPPOSE)

Prop 19-Change the hunt structure for Etolin Is. elk

Joel Steenstra: Concerned about the current success rate on Etolin.

Ellen Hannan: She has hunted it 3 times. It is a weather driven event. October is always a problem due to Wx.

Kurt Whithead: This prop would allow more hunting opportunity for rifle hunters during the rut, which is the entire month of August and rifle hunters never get to hunt during the rut during the current structure. Archery hunters are mainly there the first two weeks of August so he doesn't feel removing the last two weeks and giving them to rifle hunters would alleviate crowding and increase hunting opportunity for residents. Shifting away from the October hunt as much as possible due to nasty Wx is a good thing.

Moved and seconded to SUPPORT

Discussion:

Tessa Hassbrouk: ADFG is opposed for concerns of increases harvest and reducing long term harvest goals.

Ellen Hannan: It would compact the hunt and pack people into a smaller time period.

Mike Douville: Doesn't the department have control over number of tags they issue?

Tess Hassbrouk: Yes, with the current hunt structure, there is no issue. However these changes could create a problem. She believes that they will not be stuck with the proposed number of tags. They could change. **Y**



Mike Douville: It is currently very difficult to draw an elk tag. It would be may be nice to have an opportunity to call one in during the rut.

Joel Steenstra: Even with 25 tags if it jumped to a 10% take, it would still be a small harvest.

Ellen Hannan: EtoLin is a very difficult hunt, it is a mean place.

Kurt Whitehead: we could support it with comments.....

Tessa Hassbrouk: They just don't know how many elk are on EtoLin, it may allow for an increase.

Ellen Hannan: Encourages people to call the Petersburg biologist to get more information.

Vote : 8-0

Unanimous To SUPPORT

Comments to BOG on Prop 19:

Make sure tag numbers can be adjusted by ADFG so concerns of over harvest can be abated.

Prop 20-Split EtoLin in to two hunt areas.

Kurt Whitehead: Is not in support and has concerns that during bad Wx the hunters need to more to the other side of the island and wouldn't be able to do that if this passes and there would be enforcement issues.

Ellen Hannan: Agrees this would be extremely limiting if passed.

Moved and seconded to SUPPORT

Discussion:

Mike Douville: Brings up safety concerns with weather changes. Fly in hunters will be limited as well.

Vote: 8-0

Unanimous to NOT SUPPORT (OPPOSE)

Prop 21-Eliminate broken, etc from the definition of spike/fork.

Ellen Hannan: There have been many "Manufactured antler confirmations" in years past to make the antler legal.

Moved and seconded to SUPPORT

Discussion:

Mike Douville: The rules were put in place for a reason.

Vote: 8-0

Unanimous To NOT SUPPORT (OPPOSE)

Prop 201-Create a sea otter management plan.

Tessa Hassbrouk: ADFG was Neutral: They can't do anything because it is a marine mammal.

Moved and seconded to SUPPORT

Discussion:

Mike Douville: Subsistence board and tribes have brought up the required modification to Marine Mammal protection act in the past. The argument that this is similar to the Marijuana laws of Feds/States contradicting themselves is not comparable in this instance.

Ross Dorendorf: Reiterates ADFG'S inability to do anything and understands the frustration. There is nothing they can do to open a season.

Kirk Agnitsch: The next step could be to remove requirement of "Significant alteration of Native taken Furs"

Mike Douville: The suggestion was made to allow export of furs to have them manufactured into a commodity. The suggestion has not gained any traction. Brings up the fact that 1/4 Native blood population is reducing, which is a requirement to take marine mammals. Mike believes it must be addressed at the Congressional level. Environmentalist push back.

Vote: 5-3

SUPPORT- 5 VOTES



OPPOSE- 3 VOTES

Vote carries to SUPPORT

NOTES: MIKE D notes that consequences of sea otter mishandling are severe.

Prop 202-Set the season length for wolves in Unit 2, without closing early.

Kurt: The author wants ADFG to adhere to the regulation tiers as written and they are not. They are not offering a full season.

Moved and seconded to SUPPORT

Discussion:

Kurt Whitehead: Based on the current system, ADFG has tiers that should allow a season up to 8 weeks instead of 4. Last year the season should have been 8 weeks as well.

Kurt requests clarification from TESS

Tessa Hassbrouk: The population objective is the goal and the season is set to achieve that goal. They are setting season length based on a variety of factors including expected trapper effort numbers.

Mike Douville: The season length is set based on historical performance of trappers. They are no where even close to the harvest objective. The FLAW in the regulation and season length is variables such as bad weather.

Kurt Whitehead: There was a request for a season extension last season due to bad Wx which was denied and there has been at least on request for an extension again for this year.

Mike Douville: States that an extension adds to difficulty especially if there is a break in the season to collect harvest data. If this happens the effort will be reduced.

Kurt Whitehead: It would make more sense for them to honor the tier season, monitor the numbers and shut it down when they get close to the desired harvest.

Mike Douville: It would be a nightmare for the regulators. Quota system is difficult for them to use. Feels they are being ULTRA conservative and has huge concern for deer population. If deer population can't be maintained then wolf population is too high.

Ross Dorendorf: clarification: on this proposal, the way written: Requests fixed season, then to remove EO authority. BOG cannot accomplish this. They can change either trapping or hunting season or both.

Ellen Hannan: We would like to omit the section in this proposal that removes the EO authority. THAT is important.

Mike Douville: He believes the District Ranger has full authority to shorten or extend the season on Federal lands.

Ellen Hannan: The state and federal land season are different. State would open and all animals would be taken prior to the federal opening.

Vote: 8-0

Unanimous to NOT SUPPORT (OPPOSE)

WOLF LETTER:

The Wolves of Southeast Alaska should NOT be listed under the Endangered Species Act

On July 15, 2020, the Center for Biological Diversity, Alaska Rainforest Defenders and Defenders of Wildlife petitioned the Secretary of Interior/US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW) to list the Alexander Archipelago Wolf in Southeast Alaska as Threatened or Endangered Under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Petitioners also requested that critical habitat be designated for the wolves in SE Alaska concurrently with the species being listed. The USFW has jurisdiction over this petition. The 111 page document can be found at www.biologicaldiversity.org and www.doi.gov. The thorough response from the State of Alaska/Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) has been filed but is not public info yet. USFW will make their decision between July and September of 2023.

If the wolf is listed under the Endangered Species Act, the federal government will take over management from the state. This will end the legal taking of wolves and will severely curtail the hunting of deer, the preferred food for the wolves. There will be far reaching negative impacts on the residents of Prince of Wales Island (POW). This petition



threatens our way of life, our ability to secure food, our hunting activities and lifestyle, the economic development on the island and negatively affects the shared culture of our people.

The wolf population on POW dramatically increased after 2012 due to the change in wolf management by ADFG which was driven by the first petition to list the wolves filed in 1993. The second petition to list the wolves was filed in 2011 and now the third petition was filed in 2020, which is the current petition. This continual black cloud petitioning process hanging over our island has negatively affected every resident of POW.

POW is home to approximately 3500 residents that reside in 12 communities ranging in size from 35 in Point Baker to over 1000 in Craig and it is the third largest island in the United States. The residents rely largely on a subsistence way of life.

Nearly half of the residents on POW are Alaska Natives, generally of Haida, Tlingit or Tsimshian heritage. Subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering are a very important part of their indigenous identity. Beyond the Native population, most of the other residents on the island practice subsistence activities as well, in order to feed themselves and their families. Without being able to obtain food that nature gives us, many could not afford to live here.

Deer hunting is vitally important to all Southeast Alaska residents and our subsistence lifestyle. We have relied on Sitka blacktail deer for sustenance for thousands of years. The deer, salmon, crabs, shrimp and clams are basic elements of life on this remote island. Our family and friend relationships, mental and physical health and economic well-being all benefit from deer hunting. Our freezers are fuller and our lives are enriched when we can harvest deer. It does not matter ones heritage on the island, deer are a very important protein.

Groceries are expensive on the island. They are shipped up on a barge from Seattle to Ketchikan, then put on another barge to Thorne Bay where they are distributed by truck to the various stores. The cost to move the food to the island is currently \$0.43/lb and \$0.82/lb if chilled/frozen. As a result, in Klawock this week, a gallon of milk is \$6.49, a dozen eggs are \$5.19. Ground beef at local grocery stores costs \$5.99 per pound. Lean deer venison is much healthier. An average deer yields about fifty five pounds of meat. That saves about \$330 at a grocery store. On top of the high cost of food, gas is very expensive, currently \$5.87/gallon and \$6.23/gallon of diesel. The bottom line is that food and fuel costs are a larger percentage of the family budget than in most places around the country.

POW has four grocery stores, one in Klawock, one in Craig, one in Thorne Bay and a small one in Hydaburg. Residents on the northern end of the island have to travel long distances over difficult roads to reach the grocery stores or fuel. Those in Coffman Cove drive over 50 miles to the store. Those in Whale Pass drive over 60 miles and it takes over two hours on dry roads. Those in Port Protection or Point Baker are on the road over four hours one way. In the winter, some of the communities are cut off from the road system.

Other Southeast Alaska communities of Ketchikan, Wrangell and Petersburg travel to POW to deer hunt but since 2017, fewer and fewer off island hunters are coming to POW because the deer population has very obviously declined in the past ten years. Hunters have had to spend much more time trying to harvest a deer. Studies by ADFG have shown that the wolves have had to resort to other prey species, primarily black bear and beaver in greater percentage as the deer population decreases.

At the same time, some of the subsistence foods that come from the sea are no longer available to users because of uncontrolled sea otters. Users without larger boats are generally unable to safely get to deeper waters to harvest Dungeness crabs because of depredation by sea otters in shallower waters. Sea urchins are almost gone in the shallower water and clams are also heavily impacted.

POW has three big game animals: black bear, Sitka blacktail deer and wolf and is the only area in the state with just one good eating big game animal. POW does not have caribou, moose, elk, sheep, bison, mountain goat or muskox.

Everyone agrees that wolves are an important part of POW and we enjoy seeing them, hearing them or just knowing that they exist here. Locals have documented wolves swimming between POW and Zarembo Is. and almost every other island in and around POW. Wolves are very resilient and like any other population of animals, reasonable population management is important so that they may still be taken for their traditional uses, but also maintain their place in the food chain. ADFG has been very cautious and conservative in management of the wolves and the



population has responded by growing to levels many see as too high. Certainly they are not in need of further protection.

Trying to accurately assess the population of wolves in a temperate rainforest has always been difficult. Recent harvests of wolves have shown that the past estimates were much lower than the numbers actually present. As ADFG continues to refine the methodologies used to estimate populations and balance the populations with carrying capacity, the wolf population will continue to remain viable and healthy.

ADFG has also provided thorough and exhaustive data and science proving the Alexander Archipelago Wolf should NOT be listed under the Endangered Species Act.

The following tribes, organizations, businesses and people agree that the Alexander Archipelago Wolf should NOT be listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Kurt Whitehead & Trina Nation Treasure Hunter Lodge Klawock, AK	David & Cynthia Egelston Alaska Rainforest Adventures Thorne Bay, AK	Clinton Cook Sr. Tribal President Craig Tribal Association Craig, AK	Scott Van Valin Heidi Van Valin Island Air Express El Capitan Lodge
Josh & Chace Anderson Fireweed Lodge Klawock, AK	Don & Teresa Busse Trophy Inn Klawock, AK	Rob & Val Steward Changing Tides Inn Klawock, AK	Chuck & Jeanette Haydu Kingfisher Lodge & Charters Craig, AK
DJ & Anne Hansen DJ's Alaska Adventure Rentals Klawock, AK	Alaska Outdoor Council Anchorage, AK	Sean Tomkinson Passages Alaska Adventure Therapy, Klawock, AK	Kirk & Katie Agnitsch Sure Strike Lodge Craig, AK
Mark & Beth Farrar Eagles Wings Wilderness Lodge Klawock, AK	James Heppe Jr. Heppe & Sons Construction Klawock, AK	Grace Heppe Heppe's Indoor Edition Klawock, AK	Rosey & Lisa Roseland The Salt Shack Thorne Bay, Alaska
Ann Williams Klawock, AK	Jon & Debbie Winrod Webster Point, AK	Enoch & Elizabeth Winrod Ketchikan, AK	Sam Sawyer Thorne Bay, AK
Spencer & Hannah Richter F/V Resolution Craig, AK	Phillip & Danel Winrod F/V Aurie G Thorne Bay, AK	Shawn & Jill Kato-Yates F/V Nauti Lady Klawock, AK	LeRoy & Tanya Johns F/V Chelsea Dawn Klawock, AK
Chris Guggenbickler Wrangell, AK	Brian Ringeisen Ketchikan, AK	John & Sheri Wylie Klawock, AK	Matt & Pam Beck Whale Pass, AK
Tim O'Conner F/V Virginia Rose Craig, AK	Sam & Michelle Peters Slammin' Sam's Charters POW Electric & Repair Klawock, AK	Ray & Elizabeth Douville F/V Faith Faith Fisheries Craig, AK	Vaughn & Carrie Skinna F/V Annalyn Klawock, AK
Nichole Pope Naukati, AK	Kyle Berg & Courtney Nase Ketchikan, AK	Jason Clowar/Luther Jenson Adventure AK Southeast Thorne Bay, AK	Sharon Toman Whale Pass, AK
Brad McMillan TTP Director Klawock Cooperative Assoc. Klawock, AK	David and Jen Creighton Shelter Cove Lodge Rainforest Auto Rentals Craig, AK	Mike & Jan Bush B-3 Contractors Inc.a Klawock, AKa	

Mike Douville: Asked if the Craig AC can legally support the wolf letter submitted by Kurt.



Henry Leasia: Said the wolf letter wasn't properly noticed in the agenda so he thought we should wait until the next meeting to review the letter again.

Kurt: Does anyone have any suggestions on the wolf letter?

Craig AC: Agreed to discuss our position about the wolf letter at the next meeting.

Mike Douville: Asked about the testimony process at the BOG and if we will have the meeting minutes summarized for him.

Kurt Whitehead: Will provide a summary of our minutes for Mike.

Ellen Hannan: Also willing to type the testimony for Mike. Set up a future meeting and she'll type it up.

Ellen Hannan: Requested we try to find someone to take Brian Castle's seat. He represents trappers and doesn't want to be on the AC anymore.

Mike Douville: If we don't speak our opinions on this AC, then they could be left with lack of accountability. It can feel difficult to not have things go our way but we cannot give up.

Next meeting is Feb. 6 or 7, 2023 to review the BOF props and finalize the wolf letter. Make sure both items are on the agenda.

Moved and seconded to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned: 8:15pm

Minutes recorded by: Kurt Whitehead/David Creighton

Minutes approved by: Ellen Hannan

Date: 12.14.22