



**Ketchikan Advisory Committee
1/5/2023**

ADFG Conference Room Ketchikan

Please see the Ketchikan AC meeting minutes from 11/9/2022, 12/8/2022 and 12/15/2022 for additional comments and discussions.

Alaska Board of Game Southeast Region Meeting Proposals January 20-24, 2023 Ketchikan, 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
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
1	Require certified hunter safety education to hunt in Units 1 - 5		
Oppose	0	7	Members felt it would be difficult to implement due to logistics, cost to the Department and public. If implemented, it should be statewide. 2 members abstained because it was poorly worded, would be difficult for some residents to obtain and that it was a question for the BoG to consider.
2	Require hunter orientation for hunting goat in Southeast Region units		
Oppose	2	7	Hunters have been doing well making a distinction btw. Sexes. Isn't clear an orientation has a significant positive impact and there is already an orientation online.
3	Remove the requirement for residents to seal black bear skulls harvested in Units 1 - 4		
Oppose	0	9	The proposal was poorly worded and doesn't address hides and salvage of skulls. Important information is gathered by the Department when a bear is sealed, information that goes directly towards management.
4	Change the resident bag limit for brown bear in Unit 1 to one bear every two years		
Support	8	0	Don't see this having much impact due to current effort.
5	Change the waterfowl season in Units 1 - 4 by creating a split season		
Support Tie vote mistakenly recorded as support HNL 1/6/23	4	4	1 member abstained because they didn't feel they were educated enough on the subject. Concerns were raised about potential conflicts between waterfowler's utilizing dogs and wolf trappers on tide flats. One member wanted to see one long season instead of a split. Another preferred the season split in late September and early October. Gives an opportunity for earlier migratory birds such as Sandhill Cranes but maintains a long season for waterfowl that migrate through the area later.



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6	Lengthen river otter trapping seasons in Units 1 - 4 to align with Unit 5		
Oppose	1	8	1 member abstained because they agreed with extending the season but not extending it earlier. The main issue the AC had was the feeling that the earlier start to the season would have some otter not in prime condition, thus not doing right by the animal.
7	Extend marten trapping seasons to align with wolverine seasons in portions of Units 1 - 4 and 5		
Oppose	0	9	Concerned with whether marten would be prime that early. Would mis-align marten with mink and weasel which would create bycatch issues.
8	Extend the marten trapping season in Units 1 and 2		
Support	9	0	Would provide additional opportunity when trappers are still pursuing wolf and beaver
9	Extend the wolverine trapping season to March 15 in Units 1 – 5		
Support	8	1	Looking to recover opportunity that was lost. Some don't believe this would have a significant impact because the density of animals is low and not many trappers are targeting them. 1 member wished it was specific to 1a to avoid impacts on the population around the Juneau area. The proposal included units 1-5 to maintain consistency across the region.
10	Decrease the bag limit to four deer in Unit 4, Remainder		
No Action			
11	Decrease the bag limit to four deer in Unit 4, Remainder		
No Action			
12	Open the Mitchell Bay Closed Area in Unit 4 to brown bear hunting		
No Action			
13	Change the RB088 hunt boundary in Unit 4 to include Northeast Chichagof, and increase the allowable harvest for brown bear		
No Action			
14	Change the brown bear hunt area for RB088 in Unit 4 to include all of Lisianski Inlet drainage		
No Action			
15	Change the description of the Petersburg Road System Closed Area		
No Action			
16	Lengthen the deer season in Unit 3, that portion of Mitkof Island within the Petersburg Management Area		
No Action			



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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
17	Establish a fall drawing permit hunt for elk on Zarembo Island in Unit 3		
Support as amended	8	0	Supported with modification. Modified hunt dates to October 1 st -15 th . This would align with a proposal but forth by the KTN AC. The AC would like to see opportunity on an introduced species that has populated an island where they were not intended to be introduced.
18	Establish a fall, drawing permit hunt for elk on Zarembo, Bushy, Shrubby and Kashevarof Islands in Unit 3		
Support as Amended	9	0	The AC felt that this hunt proposal if adopted should follow some of the current existing hunt structure on Etolin, namely the Oct 1 st -Oct15 th , 1 st any weapon hunt. The AC wants to see opportunity expanded for elk. This population is hard to evaluate, there is limited time and resources to bring to bear in its management. This population just exists with no benefit to locals who wish to utilize it.
19	Change the hunt structure for elk on Etolin Island in Unit 3		
Support	9	0	This proposal aims to provide rifle opportunity earlier in the season when there is more daylight, better weather and opportunity to pursue, harvest and retrieve an elk. This proposal would also help to alleviate some crowding and improve aesthetics as it removes a few tags with the new hunt structure.
20	Split Etolin Island in Unit 3 into two hunt areas for elk		
Support	8	0	1 member abstained, concerned that the proposal changes the overall hunt structure, believes there are other ways to address the current issues. This proposal is supported because it's better than the status quo. Harvest flatlined when the current structure went into place. This proposal would spread out effort, improve aesthetics and bring new information to the Department to guide management.
21	Eliminate the regulation that excludes broken, damaged, or altered antlers from the definition of spike-fork antlers for Units 1B, 1C and 3		
No Action			
22	Eliminate the restriction for using motorized vehicles for the RM038 moose hunt in Unit 1B		



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No Action			
23	Allow the use of electric bikes for the RM038 moose hunt in Unit 1B		
No Action			
24	Open the Petersburg Creek drainage of Kupreanof Island in Unit 3 to black bear hunting		
No Action			
25	Allow black bear hunting in the Petersburg Creek Drainage area, with season dates to align with Unit 3		
No Action			
26	Reduce the permit allocation and bag limit for nonresident, nonguided black bear hunters on Kuiu and Kupreanof Islands in Unit 3		
No Action			
27	Require 100-yard trapping setbacks along hiking trails and drivable surfaces on Wrangell Island in Unit 3		
Oppose	0	8	1 member abstained because this proposal is for a specific area outside our AC's participation. There are concerns that proposals like this could come back to our community. The AC discussed and reviewed a similar push a few years ago in Ketchikan. Efforts were made between the ADFG, USFS and local trappers to educate and inform the public. We have not been approached since from concerned members of our community. More trapping opportunity is opening with access to the Shelter Cove Rd. We don't want to see opportunity lost along our existing road system.
28	Change the hunt boundary from Little Sheep Creek to Sheep Creek, for the RG014 goat hunt in Unit 1C		
No Action			
29	Expand the hunt area of the RG014 archery goat hunt in Unit 1C		
No Action			
30	Open a fall archery goat hunt in Unit 1C, the southern end of the Chilkat Peninsula		
No Action			
31	Lengthen the resident, registration goat hunt in Unit 1C, the Southern end of the Chilkat Range		
No Action			
32	Restrict hunters who take nanny goat in Unit 1D from hunting goat the following regulatory year in Unit 1D		



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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
Oppose	0	9	In this unit nannies without kids are a legal animal to harvest. This proposal would limit harvest opportunity on two fronts, removing nannies as a legal harvest and by preventing harvest for a period if a nannie is harvested by accident. This proposal will not prevent nannies from being harvested, hunters make mistakes. We don't want to see this type of regulation be extended to other units in SEAK.
33	Increase the brown bear bag limit in that portion of Unit 1C of the Chilkat Peninsula mainland north of Point Couverden and south of Sullivan Island for resident hunters, from one bear every four regulatory years to one bear every regulatory year		
No Action			
34	Increase the brown bear bag limit in that portion of Unit 1C of the Chilkat Peninsula mainland north of Point Couverden and south of Sullivan Island for resident hunters, from one bear every four regulatory years to one bear every regulatory year		
No Action			
35	Extend the bear baiting season for Unit 1D		
No Action			
36	Reduce the bag limit for grouse for drainages that cross the Juneau-Douglas Road system in Unit 1C		
No Action			
37	Reduce the bag limit for ptarmigan for drainages that cross the Juneau Douglas Road system in Unit 1C		
No Action			
38	Amend the youth hunt for Unit 1C Mendenhall Wetland State Game Refuge		
No Action			
39	Amend the hunter education requirement for the Unit 1C Mendenhall Wetland State Game Refuge		
No Action			
40	Allow the take of deleterious exotic wildlife in the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge		
No Action			
41	Eliminate the Douglas Island Management Area in Unit 1C		
No Action			
42	Extend the deer season to December 31, in Unit 1A Remainder		
Oppose	1	7	1 member abstained, wants to add opportunity but not all the way through the end of December.



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			Bucks in December are beat down, less meat value, we should protect our deer in December. A four-month season is long enough. We are currently meeting our harvest objective. We have lost opportunity in Unit 2 and we are just starting to see the consequences and changes in Unit 1a hunting due to that loss. We'd like to see more time pass before a proposal like this is seriously considered
43	Increase the resident bag limit to two goats in Unit 1A		
Support	9	0	The requirements and stipulations in this proposal put the burden of harvesting two goats on the hunter and not on the resource. New management strategy allows for the introduced herd to be managed less conservatively, i.e. more opportunity, while protecting the native population. When Unit 1a previously allowed two goats to be harvested the requirements were less stringent. We are looking to provide additional opportunity, spread out effort and pioneer new areas with this proposal.
44	Extend the goat season in Unit 1A Remainder		
Support	6	3	Concern among some AC members that extending the season when goats are on their winter range would cause additional stress during a critical period. This proposal would most likely result in little additional harvest and would be an opportunity for residents of 1a to harvest high quality meat if needed.
45	Raise the population objective from 150-200 wolves to 250-350 wolves in Unit 2, and raise the threshold for closing the season from 100 to 200 wolves		
Oppose	0	9	Opposed to raising the population objective and raising the threshold for closing the season.
46	Lengthen the hunting season for wolves in Unit 2, to open September 1		
Support	9	0	This would align the start of the hunting season with Federal regulations. This proposal would provide additional hunting opportunity with little impact on the population as harvest would remain low. Wolves harvested earlier in the season could be using different habitat and provide valuable data for management.
47	Require wolf harvest information be reported within 48 hours of recovery and sealing within 14 days in Unit 2		



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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
Oppose	0	9	Agree that receiving information sooner is better for management, however, 48hrs is too little time. Sealing information in most instances isn't going to effect in season management. During portions of the wolf season trappers are pursuing other furbearers and a 48hr sealing requirement would be burdensome and potentially dangerous for those trapping distances far away from communities and cell service if they needed to rush back to seal a wolf.
48	Change the methodology for setting the population objective for wolves in Unit 2		
Oppose	0	9	BoG doesn't have the authority. The Department is gathering data/information and will adjust when it is warranted. The Department is engaging with stakeholders and soliciting information from the public to help inform management.
49	Utilize the lower confidence interval of the wolf population for estimating the population in Unit 2		
Oppose	0	9	This is unnecessary and too conservative. The Department currently uses a confidence interval range and manages based on the average. Current interval ranges have resulted in sustainable harvest.
50	Establish a population estimate and harvest limit based on Prince of Wales Island wolf population that excludes extrapolation from outer islands in Unit 2		
Oppose	0	9	Its is well documented that wolves travel great distances and cross waterways. Excluding the many outer islands would bias the population estimate as low and unnecessarily limit harvest opportunity. The Department and its partners are currently sampling and receiving samples from outer islands proving wolves in Unit 2 are using the various habitats available to them.
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 to the public in real time, and allow three days' notice before closing the season by emergency order		
Oppose	0	9	We moved away from a quota system based on stakeholder and management collaboration. This would reintroduce a management strategy that many had soured on. It would be extremely burdensome to provide real time harvest data and only provide 3



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			days' notice before closing the season by EO. Would the season be extended if the quota wasn't met during provided season?
52	Establish a harvest quota for wolves, between 20% and 35% of the estimated wolf population in Unit 2		
Oppose	0	9	A quota system was part of past management and was unpopular. Setting a quota based on those percentages would unnecessarily limit harvest opportunity.
53	Establish an estimated unreported mortality rate for Unit 2 wolves to be used for establishing the harvest quota		
Oppose	0	9	The Department currently estimates unreported mortality. That estimate is incorporated into the harvest estimate and season dates each year.
54	Identify an area in Unit 2 for protected status for wolves		
Oppose	0	9	This is unnecessary and would result in an extreme burden to the communities and individuals that live and subsist in Unit 2.

Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: Matt Allen
Minutes Approved By: Ketchikan AC
Date: 1/5/2023



Ketchikan Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: 11/9/2022

Location: ADFG Conference

Room

Call to Order: 5:38 pm

Roll Call:

Name	Seat	Check if present	Interests/Representation
Clay Bezenek	Chair	Absent	Commercial/Sport Fishing, Hunting, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Photography
Rudy Franulovich	Vice Chair	Absent	Commercial Fishing
Matt Allen	Secretary	Present	Salmon Enhancement, hunting, sport fishing, trapping, Outdoorsperson, Photography
Keenan Sanderson		Absent	Subsistence, Comm/Sport Fish, Tlinquit, Haida
Beau Dale		Present/Zoom	4 th generation Alaskan, hunter, fisherman, local locksmith
Chad Crittenden		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Subsistence, Hunting, Photography, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist, Alaska Native
Robert Jahnke		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Commercial Fishing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
Joseph Roth		Absent	Commercial/Sport Fishing, Subsistence, Hunting, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Assoc./Corp., Conservationist
Marvin McCloud		Present/Zoom	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Photography, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson
Jeremiah Sullivan		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Subsistence, Hunting, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson
Charlie Ratzat		Absent	Sport Fishing, Hunting, Commercial Fishing, Outdoorsperson
Perry Leach		Absent	Comm/Sport Fish, Subsistence
Brian Ringeisen		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Photography, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
Devin Dalin		Absent	Hunting, Sport Fish
Annie McTurner	Alternate	Present	Trapping, Hunting, Sport Fishing
Clint Cole	Alternate	Absent	Salmon Enhancement, Commercial/Sportfishing, Personal-Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist

Introductions:

Ketchikan AC members, ADFG Department Staff

Public Present:

No members of the public present

Department Present:

Tessa Hasbrouck(Wildlife, ADFG), Henry Leasia(ADFG, Board Support)

Meeting Agenda:

Old business items:

- 1.)BoG Proposals, ADFG Ketchikan Road System Closed Area

New business:

- 1.) Review of 2022-2023 BoG Proposals

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Postpone approval of meeting minutes

Chairman's Report:

None

Committee/Member Reports/Comments:

Dale: Appreciates receiving the paper copy of the proposal books from ADFG.

Jahnke: Is opposed to the proposals put forward by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance as they are wanting to provide protected status or a sanctuary for the wolf in Unit 2. This would negatively impact residents of Unit 2

who depend on wolves for subsistence. Doesn't want to see any of these proposals affect Unit 1. It's not needed for Unit 1 or Unit 2.

Ringisen: There are already significant areas on POW that are essentially sanctuaries because of a lack of trapping/hunting effort.

Public Comment:

None

Department Report/Comment:

Hasbrouck: Provided an overview of the recent Blacktail Deer Summit. The idea/process of the summit was started in 2019 and was interrupted by the pandemic. Summit became a reality this fall. It was a collaborative effort between USFS, Mule Deer Foundation, ADFG, Nature Conservancy and members of the public. The three main areas of importance impacting Sitka Blacktail deer were discussed.

- 1.) Harvest/Regulations
- 2.) Predation
- 3.) Habitat

Included a field trip to Harris River to see different timber treatments. Facilitators were hired to assist with the event. Experts and members of the public were in attendance and provided information, experiences and feedback. Purpose was to bring all interested parties together in one place to discuss Sitka Blacktail deer.

Overall, hunting effort has decreased across participating groups. Over 50% of deer are harvested in November. A large cohort of Unit 2 residents who participated are not supportive of the current doe season. Unit 2 has seen the vast majority of logging in SEAK. Prolonged snow at brisket height is detrimental to deer.

Unit 2 trapping season was set to begin Nov. 15th-Dec 15th. An estimated 65-99(2.6 per/day) wolves would be harvested in the one month season. The Department recognizes that many factors impact hunter effort and success.

Old Business:

BoG Proposals

New Business:

Continued concern that proposals and issues facing other game units will come to directly or indirectly affect residents of Unit 1.

Proposal 1

Hunter education requirement for hunters born after January 1st, 2010 in Units 1-5.

Discussion:

Dale: Currently frustrated with the current requirements for bowhunter certification. Required to attend a field day which is burdensome. It can be difficult to make the time and trip to attend such an event. Concerned about the Department's capacity to educate the number of kids who would want to participate. Would we be seeing a bunch of kids sitting at home because they couldn't get their card? Would recommend quarterly classes.

Jahnke: Don't we have a hunter education program already?

Hasbrouck: Currently we conduct one hunter education class a year. We see about 10 students per class. It can be difficult to have enough instructors and for those instructors to have time. Classes are conducted by two instructors. Temporary cards are given at the end of the class. Official cards are distributed through the mail.

Juneau has a school that provides a hunter education class.

Dale: Some states recognize other states' hunter education programs. It can be done more easily as online (Nebraska, Texas). We need to get the program running more smoothly before we try to implement this.

Proposal 2

Hunter education for goat hunting in Units 1-5

Adopt: Allen

2nd: Crittenden

Discussion:

Allen: This proposal might be a solution looking for a problem. With the new management strategy in Unit 1a I believe we have the ability to effectively protect the resource. The Winstanley TCA was closed this season due to attaining a threshold harvest goal.

Hunter education is a tool. Current regulations allow for nanny harvest and some people prefer to harvest them.

Jahnke: Concerned that we may see additional hunting pressure due to low sheep numbers up north.

Ringisen: I think more of the pressure would be diverted to Unit 8.

Sullivan: Goats are difficult to judge. The Department manages goats well. Questions whether the Department has the time and resources to dedicate to a class.



Allen: In my limited experience sheep hunters spend a lot of time and effort learning to judge sheep. I would think they would bring the same mentality and effort with them if they looked to pursue goats in SEAK.

Hasbrouck: The Department currently has a booklet and quiz, it isn't currently a requirement.

Proposal 3

Eliminate black bear skull sealing requirement for residents in Units 1-4.

Adopt: Allen

2nd: Crittenden

Hasbrouck: Currently collects genetic, age and size measurements from skulls. A sudden drop in skull size would indicate a potential issue with the population.

Ringisen: Proposal is poorly written. Doesn't current regulation require sealing of the hide as well?

Sullivan: Yes, this proposal makes no mention of the hide. I move to take no action.

Crittenden: Second.

Proposal 4

Change resident brown bear harvest limit to 1 bear every 2 years.

Adopt: Crittenden

2nd: Allen



Discussion:

Jahnke: I support this proposal. I've seen the damage these bears can do, specifically at Helm Bay cabins. Few people hunt brown bears.

Allen: What is the population estimate for Unit 1a

Hasbrouck: I'm not sure. So few bears are harvested in Unit 1a and fewer harvest a bear every 4 years.

Allen: I don't see this having a significant impact on hunting effort or the population in Unit 1a.

Sullivan: Anyone with any money wanting to shoot a big bear is going to go up to Kodiak or Afognak.

Hasbrouck: Less than 95% of hunters in Units 1-5 harvest more than one bear.

Dale: This is similar to the proposal for providing opportunity on a 2nd goat. For those few people that would actually pursue a 2nd goat or a bear every 2 years it provides significant opportunity for those that enjoy it. It would seem to have a negligible impact. I'm all for providing more opportunity, especially if it wouldn't have much impact on the population.

Question: Allen

2nd: Crittenden

Support: 8, Against: 0, passes unanimously



Proposal 5

Set split season dates to provide early and late season hunt opportunities for migratory birds.

Adopt: Allen

2nd: Sullivan

Discussion:

The Department is looking for input from the public and AC's. This proposal would simplify hunting regulations by setting specific hunting dates that would not change from year to year.

Jahnke: Some concern for dates of the late season corresponding with wolf trapping on mudflats. Potential conflicts with dogs and wolf sets or disturbing wolves, thus impacting behavior that would negatively affect trapping.

Maybe the Season ends on December 25th.

Ringeisen: Knows some duck hunters and doesn't believe it would be much of an issue.

Sullivan: A Lot of people go out around Christmas to go hunting. Would want the season to be open at that time.

Ringeisen: This would potentially impact hunters coming up on multi-species trips depending on when the closed dates were. This would also have a financial impact on guides and hunting related businesses.

Jahnke: Believes the AC has two responsibilities.

- 1.) The resource(s)
- 2.) Resident priority

Move to table: Allen

2nd: Sullivan

Support: 8, Oppose: 0

Discussion on Proposals 6, 7

Jahnke: Would like to take these proposals up at the next meeting. I'm personally against these proposals. Nov. 10th to March 31st is a long season. Concerned about primeness in November and later into March.

Ringeisen: I agree. It's not right by the animal to harvest it out of prime, you're not getting the value.

Jahnke: Could we make a recommendation to align the season with the current Wolverine season?

Proposal 17

Establish a fall permit hunt for bull elk on Zarembo

Adopt: Allen

2nd: Crittenden

Discussion:

Allen: I'm not against providing opportunities on Zarembo. If memory serves, the most recent estimate according to the area biologist was about 40 animals. This is an introduced species that has moved to an area that they weren't meant to inhabit and are now off limits to hunt.

Dale: I would like to see opportunities on Zarembo, however, this proposal conflicts with proposal 19. Prop 19 is looking to do away with the late October hunt. There has been concern in the past about bootlegging of elk. If both proposals were to pass this would create a



situation where this would again be a concern. I could get behind this proposal if the dates were from October 1st to October 15th. Elk hunting would then be closed in both areas from October 16th-31st.

Sullivan: What if we were to open Zarembo with the current hunt on Etolin.

Dale: Maybe that is something to consider at the next BoG meeting. The current management plan/report is about to expire. Is there a new plan coming forward?

Hasbrouck: A new elk management plan might be forthcoming that could inform this discussion.

Allen: I can reach out to Frank to see what impact the elk might be having on the deer on Zarembo. Can also ask how many people hunt deer on Zarembo.

Dale: I think this proposal is approaching the issue from the right angle. I don't believe that combining Zarembo with the current hunt structure on Etolin would pass the Board. I could support the proposal with amended hunt dates.

Motion to Amend Proposal 17: Sullivan

2nd: Dale

Amend Proposal 17 to modify the hunt dates from October 1st-31st to October 1st-15th.

Support: 8, Oppose: 0, Passes unanimously.



Proposal 18

Establish fall draw permit hunt for elk on Zarembo, Bushy, Shrubby, Kashevarof Islands.

Adopt: Allen

2nd: Crittenden

Discussion:

Dale: Why couldn't include the remainder of Unit 3, minus Etolin and Units 1 and 2 in this proposal? Basically looking to establish a season on the elk that currently don't have a season. I would like to see the season go from October 1st-15th. I know that's largely rewriting this guy's proposal but that's what I would like to see.

Jahkne: I don't believe Fish&Game will go for this because of past issues. They took away our ability to harvest elk on the Cleveland because of past issues. I would like to wait to see the Department's comments before voting on this proposal.

Allen: I don't mind waiting to finish discussion on this proposal and others if we can agree to future meetings.



Next Meeting:

12/2/2022 @ 5:30pm ADFG Conference Room

12/8/2022 @ 5:30pm ADFG Conference Room

Adjourn: 8:42pm



Ketchikan Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: 12/8/2022

Location: ADFG Conference

Room

Call to Order: 5:37 pm

Roll Call:

Name	Seat	Check if present	Interests/Representation
Clay Bezenek	Chair	Present/Zoom	Commercial/Sport Fishing, Hunting, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Photography
Rudy Franulovich	Vice Chair	Present	Commercial Fishing
Matt Allen	Secretary	Present	Salmon Enhancement, hunting, sport fishing, trapping, Outdoorsperson, Photography
Keenan Sanderson		Absent	Subsistence, Comm/Sport Fish, Tlinquit, Haida
Beau Dale		Present/Zoom	4 th generation Alaskan, hunter, fisherman, local locksmith
Chad Crittenden		Present/Zoom	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Subsistence, Hunting, Photography, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist, Alaska Native
Robert Jahnke		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Commercial Fishing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
Joseph Roth		Absent	Commercial/Sport Fishing, Subsistence, Hunting, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Assoc./Corp., Conservationist
Marvin McCloud		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Photography, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson
Jeremiah Sullivan		Absent	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Subsistence, Hunting, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson
Charlie Ratzat		Absent	Sport Fishing, Hunting, Commercial Fishing, Outdoorsperson
Perry Leach		Absent	Comm/Sport Fish, Subsistence
Brian Ringeisen		Absent	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Photography, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
Devin Dalin		Present	Hunting, Sport Fish
Annie McTurner	Alternate	Present	Trapping, Hunting, Sport Fishing



Introductions:

Ketchikan AC members, ADFG Department Staff

Public Present:

Ben Allen, Andrew Pung

Department Present:

Ross Dorendorf (Wildlife, ADFG), Henry Leasia (ADFG, Board Support)

Meeting Agenda:

Old business items:

- 1.) BoG Proposals, Sitka Blacktail Deer Summit, Unit 2 Wolf Trapping Season

New business:

- 1.) Review of 2022-2023 BoG Proposals

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Postpone approval of meeting minutes

Chairman's Report:

None

Committee/Member Reports/Comments:

Allen: Provided a quick overview of the previous meeting.

Old Business:

BoG Proposals



New Business:

Proposal 1

Hunter Education

Move to Adopt: Allen

2nd: Turner

Discussion:

Dalin: Would the State recognize a hunter safety course taken in another State. Don't other States have completely online classes and does AK have anything similar.

Dorendorf: AK doesn't have an online course, would recognize another State certification. Internet would be required and that can be difficult to access for some in AK.

Franulovich: What about the Armed Forces? They know how to handle a firearm. Would they be except.

Dorendorf: The State doesn't currently have any exceptions.

McTurner: I think this might take away opportunity or some people would turn an eye to the requirement and hunt anyway.

Call the Question: Bezenek

2nd: Allen

Support: 0, Oppose: 7 Abstain: 2, Proposal Opposed.

McTurner, abstained: Believes it is worded poorly and would be difficult for people to attain.

Jahnke, abstained: Believes this is better for the BoG to address.

McCloud: Should be Statewide requirement if adopted.



Proposal 2

Hunter orientation for goats in SE Region Units

Move to adopt: Allen

2nd: Jahnke

Discussion:

Jahnke: talking about a trickle-down effect from up north. Sheep hunters may transition to goat hunting as sheep become harder to pursue. Talked with Ross and the orientation would be about an hour online, I don't have a problem with that.

Allen: Sheep hunters are some of the most observant hunters out there. They have to judge full curl or whether a ram is 8 years old. I don't believe this would be a problem and it isn't currently a problem.

Jahnke: A quiz would mean someone couldn't just say they read the or reviewed the information.

Dorendorf: The Department has an orientation and there isn't clear data that indicate that has a significant impact. The Department feels it can also manage goat populations under the current management plan without quizzes or education. Hunters have been doing well in harvest.

Call the question: Allen

2nd: Jahnke

Support: 2, Oppose: 7, Proposal is opposed

Proposal 3

Remove requirement for residents to seal black bear skulls in Units 1-4.

Move to Adopt: Allen

2nd: Jahnke

Discussion:

Dorendorf: Skulls are a key component of management. Skull size has to do with the size of a bear. Skull size objective is set in place based on historic average. If size starts to drift one way or the other, would indicate something is going on. This proposal doesn't address hides or the salvage of skulls.

Jahnke: Leave it the way it is.

Dale: Makes sense to me if they don't want to pack it out and they aren't interested in the trophy. Sounds like this guy just doesn't want to pack it out. I think the proposal is poorly written.

Jahnke: I agree with Ross, they measure the skull, and that information is important.

Dorendorf: We also take a tooth for aging.

Call the question: Dale

2nd: Allen

Support: 0, Oppose: 9, Proposal is unanimously opposed.

Proposal 4

Previously reviewed, voted and supported.

Proposal 5

Change waterfowl season in Units 1-4 by creating a split season

Discussion:

Allen: Talking with Dalin, it sounds like they would like a split season earlier in the season. The two weeks of no hunting would be during the last week in September, first week in October.



Jahnke: I believe this would be more complex as some people would go off old regulations. Personally, I have concerns about those that wolf trapping on mud flats. We don't want to trap anyone's dog. We don't want to lose opportunity at the end of December.

Dorendorf: Hunters up north want different seasons because of the migration compared to SE AK. The Department is limited in what it can do because of Federal requirements. Receives calls from hunters that are confused over the current regulations.

Dalin: The issue with early season sea ducks is they may not have full plumage. Harlequin is highly sought after that people from down south come up to harvest. I prefer the later season, 9 out of 10 people I know and talk to prefer a later season. A split season allows for residents in Northern SE AK to harvest Harlequin and Teal early. Teal migrate early. Mallards might not come through in numbers until November

Jahnke: I disagree with the mallard migration. There are lots of mallards around.

Dalin: There are resident birds and there are migratory birds.

Bezenek: I think the split season is confusing. I'd like to see one long season. I believe people have plenty of time with 107 days. I'd like to see the end date, middle or end of December. I'll go with the majority on this one.

Allen: I'm not a waterfowl hunter. I would support this proposal with an earlier split season. It seems as though this is what hunters want.

McTurner: I believe current regulations are confusing. I'd like to see consistent dates.

Franulovich: I'd be concerned with catching someone's dog.

Jahnke: It wouldn't be the dog's fault; it would be the owner's fault. This is just like trail buffers for trapping.

Allen: Are you currently following current regulations when wolf trapping.

Jahnke: Yes. I post my wolf sets.

Call the question: Allen

2nd: Jahnke

Support: 4, Oppose: 4, Abstain: 1

Crittenden: How many duck hunters use dogs? Not that many, right?

Jahnke: Many of the hunters I've run into are Coast Guard, they change often.

Dale: I'll abstain because I'm just not educated enough.

Proposal 6

Lengthen river otter trapping season in Units 1-4 to align with 5

Move to adopt: Jahnke

2nd: Allen

Discussion:

Jahnke: I don't have a problem with March 31st, but I do with November 10th. I can only think they wouldn't be 100% by November 10th. Mink definitely isn't prime at that time, and they are another water critter.

Dalin: Wouldn't this eliminate the issue of catching otter in beaver sets in November?

Dorendorf: This would then mis-align with mink and muskrat. Align with one, mis-align with others.

Allen: I agree with Brian Ringeisen who previously mentioned that it isn't right by the animal if it isn't primed.

Call the question: Allen

2nd: Jahnke

Support: 1, Opposed: 8, Abstain: 1, Proposal opposed

McTurner: Abstain, I can agree with extending the season later but not in extending it earlier.

Proposal 7

Extend marten trapping season to align with wolverine in Units 1-5

Move to adopt: Allen

2nd: Jahnke

Discussion:

Dorendorf: This would mis-align the season with mink, which is the species you would most likely catch a marten or weasel. Could result in increased bycatch. Many of the current regulation timelines are based on primeness.

Jahnke: Why did ADFG stay neutral on this? Don't they realize they probably wouldn't be prime?

Dorendorf: There isn't a biological concern.

Bezenek: We are supposed to manage species for the greatest use and benefit.

Dorendorf: That is a good interpretation, however, we manage based on sustained yield.

Jahnke: I am totally against this proposal. You don't know whether a marten will be primed that early. You won't receive top dollar.



Dalin: Doesn't the next proposal just extend the season?

Call the question: Allen

2nd: Jahnke

Support: 0, Opposed 9, Unanimously oppose the proposal.

Proposal 8

Extend marten trapping season in Units 1 and 2

Move to adopt: Allen

2nd: Jahnke

Discussion:

Dalin: We've pretty much covered this proposal.

Jahnke: I'll support.

McTurner: I'll support.

Call the question: Bezenek

2nd: Allen

Support: 9, Oppose: 0, Unanimously support the proposal.

Proposal 9

Extend the wolverine trapping season to March 15 in Units 1-5

Move to adopt: Allen

2nd: McTurner

Discussion:

Dorendorf: We opposed because after February 15th females start leaving dens and travelling farther to provision their young.



Dalin: Is there any information indicating where they are denning.

Dorendorf: I don't have that information on me at this time.

Jahnke: Has anyone ever trapped a female that had milk towards the end of the season?

Ben Allen: No, but we only caught one female one year and the rest were males.

Jahnke: I don't believe they den anywhere near beaches. I've never seen tracks of young wolverine, even when I'm trapping wolves in April. I'm just asking for 13 days back. The trapper has still lost 45-46 days of opportunity if this proposal is adopted.

Franulovich: Do we have a population estimate for wolverine in this area?

Dorendorf: No, we do not. SE AK has moderate densities of wolverine compared to other areas. Harvest of wolverine in Unit 1a is usually single digits. There is a bias for harvesting males, especially young males because they have larger home ranges.

Allen: It appears that the highest incidence of harvest is farther north around Petersburg and Juneau. Is there more effort or participants in those units? This proposal encompasses more than just Unit 1a.

Dorendorf: Would anticipate an increase in harvest in northern units compared to more southern units based on historic harvest.

Dalin: Heard of only one incident where a trapper caught a wolverine out of season while wolf trapping. He turned it in, enforcement allowed him to keep it on the condition he gave a presentation to educate people regarding bycatch.



Jahnke: There used to be a lot more harvest of wolverine during the years that the wolf bounty was in place because of bycatch or greater effort.

Allen: Is there a specific biological concern.

Dorendorf: The concern is for females with kits.

Franulovich: How many trappers and what would be the anticipated harvest.

Allen: I don't believe there would be a significant uptick in harvest of females, based on previous discussions.

Jahnke: The reason I included Units 1-5 was to limit discrepancies between other Units.

Franulovich: I would prefer to have the proposal be specific to 1a since there would be less of an impact than compared to potential impact and effort farther north in the Juneau, Wrangell, Petersburg.

Jahnke: The amount of main land area is vast it shouldn't have a significant impact.

Call the question: Allen

2nd: Jahnke

Support: 8, Opposed: 1, Proposal is supported

Proposal 18

Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk. Establish a fall, drawing permit hunt for elk on Zarembo, Bushy, Shrubby and Kashevarof Islands in Unit 3.

Move to adopt: Allen



2nd: McTurner

Discussion:

Allen: Previous discussion from Beau Dale. This proposal was looking to provide a season in areas where elk can be found, outside the current hunt area in Unit 3. Bob Jahnke didn't believe the Department would be supportive because of past issues concerning the bootlegging of elk and the loss of opportunity to harvest on the Cleveland Peninsula with a harvest ticket.

Dorendorf: The Department doesn't believe there has been an increase in the number of elk in these areas since 2005. Harvesting of elk from this population would have a significant impact. If this proposal were to be adopted the Department would like to see a conservative number of permits provided.

Allen: It's a matter of and money, the Department has little of both.

Franulovich: Don't they have cameras that you can fly over and download photos of elk.

Dorendorf: We are currently investigating the use of cameras on Gravina and a grad student is doing so on POW. The main question is how cameras can be used to estimate a population.

Jahnke: Is there an issue with the deer population on Zarembo? That was part of the justification to have a hunt of Zarembo in Proposal 17.

Allen: I believe that elk and deer do overlap in some of the food that they eat.

I look at this as an issue about opportunity. Providing opportunity on an introduced species that I would consider is invasive to Zarembo and other islands. It was introduced on the north end of Etolin and quickly migrated off island. If we don't have the time and money to evaluate



and monitor the population and there is not season than the population just exists. This is a similar situation to how goat used to be on the Cleveland Peninsula. I also look at the fact the Department would look to be conservative with the number of permits issued if this proposal was to be adopted by BoG.

My main issue with this proposal is the season. I would like to see the season amended to be more in-line with other existing seasons. I would like to see October 1st-October 15th.

Dale: I would totally support that. I got a little excited at the last meeting and we discussed significant changes to proposal. I would support the proposal with an amendment to the season date of October 1st-October 15th.

Allen moves to amend Proposal 18, change the season date from September 15th – October 15th to October 1st to October 15th.

2nd: Jahnke

Support: 9, Oppose: 0, Amendment is unanimously supported

Move to adopt Proposal 18 as amended: Dale

2nd: McTurner

Support: 9, Oppose: 0 Proposal 18 is unanimously supported as amended.

Proposal 19

Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk. Change the hunt structures for elk on Etolin Island in Unit 3.

Move to adopt: Allen

2nd: Dale



Discussion:

Dale: I'm looking to pick up a few more harvests. Give rifle opportunity earlier in the season when there is more daylight, better weather and better opportunity to harvest and retrieve an elk.

The new hunt structure would help alleviate some of the crowding. I recently talked to a hunter who saw zero deer/elk and 14 hunters.

The earlier start to the registration season would provide better hunting conditions and allow a blue-collar guy like myself with a family to best utilize my time to potentially harvest a deer during the rut if not an elk.

Dorendorf: recent anecdotal sightings are seeing few calves.

Dalin: sightings of elk early in the season might have cows with calves in areas that can't be easily seen. Some of the surveys might be closer to the calving season where cows with calves would be more difficult to see.

Bezenek: This proposal of all of them took a lot of time. I'm very happy and proud of our efforts.

What is it that the Department is opposing?

Dorendorf: Isn't part of the proposal an early opportunity for an elk with a rifle during the rut? A rifle hunt in the rut will likely increase harvest.

Dale: The primary reason for the earlier season for rifle is for better weather and more daylight. I don't be it would lead to significantly more harvest. Most of the bulls harvested in the early October season are harvested in the alpine.

Franulovich: What is the population estimate?



Dorendorf: The area in question is difficult to monitor being a dense coastal rain forest. The Department doesn't have a reliable estimate.

Jahnke: Does the Department have an idea of what the predation might be. That could explain the lower cow to calf ratio.

Dorendorf: We don't have specific numbers.

Allen: If there is an issue with the cow to calf ratio, I would assume we would see the impact in the coming years with the number of mature bulls.

I would hope that if we look introduce a species in the future, I will hope we would do so in an area where it could be monitored and evaluated.

When looking at the Departments graphs regarding harvest we really need to be looking at when Zarembo was removed from the hunt area.

I look at this proposal and the others as a good thing. I think it would create opportunities, not necessarily more opportunities depending on how the Department would then manage the herds. If some or all of these proposals are adopted, it will provide additional information and data to the Department. That is how the hunt is largely being managed currently, its being managed based on harvest.

We currently have greater numbers of hunters in the field now than we did in the past and are seeing similar levels of harvest.

Dale: A thought that comes into my head is what happens if we shoot too many? Things comeback, we have the elk we have now based on 2 previous small introductions.

Dalin: Have the elk hit the density cap of the Island?

Dorendorf: The harvest has been consistent. It might be an indication of the population.

Call the question: Allen

2nd: McTurner

Support: 9, Oppose: 0, Proposal in unanimously supported

Proposal 20

Hunting seasons and bag limits of elk

Split Etolin Island in Unit 3 into two hunt areas for elk

Move to adopt: Allen

2nd: Dalin

Discussion:

Allen: Hoping to improve the aesthetics of the hunt by spreading out effort. I believe splitting the hunt will provide additional data for the Department in managing the herd and will open up other harvest opportunities as hunters pioneer less traditional areas, rather than concentrating on the current areas year after year.

The current concentration of hunters has resulted in me no longer wanting to put in for tags and pursue elk on Etolin. My pursuit of elk is for more than the trophy, it is also to enjoy the environment they exist in and the challenge.

I put this proposal forward as an individual because I didn't want the AC to take it as its own and thus provide a conflict with our Proposal 19. In my opinion, this proposal changes the current regulations the least compared to the other proposals.

Jahnke: If you split the areas in two, I believe the Department will get better information and data.

Call the question: Allen

2nd: Jahnke

Support: 8, Oppose: 0, Abstain: 1, Proposal passes

Dalin: This proposal would change the entire hunt structure; I believe there are better ways than splitting the island but there are also worse ways. I agree with Bob that splitting the hunt area will provide better data.

Dale: I support this proposal because I think its better than the status quo. That's the whole reason I support the proposal process, making things better. If you look at when harvest flatlined, it occurred when we adopted the current hunt structure.

Proposal 27

Areas closed to trapping.

Require 100yd trapping setbacks along hiking trails and drivable surfaces on Wrangell Island in Unit 3

Move to adopt: Jahnke

2nd: Allen

Discussion:

Jahnke: What can happen on Wrangell could happen here. We've fought these buffers here in Ketchikan before. Senator Sullivan supported us trappers. There is a long list of trails and roads in this proposal. There are other ways of limiting conflicts and we adopted them here. We put up signs on trails and asked that residents keep their dogs under control. We can use dog safe marten sets. We held trap demonstrations, open to the public to learn how traps work and showed how a pet can be removed from a trap.



Allen: I share Bob's concerns. There is already precedent in Juneau. I'm not going to vote on this proposal because it is specific to Juneau. I will speak to it because I do have concerns it could be revisited here. I also know that we haven't had members of the public come since several years ago to express concerns with traps or trapping on trails. I'm also concerned because we have roads here that are open or will open more consistently such as the Shelter Cover road system that will provide additional trapping opportunity. I want to see that opportunity realized.

Bezenek: I will not support a proposal that looks limit trappers. I carry a pair of wire snippers in case my dog find itself in a snare. I'm a responsible dog owner.

Call the question: Dalin

2nd: McCloud

Support: 0, Oppose: 8, Abstain: 1, Proposal is opposed.

Proposal 32

Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat

Restrict hunters who take nanny goat in Unit 1D from hunting goat the following regulatory year in Unit 1D.

Move to adopt: Allen

2nd: McTurner

Discussion:

Allen: This is a proposal that could potentially impact other Units in SEAK.



Dorendorf: The BoG could make an amendment to make this proposal apply to Units 1-5.

Allen: I will be opposing this proposal. It will limit opportunity because you will no longer be able to harvest what is now a legal nannie. You also will not prevent the harvest of nannies, hunters make mistakes. Is there any other areas with these type of regulations?

Franulovich: How do you tell the difference between sexes.

Dorendorf: Physical characteristics and behavior. The Department promotes the harvest of male goats. Some people in this area specifically look to harvest nannies.

The Kenai has stricter prohibitions, if a nannie is harvested the hunter can't harvest for 5 years.

Dale: How many areas in 1D are closed? How long have they been closed:

Dorendorf: 3

Dale: I could see myself getting onboard if this was an area I utilized and it was easily accessed.

Jahnke: I would oppose this proposal because it doesn't differentiate between residents and non-residents.

McCloud: Non-residents need to have a guide. Most aren't going to spend the time and money to harvest a nannie. They want harvest the biggest billy possible.

Call the question: Dalin

2nd: McTurner

Support: 0, Oppose: 9, Proposal is unanimously opposed.

Proposal 42

Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.

Extend the deer season to December 31, in Unit 1A

Move to adopt: Allen

2nd: Jahnke

Discussion:

Jahnke: I oppose this proposal. ADFG supports it and I don't know why they do. Bucks in December are beat down from the rut. If we're talking trophy hunting bucks start dropping antlers in December. The meat value of the deer is less. If hunters can't get their meat in four months, they will just have to go harvest a goat. We should protect our deer in December.

McTurner: I agree with Bob. I'm from Michigan and we have a 15-day season. We have a long enough season. The bucks are run down, and the meat quality isn't as good.

Dalin: I'm not against some opportunity in December but not the entire month. Young bucks don't rut like mature bucks. Sometimes bucks in December have fat, sometimes they don't.

What about a fisherman that is out all season, comes back in mid-November and gets weathered out from deer hunting?

Jahnke: ADFG supported us in the past when we proposed ending the season at the end of November.

McCloud: Wasn't that about the time we had some tough winters? Its not the right time right now. I'd love to hunt in December. The recent

rebound in deer numbers is getting better but I would like to see it better before we open December back up.

Jahnke: Enforcement isn't out in December; you don't know what people will harvest.

Allen: How long have we been meeting the harvest objective.

Dorendorf: We have been meeting the intensive management objective since 2019. It began increasing towards that objective in 2012.

McCloud: Some of that would be related to losing opportunity on POW

Allen: I would like to have some more time pass before we begin harvesting again in December. We are just seeing the results/consequences of the loss of opportunity in Unit 2. I want to make sure our current harvest level is sustainable.

Call the question: McCloud

2nd: Jahnke

Support: 1, Oppose: 7, Abstain: 1, Proposal is opposed.

Dalin: it adds opportunity, but I don't want to see it go to the end of December.

Proposal 43

Hunting Seasons and bag limits for goat

Increase the resident bag limit to two goats in Unit 1A.

Move to adopt: Allen

2nd: Jahnke



Discussion:

Dorendorf: This would make it so that anyone in the State who harvests a goat could come down here and harvest another goat. There are caveats in this proposal, but the Board will look at it as allocative. What will be the interest? The Board will also have to navigate the complexity of this proposal.

Allen: I think the Department explained the complexity of the proposal well in the staff comments. I was trying to address as much as possible maintaining opportunity by not allowing someone to harvest two goats in the same TCA. I do believe this proposal will lead to additional opportunities as new areas/access is pioneered.

Dorendorf: About 70% of goat harvest in 1A is on Revillagigedo.

Bezenek: This is going to be a pricey hunt for someone in Alaska to come down here and hunt one or two goats, especially if they utilize a guide. Having to come down off the mountain to seal your goat(billie), get another permit and then go up a different mountain is logistically difficult. I don't think this is going to have much of an impact.

Allen: If the Board wants to make this proposal just for residents of 1A, I would be alright with that.

McCloud: This proposal requires that you present your harvest record or sealing document from your first harvest in order to receive a second permit.

Call the question: Dale

2nd: McCloud

Support: 9, Oppose: 0, Proposal passes unanimously

Proposal 44

Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat

Extend the goat season in 1A to include the month of January

Move to adopt: Allen

2nd: McCloud

Discussion:

Dorendorf: Concerns regarding the extension of the hunt. It is recommended by the sheep and goat council that you should curtail harvest of goats on their winter range. There are indirect effects on pregnant nannies or older goats that can impact survival. This could cause additional stress post rut when they are also nutritionally stressed. I don't believe harvest would be very high, but it would be stressful on those animals that were hunted.

McCloud: Just want to point out that in BC they hunt through the month of February.

Dalin: Many on the nannies that would be pregnant in January would also be pregnant in November.

Allen: Would the calculus change if this proposal was just for Revilla on an introduced population? I don't believe the current proposal is going to increase harvest significantly. I am concerned with a native population that different population dynamics.

Dorendorf: Introduced populations have higher twinning rates, nannies are getting pregnant at young ages.

McCloud: Hunting would also be more difficult on Revilla. The terrain and weather are different than the mainland.



Allen: Do we know with the liberalization of goat hunting in some areas on Kodiak is the hunting opportunity increasing in areas on the road system as much as it is in the harder to access areas? Wondering how access is affecting the population.

Jahnke: What kind of goat hunting occurs in January? Is it beach hunting?

McCloud: Its beach hunting. That's why I was on the fence when this proposal first came up.

Call the question: McCloud

2nd: Allen

Support: 6, Oppose 3, Proposal passes

McTurner: I oppose because of the stress on the animals, specifically pregnant nannies.

Allen: I support despite my reservations. I believe it will be easier to recover a goat harvested off the beach.

Next Meeting:

12/15/2022 @ 5:30pm ADFG Conference Room

Motion to Adjourn: Allen

2nd: Franulovich

Support: 9, Oppose: 0

Adjourn: 8:58pm

Ketchikan Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: 12/15/2022

Location: ADFG Conference

Room

Call to Order: 5:38 pm

Roll Call:

Name	Seat	Check if present	Interests/Representation
Clay Bezenek	Chair	Present/Zoom	Commercial/Sport Fishing, Hunting, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Photography
Rudy Franulovich	Vice Chair	Absent	Commercial Fishing
Matt Allen	Secretary	Present	Salmon Enhancement, hunting, sport fishing, trapping, Outdoorsperson, Photography
Keenan Sanderson		Absent	Subsistence, Comm/Sport Fish, Tlinquit, Haida
Beau Dale		Present/Zoom	4 th generation Alaskan, hunter, fisherman, local locksmith
Chad Crittenden		Present/Zoom	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Subsistence, Hunting, Photography, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist, Alaska Native
Robert Jahnke		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Commercial Fishing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
Joseph Roth		Absent	Commercial/Sport Fishing, Subsistence, Hunting, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Assoc./Corp., Conservationist
Marvin McCloud		Present/Zoom	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Photography, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson
Jeremiah Sullivan		Present/Zoom	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Subsistence, Hunting, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson
Charlie Ratzat		Absent	Sport Fishing, Hunting, Commercial Fishing, Outdoorsperson
Perry Leach		Absent	Comm/Sport Fish, Subsistence
Brian Ringeisen		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Photography, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
Devin Dalin		Present	Hunting, Sport Fish
Annie McTurner	Alternate	Present	Trapping, Hunting, Sport Fishing

Introductions:

Ketchikan AC members, ADFG Department Staff

Public Present:

Tony Gallegos (Zoom), Andrew Pung, Kurt Whitehead (Zoom)

Department Present:

Tessa Hasbrouck (Wildlife, ADFG), Ross Dorendorf (Wildlife, ADFG),
Henry Leasia (ADFG, Board Support)

Meeting Agenda:

Old business items:

- 1.) BoG proposals

New business:

- 1.) BoG proposals
- 2.) Discussion/review of a letter opposing the ESA listing of the Alexander Archipelago wolf.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Move to approve previous meeting minutes: McTurner

Second: Jahnke

Support: 9, Oppose:0, Meeting minutes from 11/9 and 12/8
unanimously approved.

Chairman's Report:

None

Committee/Member Reports/Comments:

None

Public Comments:

Kurt Whitehead/ESA listing of Alexander Archipelago Wolves: The letter is basically a ballot box initiative, and we are looking for people to sign on or come up with their own. If AA wolves get listed, it will be throughout SEAK. Ketchikan residents hunt throughout SEAK and would be impacted. If AA wolves are listed, they will look to protect their prey and habitat. Wolves utilize many different prey species and deer can make up over 55% of their diet followed by bear, beaver and salmon. Deer is a valued food source not only for wildlife but many people and communities.

Hoping this letter will help spur our legislators and others to step up and bring their resources to bear in fighting the initiative.

Bezenek: How did your AC's approach the proposals put forward by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance?

Whitehead: We took the hard road in addressing each proposal on its own.

Dale: I appreciate your initiative and what you are doing. I'd like to take some time and review the letter and ask questions.

Jahnke: The Alaska Trappers Association has been involved in the past regarding Unit 2 wolves. I would suggest you contact ATA in Fairbanks to see what support they can provide.

Whitehead: We've reached out to the ATA and other associations seeking support.

Allen: If I'm going to put my name to this letter, I want to make sure it is factually correct. Do we have the data that shows the amount of additional time necessary to harvest a deer? And is that considered significant?

Dorendorf: From 2005-2015 it took between 3-4 days of hunting to harvest a deer. From 2015-2022 it took between 4-6 days.



Allen: You also indicated that a main reason why off island hunters have curtailed hunting effort in Unit 2 was because the deer population has crashed. Is “crashed” an accurate statement? I would also like to suggest that the drop off in effort would be more directly related to the fact that non-federally qualified subsistence users (residents of Ketchikan) can only harvest two deer on federal land in Unit 2.

Whitehead: I can certainly address your concerns. I will talk with Ross to make sure that the wording passes his sniff test, “crash” might be too dramatic.

Allen: I agree with the intent of the letter. I haven’t talked with anyone within ADFG, members of the public or other agencies that feel the AA wolves need listing. I also understand that for someone like myself if a few additional days are needed to harvest a deer its not an ordeal. For others, such as the elderly and disabled a few additional days might be burdensome.

Jahnke: The AA wolf has only had that name since the 1930’s. Its basically still a grey wolf. Wolves migrated into SEAK via corridors from BC. The wolf population continues to be fed from these corridors. Despite the history and efforts to limit the population of grey wolves in SEAK they are still here.

Dorendorf: The federal government recognizes the AA wolf as a subspecies. This has been determined by morphology, genetics, etc. The federal government will not be discussing whether it is a subspecies or not. The AA wolf ranges from Yakutat to BC.

Allen: Do we have a population estimate for the range.

Dorendorf: Back in the 90’s it was estimated at 1,000. They aren’t just looking at population. They are looking at stressors, disease, habitat etc. They will be looking at how they are being managed and if it is sufficient. Though the petition is for the entirety of SEAK they could carve out a portion, say POW. POW has the most research and has the most habitat alteration. They could decide to list POW population if they decide it is a significant portion of the population within its range or if they view it as distinct.

Crittenden: Do they have a population they are looking for?

Dorendorf: That would be outlined in their recovery plan. They could say they want so many animals, so many packs or so many breeding females.

Tony Gallegos/Ketchikan Rural Status: I was hoping to discuss with the group at this meeting or the next, the proposal before the RAC regarding Rural Status. I'd like to seek this groups support in that effort.

Old Business:

BoG Proposals

New Business:

Proposal 47

Motion to Adopt: Crittenden

2nd: McTurner

Discussion:

Jahnke: This is the only proposal put forward by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance that the Department supported. This would require reporting of wolf harvest within 48hrs of recovery and sealing within 14 days. This might be fine if you're trapping around the road system, however, there is a lot of country off the road system without cell service. I don't think this proposal is a good idea. What would happen if someone didn't call within 48hrs? This could keep trappers from trapping and maybe that is the purpose.

Allen: What is the Department doing with the information they receive in-season?

Dorendorf: This would allow the Department to better monitor in-season harvest and gets us information when it is fresh in one's mind. This is a tool we could use if harvest went through the roof to close the

season by EO. We hope not to have to manage by EO but it is a tool if needed.

To be effective this proposal would also have to be adopted by the federal subsistence board.

Jahnke: Would ADFG be willing to set up a way to communicate via VHF?

Dorendorf: That's creative, but I don't see that happening.

Bezenek: I support seven days; I applaud more information more quickly, but I can't support 48 hours.

Sullivan: I agree with Bob and Clay. I believe this is just another way at developing a sanctuary for wolves because so much of Unit 2 is outside of cell range.

Dalin: I'm trapping in areas on POW where 99% of the time we don't have cell service. Many of the areas we anchor up don't have cell service and we won't anchor up in an area that puts ourselves at risk just to have service.

Dale: People out and about aren't just trapping wolves. Say you fly out to some remote area deer hunting and you incidentally harvest a wolf. Are you go to fly back early so you can call it in within 48hrs?

Call the question: Bezenek

2nd: Allen

Support: 0, Oppose: 9, Unanimously oppose

Proposal 45

Move to adopt: Dale

2nd: Crittenden



Discussion:

Dorendorf: The Department is opposed to limiting harvest opportunity below an estimate of 200 wolves. We need more information and haven't finished our analysis. We believe the current population objective is potentially biased low because our estimates at the time the objective was developed by the BoG were low. We believe our estimates were low because we had low samples numbers. We are finding that the more samples we get the larger the estimate becomes, and it should only affect our precision. We are currently gathering genetic data from across the range and will use that to help inform what the population objective should be.

Allen: How is more data impacting the population estimate?

Dorendorf: Hyaburg came onboard with more data (approx. 47%) and we had a season where we were able to include 164 harvested wolves. We know that a certain number of wolves don't rub on hair boards. The additional data we have collected has helped capture those animals. All that information we include in our model which resulted in a jump in the population.

Allen: When we talk about engaging with the public so we can solicit what they want, how do we square that with sound science?

Dorendorf: Basically, we don't want to blindside the public. We want to provide all the information we have so the public can be informed.

Bezenek: How are using the data you collect? Are you expanding the data to include the areas where data isn't being collected?

Dorendorf: We input the data in our model and can develop a density estimate. That density estimate is then expanded based on the total amount of habitat across POW and the surrounding islands to come up with a population estimate. One such estimate was 47 wolves per 1000

km². We've seen some of the highest population estimates in recent years.

Bezenek: Efforts like these aren't going to go away. We see this in other areas and for other species. We've been hunting and trapping wolves for many years and there are still wolves in good numbers. We aren't ever going to eliminate them.

Call the question: Dale

2nd: Crittenden

Support: 0, Oppose: 9, Unanimously oppose

Proposal 46

Move to adopt: Dale

2nd: McTurner

Discussion:

Allen: This is our proposal. This looks to align the start of the State season with the Federal season in Unit 2. This will provide more opportunity and more data. Its not anticipated to increase harvest significantly as most would occur incidentally while deer hunting.

Call the question: Allen

2nd: McTurner

Support: 9, Oppose: 0, Unanimously support

Proposal 48

Move to adopt: Dale

2nd: McTurner



Discussion:

Dorendorf: The Department opposes this proposal, not because its not a good exercise but because we are still gathering information.

Population viability analysis is only as good as the information you put in. This proposal would also require that it be done by an outside contractor. The BoG doesn't have the authority to dictate to the Department who does the analysis.

Bezenek: I wanted to address all these proposals together because the Alaska Wildlife Alliance is trying to accomplish its objective by any means necessary. Its good that we are addressing them one at a time so we can be better informed. I expect we will be seeing pushes like this continually as we go forward.

Jahnke: One aspect that is missing is stakeholder engagement and having a biologist who is a trapper.

Dorendorf: We have had and will continue to have meetings with stakeholders. The Department has a website where people can upload pictures and identify where wolves are sited.

Ringisen: How many people would you estimate use the website.

Dorendorf: 26-30 people.

Call the question: Jahnke

2nd: McTurner

Support: 0, Oppose: 9, Unanimously oppose

Proposal 49

Move to adopt: Dale

2nd: Bezenek



Discussion:

Dorendorf: The Department is opposed to this proposal. This asks us to use the lower confidence interval in determining the season. This would unnecessarily limit harvest and be too conservative. We are already managing conservatively because our management is based on information that is biased low.

Call the question: Dalin

2nd: Jahnke

Support: 0, Oppose: 9, Unanimously oppose

Proposal 50

Move to adopt: McTurner

2nd: Dalin

Discussion:

Dorendorf: The Department is opposed to this proposal. This proposal would limit our population estimate to just POW not the surrounding islands. We are getting information from these outer islands and so they should be included in the estimate. We are currently covering about 60% of the island through our samples.

Jahnke: This proposal doesn't consider how much wolves swim.

Bezenek: Wolves came to the island via the mainland. This proposal attempts to limit the Departments estimate so limit harvest.

Hasbrouck: Once our hair boards are set, they are check each week on the same day.

Call the question: Allen

2nd: Dalin

Support: 0, Oppose: 9, Unanimously

Proposal 51

Move to adopt: McTurner

2nd: Dalin

Discussion:

Dorendorf: The Department is opposed. Looking to bring back the quota system that we had before. The quota system was unpopular, it was difficult to hit the mark and quotas were exceeded. This would be burdensome on the trapper because the season could be closed at any time.

Bezenek: We've been harvesting wolves for years. We haven't killed them off. The Alliance is attempting to use the Departments data against them.

Will the Department extend the season because of current icy conditions?

Dorendorf: The Department doesn't anticipate extending the season. We currently have confirmed 39 wolves have been harvested. The season closes today. We would expect to have the remaining wolves sealed within 15 days and a final harvest number available by early January.

Allen: We don't extend the season for any other species that I know of just because we don't reach a harvest objective. I'm not very sympathetic when weather doesn't cooperate, it's a fact of where we live. Some years animals and conditions cooperate, others they don't.

Jahnke: What about making the 31-day season in March? We would have better weather and longer days.

Dorendorf: Last year we arguably had worse weather and the Commissioner didn't extend the season.

Pung: Would it be more beneficial in a March season in protecting fawns?

Dorendorf: More of the predation is from black bear at that time.

Call the question: McTurner

2nd: Crittenden

Support: 0, Oppose: 9, Unanimously oppose

Proposal 52

Move to adopt: McTurner

2nd: Jahnke

Discussion:

Dorendorf: This would require the BoG meet annually to determine harvest. The Department is opposed, we have gone through a lengthy process to come to our current management strategy with public input.

Call the question: Crittenden

2nd: Dalin

Support: 0, Oppose: 9, Unanimously oppose

Proposal 53

Move to adopt: McTurner

2nd: Dalin

Discussion:

Jahnke: This is ridiculous.

Ringeisen: This just goes to show how many avenues they are pursuing to accomplish their goals.

Call the question: Crittenden

2nd: Jahnke

Support: 0, Oppose: 9, Unanimously oppose

Proposal 54

Move to adopt: McTurner

2nd: Dalin

Discussion:

Dorendorf: The Department is opposed. This proposal doesn't take into account wolves range across the landscape and would be caught outside the protected area. Setting aside 2/3 the land where wolves can't be harvested will not protect 2/3 of the wolves. It would disenfranchise people who subsist off deer. This proposal won't have the effect they are hoping for.

Jahnke: Wolves across the entirety of their range in Alaska and the lower 48 travel great distances.

Ringeisen: Wasn't there a recent incident where a collared wolf went from the Thorne Bay to Johnson Cove or South arm?

Jahnke: It went the way down to Chacon.

Allen: I'm most concerned with disenfranchising those who depend on deer.

Call the question: Allen

2nd: Dalin

Support: 0, Oppose: 9, Unanimously oppose

Proposal 202

Move to adopt: McTurner

2nd: Dalin

Discussion:

Hasbrouck: This proposal came in late, and the Board doesn't have the ability to remove the Commissioner's EO authority.

Dorendorf: The other part of the proposal could impact season dates.

Allen: I agree with the Departments current management. I would like to see more years of management and more data before I would consider a change.

Jahnke: If we want a more reliable estimate of wolves, we should trap them when they are more accessible. March is a better month than December.

Allen: I would think a season in March would be acceptable and possibly even desirable since the days are longer and the weather is better.

Dalin: Would an idea like this have to go before the BoG on the next cycle?

Dorendorf: The current season extends to through March. We have been setting the season by EO. There has been some interest to push back the start date because of concerns with deer in snares but no one has called for it to be pushed back that late. We would want to hear from the AC's and as many stakeholders as possible.



Bezenek: I think these ideas should be discussed with the BoG at the upcoming meeting.

Ringisen: Is there an estimate on the number of deer a wolf eats?

Dorendorf: I hesitate to give a number. A number of 26 deer has been given strictly based on caloric need. In some of the work that I have been involved in a pack of 5 wolves might only harvest a deer every week or so. They can go extended periods without harvesting a deer because of other food options.

Ringisen: Are there concerns with the deer in March if the season for wolves was moved. Are they more susceptible because they are potentially more concentrated?

Dorendorf: That is the time of greatest deficiency for the deer. I don't believe a later wolf season would have a significant impact on the deer.

Allen: It doesn't sound like we need to act on this proposal.

BoG

Bob Jahnke will be speaking on behalf of the AC at the upcoming meetings. AC members will be speaking to their specific proposals as well as to others they wish to provide comment on.

Next Meeting:

1/5/2023 @ 5:30pm ADFG Conference Room

Motion to Adjourn: Dale

2nd: McTurner

Support: 9, Oppose: 0

Adjourn: 8:52pm