



**Petersburg Advisory Committee
December 3, 2022
Petersburg Assembly Chambers**

I Call to Order: 6:30pm by Chairman Max Worhatch

II Roll Call

Members Present:

1. Anthony Taiber
2. Bob Martin
3. Clyde Curry
4. Joel Randrup
5. Kirt Marsh
6. Max Worhatch
7. Megan Oneil
8. Ted Sandhofer
9. Brandon Ware (by phone, occasionally unable to vote)

Members Absent:

David Benitz
Ben Case
Don Spigelmyre
Paul Menish
Frank Neidiffer
Jerry Dahl

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8

List of User Groups Present:

Almost all hunt locally, several archers, one trapper. Most members fish commercially.

III Fish and Game Staff Present:

Frank Robbins, area game biologist

IV Guests Present:

Mark Hofstad
Derek Thynes
Kris Thynes
Steve Thynes
Bret Uppencamp
Doug Corl
Eric Lee



Becky Knight
Beverly Richardson
Seth McCallum

Jordan Lewis, KFSK reporter

- V Approval of Agenda
The only agenda item was to consider and vote on Board of Game and Statewide Board of Fish proposals.
- VI Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
Minutes from previous meeting were not available.
- VII Reports
None
- VIII Public Comment
Some visitors felt that public notice for the meeting was not adequate. Most visitors provided input during consideration of proposals and is mentioned below.
- IX Old Business
None
- X New Business
- XI See below for Southeast Game and Statewide Fish proposals
- XII Select representative(s) for board meeting
Member Ted Sandhofer was informally selected to attend the Board of Game meeting. This occurred when he expressed interest after the meeting had adjourned. The chair and secretary felt Ted would be an excellent representative.
- XIII Set next meeting date
Not considered
- XIV Other

Adjourned around 9:00pm

Alaska Board of Game Southeast Region Meeting Proposals

January 20-24, 2023 | Ketchikan, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description
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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
<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
NA			
2			Require hunter orientation for hunting goat in Southeast Region units
NA			
3			Remove the requirement for residents to seal black bear skulls harvested in Units 1 - 4
Oppose	0	9	The committee did not believe this was enough of a problem to warrant the loss of biological data.
4			Change the resident bag limit for brown bear in Unit 1 to one bear every two years
NA			
5			Change the waterfowl season in Units 1 - 4 by creating a split season
Support as Amend	9	0	Almost no support for the proposal as written. After amending it to return to pre-2019 September 15 through December 31 season there was a lively discussion with input from visitors. There was much concern that a “split” with two weeks off would be at least as confusing as an alternating season and, depending on the dates, could exclude even more hunters than at trimming the ends. September 15 was generally agreed as a good permanent compromise between the earlier dates desired by northern southeast, and later dates considered by communities farthest south.
6			Lengthen river otter trapping seasons in Units 1 - 4 to align with Unit 5
Oppose	2	7	Concerns about pup season. A member who supported the proposal felt that it would mainly be useful in allowing the retention of otters trapped incidentally to beaver.
7			Extend marten trapping seasons to align with wolverine seasons in portions of Units 1 - 4 and 5
Support	6	3	This was seen as unlikely to cause a problem due to the current lack of trapping effort. Opposition felt that if prices went up and effort increased, this might not protect certain populations.
8			Extend the marten trapping season in Units 1 and 2
NA			
9			Extend the wolverine trapping season to March 15 in Units 1 - 5
NA			
10			Decrease the bag limit to four deer in Unit 4, Remainder
NA			
11			Decrease the bag limit to four deer in Unit 4, Remainder
NA			
12			Open the Mitchell Bay Closed Area in Unit 4 to brown bear hunting



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NA			
13	Change the RB088 hunt boundary in Unit 4 to include Northeast Chichagof, and increase the allowable harvest for brown bear		
NA			
14	Change the brown bear hunt area for RB088 in Unit 4 to include all of Lisianski Inlet drainage		
NA			
15	Change the description of the Petersburg Road System Closed Area		
Support	8	0	The department's reasoning was irresistible
16	Lengthen the deer season in Unit 3, that portion of Mitkof Island within the Petersburg Management Area		
Support	9	0	Bowhunting was seen as a low-impact way to focus hunting effort toward the abundance of deer near town. One visitor expressed concern for potential conflict with outdoor users such as dog walkers in the earlier months.
17	Establish a fall drawing permit hunt for elk on Zarembo Island in Unit 3		
Support	5	3	While there were concerns about a parallel federal hunt that would probably emerge if this proposal was adopted, the status quo was viewed as unacceptable by most members. However, almost everyone seemed to agree that "up to 25 permits" was beyond a reasonable number and the department should proceed carefully.
18	Establish a fall, drawing permit hunt for elk on Zarembo, Bushy, Shrubby and Kashevarof Islands in Unit 3		
Support	7	1	Similar discussion to #17. Although this proposal would likely trigger a basically unmanaged federal subsistence hunt, there is a consensus that some harvest opportunity should be allowed since that is why the elk were introduced.
19	Change the hunt structure for elk on Etolin Island in Unit 3		
Oppose	0	8	The Etolin hunt seems to be sustainable at the current level of effort. There is no convincing evidence that the resource is underutilized. Due to the lack of population data, we support the way it is managed now.
20	Split Etolin Island in Unit 3 into two hunt areas for elk		
NA			



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21	Eliminate the regulation that excludes broken, damaged, or altered antlers from the definition of spike-fork antlers for Units 1B, 1C and 3		
Oppose	2	7	Lively discussion. The basic view against this proposal is that it would take things back to a time when more illegal moose were harvested, some intentionally altered, thus requiring even more restrictions on the hunt. The view in support was that if you hunt long enough, you are likely to accidentally harvest what honestly looks like a legal bull only to find out it looked that way due to a broken antler. There was considerable sympathy for that problem, but in the end, the current rule, coupled with moose forfeiture and relatively lenient penalties was seen as necessary.
22	Eliminate the restriction for using motorized vehicles for the RM038 moose hunt in Unit 1B		
Support	9	0	Whatever the reason for this hunt restriction in the past, no member or visitor expressed support for it now. Today there are fewer hunters, yet more residents with cabins and homes on this small road system who would like to use their vehicle to access the area like everywhere else in the region.
23	Allow the use of electric bikes for the RM038 moose hunt in Unit 1B		
Support	6	2	This was seen as a potential compromise in case Proposal #22 was too extreme. The two opposing votes had no problem with E-Bikes, but believed that the complete removal of any vehicle restrictions (Proposal 22) was more fair to all hunters.
24	Open the Petersburg Creek drainage of Kupreanof Island in Unit 3 to black bear hunting		
Oppose	1	8	There was significant visitor testimony that Petersburg Creek is a valued and unique place to view black bears. The committee agreed that it was special and that a hunt would reduce the number of bears as well as diminish the viewing experience if there were hunters active at the same time. There are many other areas available to hunt black bears.
25	Allow black bear hunting in the Petersburg Creek Drainage area, with season dates to align with Unit 3		
Oppose	3	6	Strong visitor testimony against black bear hunting in this heavily visited area close to Petersburg. Reasons against were the reduced chance of seeing a bear, viewers more likely to encounter hunters



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			while kayaking and hiking in the drainage. Lots of other areas for hunters to go. Reasons for support included the economic stimulus of bear hunting, removal of nuisance bears by cabin owners, consistency in that the hunting of other species is allowed.
26	Reduce the permit allocation and bag limit for nonresident, nonguided black bear hunters on Kuiu and Kupreanof Islands in Unit 3		
Oppose	0	8	We felt that the department was already addressing this by considering a ten percent reduction in non-resident, nonguided permits.
27	Require 100-yard trapping setbacks along hiking trails and drivable surfaces on Wrangell Island in Unit 3		
NA			
28	Change the hunt boundary from Little Sheep Creek to Sheep Creek, for the RG014 goat hunt in Unit 1C		
29	Expand the hunt area of the RG014 archery goat hunt in Unit 1C		
30	Open a fall archery goat hunt in Unit 1C, the southern end of the Chilkat Peninsula		
31	Lengthen the resident, registration goat hunt in Unit 1C, the Southern end of the Chilkat Range		
32	Restrict hunters who take nanny goat in Unit 1D from hunting goat the following regulatory year in Unit 1D		
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		
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		
35	Extend the bear baiting season for Unit 1D		



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36			Reduce the bag limit for grouse for drainages that cross the Juneau-Douglas Road system in Unit 1C
37			Reduce the bag limit for ptarmigan for drainages that cross the Juneau Douglas Road system in Unit 1C
38			Amend the youth hunt for Unit 1C Mendenhall Wetland State Game Refuge
39			Amend the hunter education requirement for the Unit 1C Mendenhall Wetland State Game Refuge
40			Allow the take of deleterious exotic wildlife in the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge
41			Eliminate the Douglas Island Management Area in Unit 1C
42			Extend the deer season to December 31, in Unit 1A Remainder
43			Increase the resident bag limit to two goats in Unit 1A
44			Extend the goat season in Unit 1A Remainder
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	8	We do not believe that the wolf population is at risk. It has proven resilient in the past under greater pressure. We value deer more and are comfortable with the trade-off of fewer wolves for more deer. We feel that the Department can manage this if it becomes a problem.
46			Lengthen the hunting season for wolves in Unit 2, to open September 1
Support	8	1	All members believe there are enough wolves and support continued wolf hunting. One member felt that this proposal went too far and would mean almost no management.
47			Require wolf harvest information be reported within 48 hours of recovery and sealing within 14



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	days in Unit 2		
Oppose	0	8	We do not believe that the wolf population is at risk. It has proven resilient in the past under greater pressure. We value deer more and are comfortable with the trade-off of fewer wolves for more deer. We feel that the Department can manage this if it becomes a problem.
48	Change the methodology for setting the population objective for wolves in Unit 2		
Oppose	0	8	We do not believe that the wolf population is at risk. It has proven resilient in the past under greater pressure. We value deer more and are comfortable with the trade-off of fewer wolves for more deer. We feel that the Department can manage this if it becomes a problem.
49	Utilize the lower confidence interval of the wolf population for estimating the population in Unit 2		
Oppose	0	8	We do not believe that the wolf population is at risk. It has proven resilient in the past under greater pressure. We value deer more and are comfortable with the trade-off of fewer wolves for more deer. We feel that the Department can manage this if it becomes a problem.
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	8	We do not believe that the wolf population is at risk. It has proven resilient in the past under greater pressure. We value deer more and are comfortable with the trade-off of fewer wolves for more deer. We feel that the Department can manage this if it becomes a problem.
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	8	We do not believe that the wolf population is at risk. It has proven resilient in the past under greater pressure. We value deer more and are comfortable with the trade-off of fewer wolves for more deer. We feel that the Department can manage this if it becomes a problem.



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52	Establish a harvest quota for wolves, between 20% and 35% of the estimated wolf population in Unit 2		
53	Establish an estimated unreported mortality rate for Unit 2 wolves to be used for establishing the harvest quota		
Oppose	0	8	We do not believe that the wolf population is at risk. It has proven resilient in the past under greater pressure. We value deer more and are comfortable with the trade-off of fewer wolves for more deer. We feel that the Department can manage this if it becomes a problem.
54	Identify an area in Unit 2 for protected status for wolves		
Oppose	0	8	We do not believe that the wolf population is at risk. It has proven resilient in the past under greater pressure. We value deer more and are comfortable with the trade-off of fewer wolves for more deer. We feel that the Department can manage this if it becomes a problem.

Adjournment: Approximately 9pm

Minutes Recorded By: Bob Martin_____

Minutes Approved By: Max Worhatch_____

Date: December 26, 2022