



**Wrangell Fish & Game Advisory Committee**  
**December 8, 2022**  
**Nolan Center, 296 Campbell Drive, Wrangell, Alaska**

I. Call to Order: 7 PM by Chair, Guggenbickler, AC Chair

II. Roll Call

Members Present:

1. Chris Guggenbickler
2. David Rak
3. Robert Rooney
4. John Yeager
5. Jared Gross
6. Dave Brown
7. Winston Davies
8. Marlin Benedict
9. Jordan Bunes
10. Jason Rooney
11. Otto Florschutz
12. Davey Brown (alternate)

Members Absent (Excused):

1. Tom Sims
2. Brian Merritt (resigned)
3. Thor Proulx (alternate)

Members Absent (Unexcused): none

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8

List of User Groups Present: none

III. Fish and Game Staff Present: Frank Robbins, Area Biologist  
Chad Yoder, AST

IV. Guests Present:

1. Aaron Powell
2. Michael Ottesen
3. Loren Cook
4. Scott McAuliffe

V. Approval of Agenda: NA



VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: NA

VII. Reports

a. Chair's report:

Chris Guggenbickler reported the meat of moose forfeited to AST during the 2022 moose harvest in GMUs 1B and 3 was distributed by approved volunteers within the Community of Wrangell. The following received roasts and/or ground moose meat: Head Start, Senior Center, Salvation Army, and Lovie Brock. Meat (cooked by Jake) will also be served free at a potluck open to all in Wrangell, held in the Noland Center multipurpose room.

b. ADF&G

Frank Robbins reported several times during the meeting as input to discussion of proposals reported below.

c. Others

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Old Business: none

X. New Business: Elections

The following were reelected as Members to the Wrangell AC for 3 years:

1. Chris Guggenbickler
2. Tom Sims
3. Dave Brown
4. Jordan Bunes
5. Jason Rooney
6. Otto Florschutz

The following was elected as a new member to the Wrangell AC to complete Brian Merritt's term for 1 year:

1. Brett Stillwaugh

The following were reelected as officers to the Wrangell AC for one year:

1. Chris Guggenbickler, Chair
2. Tom Sims, Vice Chair
3. David Rak, Secretary

The following were appointed by the Chair, Chris Guggenbickler, to be alternate members to the Wrangell AC for one year:

1. Scott McAuliffe
2. Davey Brown



- XI. Select representative(s) for board meeting: Chris Guggenbickler
- XII. Set next meeting date: TBA
- XIII. Other: NA

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		
No Action			The Wrangell AC took no action of Proposal 1 but submits the following comments: Certified instructors are not available in all small communities. Courses are available on line but a field day with shooting efficiency is included for Alaska. The burden is too high for persons who live in remote areas.
2	Require hunter orientation for hunting goat in Southeast Region units		
No Action			
3	Remove the requirement for residents to seal black bear skulls harvested in Units 1 – 4		
No Action			
4	Change the resident bag limit for brown bear in Unit 1 to one bear every two years		
No Action			
5	Change the waterfowl season in Units 1 – 4 by creating a split season		
Support	12	1	The Wrangell AC supports Proposal 5 because splitting the waterfowl season could allow the season to open each year on September 1. Delaying the start of the waterfowl hunting season to September 16 every other year removes the sandhill crane hunting opportunity in Wrangell for those years. Most years the cranes stop over on the Stikine flats in early September. The minority feels splitting the season could also eliminate waterfowl hunting during the Thanksgiving weekend. It will be difficult to determine the time off during the split season.
6	Lengthen river otter trapping seasons in Units 1 – 4 to align with Unit 5		
No Action			



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7	Extend marten trapping seasons to align with wolverine seasons in portions of Units 1 – 4 and 5		
Oppose	0	13	The Wrangell AC opposes Proposal 7 because November is too early for martin trapping. Prime hides are available in December, not November. February is too late biologically for martin trapping. Martin would be susceptible to over trapping with the longer season.
8	Extend the marten trapping season in Units 1 and 2		
Oppose	0	13	The Wrangell AC opposes Proposal 8 with the same comments as proposal 7 above. The current martin trapping season is adequate. Extending the season would lead to over trapping.
9	Extend the wolverine trapping season to March 15 in Units 1 - 5		
Oppose			The Wrangell AC opposes Proposal 9 because extending the wolverine trapping season to March 15 would lead to trapping females with pups. Trapping the female would kill the young pups.
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			Considered by Wrangell AC, but no comment. It is a Petersburg housekeeping proposal.
16	Lengthen the deer season in Unit 3, that portion of Mitkof Island within the Petersburg Management Area		
No Action			Considered by Wrangell AC, but no comment.
17	Establish a fall drawing permit hunt for elk on Zarembo Island in Unit 3		
Support	13	0	The Wrangell AC supports Proposal 17 and feels ADF&G needs to expand the elk hunting opportunity for GMU 3 residents on Zarembo Island. Without an elk hunting season, Zarembo is



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			<p>managed as an elk sanctuary. Residents should be able to harvest the bulls not needed to sustain the elk population on Zarembo. Wrangell residents are heavily dependent on Zarembo Island to harvest Sitka black-tail deer. It is a meat hunt, not an antler hunt. The elk compete with the subsistence deer for browse in the important habitat areas, but local hunters cannot harvest to eat the Zarembo elk. The AC realizes the hunt needs to be limited because of the extensive road system on Zarembo Island. The AC prefers a limited, resident only, drawing permit hunt for the Zarembo bull elk. But the AC would accept inclusion of non-resident hunters if that was needed to pass the proposal and establish a limited drawing permit bull elk hunt. The AC would also support a November hunt if ADF&amp;G finds the October hunt is too close to the elk bugle season.</p> <p>During the discussion Frank Robbins, ADF&amp;G Area Biologist, answered questions and provide information on the Department's management of elk in GMU 3, including Zarembo.</p>
18	Establish a fall, drawing permit hunt for elk on Zarembo, Bushy, Shrubby and Kashevarof Islands in Unit 3		
Oppose	0	13	The Wrangell AC opposes Proposal 18 over Proposal 17, but would support Proposal 18 if it was the only change adopted that would allow limited hunting of bull elk on Zarembo Island. The AC continues to support drawing permit bull elk hunt open to residents only.
19	Change the hunt structure for elk on Etolin Island in Unit 3		
Oppose	0	13	The Wrangell AC opposes Proposal 19 because it would allow hunting bull elk with rifles during the rut. Which is expected to result in the overharvest of bull elk. The AC continues to support drawing permit bull elk hunt open to residents only.
20	Split Etolin Island in Unit 3 into two hunt areas for elk		
Oppose	0	13	The Wrangell AC opposes Proposal 20 because experience with this hunt provides the entirety of Etolin Island is needed for permitted hunters to find and hunt the elk. Boat based hunters work around



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			the island in search of elk that can be hunted. And it is not uncommon for the marine weather along part of Etolin Island to prohibit safe boating access. Crowding of elk hunters has not been a problem which needs to be addressed with a regulation change splitting the hunting area in two.
21	Eliminate the regulation that excludes broken, damaged, or altered antlers from the definition of spike-fork antlers for Units 1B, 1C and 3		
Support	8	5	<p>The Wrangell AC supports Proposal 21 because the local GMU 1B, 1C and 3 moose hunting regulations are the only place in Alaska that has regulations excluding broken/damaged antlers from the spike fork regulations. Other current regulations make it illegal for the hunter to alter the moose’s antlers to make them legal. It is not just for all hunters to be penalized because of the past actions of a few local hunters. This burdensome regulation needs to be eliminated.</p> <p>A minority of the Wrangell AC members oppose Proposal 21 because the regulation is needed to avoid the past practice by local hunters of altering moose antlers to make them appear legal with the spike/fork regulation. Adherence to the current regulation has resulted in the increased harvest of bull moose in the affected GMUs. Without the regulation there would be an increase of bulls harvested from the age class currently protected for breeding. The regulation is needed to protect and sustain the moose herd.</p>
22	Eliminate the restriction for using motorized vehicles for the RM038 moose hunt in Unit 1B		
Support	13	0	The Wrangell AC supports Proposal 22 because they do not generally support regulations that prohibit the use of motor vehicles in the gathering of subsistence resources. The original prohibition for an area near Petersburg was based on a weak principal, and set president to prohibit the use of motor vehicles based on a few complaints.
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		



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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	13	The Wrangell AC opposes Proposal 27 because the regulation change is not needed. It is common sense for trappers to avoid public recreation sites, stay away from roads and to sign wolf sets/traps. The regulation would prohibit young trappers from establishing sets within in 100 yards of all drivable road surfaces on Wrangell Island. Many young people would not be able to learn to trap. Dog walkers should not have priority of trappers in all areas.
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		
No Action			
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			



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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		
No Action			
43	Increase the resident bag limit to two goats in Unit 1A		
No Action			
44	Extend the goat season in Unit 1A Remainder		
No Action			
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		
No Action			
46	Lengthen the hunting season for wolves in Unit 2, to open September 1		
No Action			





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47	Require wolf harvest information be reported within 48 hours of recovery and sealing within 14 days in Unit 2		
No Action			
48	Change the methodology for setting the population objective for wolves in Unit 2		
No Action			
49	Utilize the lower confidence interval of the wolf population for estimating the population in Unit 2		
No Action			
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		
No Action			
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		
No Action			
52	Establish a harvest quota for wolves, between 20% and 35% of the estimated wolf population in Unit 2		
No Action			
53	Establish an estimated unreported mortality rate for Unit 2 wolves to be used for establishing the harvest quota		
No Action			
54	Identify an area in Unit 2 for protected status for wolves		
No Action			



Alaska Board of Fisheries: Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues Proposals March 10-13, 2023   Anchorage, AK			
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<a href="#">87</a>	Define eel stick.		
No Action			
<a href="#">153</a>	Define escape mechanisms for collapsible 'slinky' groundfish pots.		
No Action			
<a href="#">82</a>	Modify the dates sinking of gillnets is allowed in the Yukon Area from October 1 to April 30.		
No Action			
<a href="#">154</a>	Allow the use of purse seine drums.		
No Action			
<a href="#">155</a>	Allow a person using a spear or speargun to take fish while swimming at the water's surface.		
No Action			
<a href="#">156</a>	Prohibit the use of felt soled wading footwear while personal use fishing in freshwater.		
No Action			
<a href="#">157</a>	Allow a person holding CFEC permits for multiple salmon net areas to commercial fish for salmon in more than one net area per year.		
No Action			
<a href="#">158</a>	Allow a person holding CFEC permits for multiple salmon net areas to commercial fish for salmon in more than one net area per year.		
No Action			
<a href="#">159</a>	Close commercial fishing for a given species within one-fourth of a mile of any area closed to sport fishing for that species.		



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Oppose	0	12	The Wrangell AC opposes Proposal 159 because it could have impacts to Terminal Harvest Area (THA). THA's need to be exempted from this proposed regulation change. The AC recommends that if there is a problem in an area, adopt a regulation for that area. Do not adopt a general regulation affecting areas areas.
<a href="#">160</a>	Require surrender of proceeds gained from sale of wild king salmon caught in hatchery terminal harvest areas.		
Oppose	0	12	The Wrangell AC opposes Proposal 160 because wild king salmon cannot be identified from hatchery fish in Terminal Harvest Areas (THA). Even genetics cannot be uses in some THAs because the hatchery kings are often from the same stock as the wild king salmon.
<a href="#">161</a>	Create and establish Alaska Board of Fisheries policy regarding the management of groundfish fishery resources in waters of Alaska <i>(To be heard at the Pacific cod meeting and deliberated during the Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues meeting)</i> .		
No Action			
<a href="#">162</a>	Allow the Kenai River Special Management Area -DNR decal to serve as proof of ADF&G sport fishing guide vessel registration.		
No Action			
<a href="#">163</a>	Prohibit guiding in personal use finfish fisheries.		
No Action			
<a href="#">164</a>	Establish registration and reporting requirements for personal use guides and transporters.		
<a href="#">165</a>	Prohibit compensation for guide services in subsistence fisheries.		
No Action			
<a href="#">166</a>	Establish a statewide bag limit for personal use finfish fisheries.		
No Action			



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<a href="#">167</a>	Require inseason reporting of subsistence and personal use salmon harvest within 5 days of harvest.		
No Action			
<a href="#">168</a>	Extend emergency order authority to allow restrictions of sport fisheries in contaminated waters.		
No Action			
<a href="#">169</a>	Amend the list of banned invasive species.		
No Action			

Adjournment: 10:15 PM

Minutes Recorded By: David Rak, Secretary  
 Minutes Approved By: Chris Guggenbickler  
 Date: 01/04/2023