
ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Southeast Region Meeting
Ketchikan | January 20-24, 2023

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Craig AC Meeting December 6 2022

Call to Order: 6:06pm

Roll Call:

Members present: 8

11 total Members

Number needed for a quorum: 6

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

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

Guests present: None

Approval of Agenda:

Moved and seconded to approve the agenda for 12.6.2022

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Moved and seconded to adopt the meeting minutes from 2.16.2022

Reports:

Chair: None

ADFG: None

Other: None

Public Comment: None

Old Business: None

Elections:



Moved and seconded to have elections.

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

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

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

New Business:

Proposals:

We will start with the PoW props first.

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

Moved and seconded to Oppose.

Discussion:

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

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

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

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

Vote: 8-0 Motion passes to Oppose.

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

Moved and seconded to Oppose

Discussion:

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

Vote: Fails 8-0.

Moved and seconded to Support

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

Vote: 8-0 Motion passes to Support.

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

Tessa Hasbrouck: The current reporting period is 7 days.

Moved and seconded to Oppose

Discussion:

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

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

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

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



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

Vote: 8-0 Motion passes to Oppose.

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

Moved and seconded to Oppose

Discussion:

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

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

Vote: 8-0 Motion passes to Oppose

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

Motion made and seconded to Oppose

Discussion:

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

Vote: 8-0 Motion passes to Oppose

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

Moved and seconded to Oppose

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vote: 8-0 Motion passes to Oppose

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

Moved and seconded to Oppose

Discussion: All the reasons cited in the previous proposals.

Vote: 8-0 Motion passes to Oppose

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

Moved and seconded to Oppose

Discussion: All the reasons cited in the previous proposals.

Vote: 8-0 Motion passes to Oppose

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

Moved and seconded to Oppose.

Kurt Whitehead: Asked Ross for an update on cameras.



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

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

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

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

Vote: 8-0 Motion passes to Oppose

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

Moved and seconded to Oppose

Discussion: All the reasons cited in the previous proposals.

Vote: 8-0 Motion passes to Oppose

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vote: 8-0 to Take No Action

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

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

Moved and seconded to support.

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

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

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

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

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



Vote: 8-0 Motion passes to Support.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Kurt Whitehead & Trina Nation
Treasure Hunter Lodge

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

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

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

We will revisit the following props at our next meeting:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prop 17

Prop 18

Prop 19

Prop 20



Prop 21

Prop 32

Next meeting is December 14, 2022.

Meeting adjourned: 8:16pm

Minutes recorded by: Kurt Whitehead

Minutes approved by: Ellen Hannan

Date: 12.6.22



Craig AC Meeting December 14, 2022

Call to Order: 6:14pm

Roll Call:

Members present: 8

11 total Members

Number needed for a quorum: 6

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

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

Guests present: None

Approval of Agenda:

Moved and seconded to approve the agenda for 12.14.2022

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

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

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

Reports:

Chair:

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ADFG: None

Other:

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

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

Public Comment: None

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

Proposals:

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

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

Moved and seconded to OPPOSE

Discussion:



Dave Creighton: Does not support.

Joel Steenstra: Mentions a lack of gun issues

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

Vote: 7-0 (Kurt is absent)

Unanimous vote to NOT SUPPORT (oppose)

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

Ellen Hannan: Gave background info on sealing.

Mike Douville: Supports the sealing requirement.

Mike Kampnich: Supports the sealing requirement.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Moved and seconded to OPPOSE

Discussion:

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

Mike Douville: Supports the sealing of bears.

Mike Kampnich: Supports the sealing of bears.

Vote: 7-0 (Kurt is absent)

Unanimous vote to NOT SUPPORT (oppose)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ellen Hannan: Thought that would be a good suggestion.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Moved and seconded to SUPPORT

Vote: 8-0
Unanimous vote to SUPPORT

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

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

Tessa Hassbrouk: Dec 1 Feb 15 is current season.

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

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

Moved and seconded to SUPPORT

VOTE:
Unanimous vote to NOT SUPPORT (OPPOSE)

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

Moved and seconded to SUPPORT

Discussion:

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

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

Mike Douville: Dont' know where marten came from.

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

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

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

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

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

Vote: 8-0
Unanimous to SUPPORT

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Joel Steenstra: How is ADFG counting?

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

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

Moved and seconded to SUPPORT

Discussion:

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

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

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

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

Vote: 8-0

Unanimous To SUPPORT

COMMENTS to BOG FOR Prop 17 :

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

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

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

Moved and seconded to OPPOSE

Vote: 8-0

Unanimous to NOT SUPPORT (OPPOSE)

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

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

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

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

Moved and seconded to SUPPORT

Discussion:

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Vote : 8-0

Unanimous To SUPPORT

Comments to BOG on Prop 19:

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

Prop 20-Split EtoLin in to two hunt areas.

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

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

Moved and seconded to SUPPORT

Discussion:

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

Vote: 8-0

Unanimous to NOT SUPPORT (OPPOSE)

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

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

Moved and seconded to SUPPORT

Discussion:

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

Vote: 8-0

Unanimous To NOT SUPPORT (OPPOSE)

Prop 201-Create a sea otter management plan.

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

Moved and seconded to SUPPORT

Discussion:

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

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

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

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

Vote: 5-3

SUPPORT- 5 VOTES



OPPOSE- 3 VOTES

Vote carries to SUPPORT

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

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

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

Moved and seconded to SUPPORT

Discussion:

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

Kurt requests clarification from TESS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vote: 8-0

Unanimous to NOT SUPPORT (OPPOSE)

WOLF LETTER:

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Moved and seconded to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned: 8:15pm

Minutes recorded by: Kurt Whitehead/David Creighton

Minutes approved by: Ellen Hannan

Date: 12.14.22



Call to Order: 3:03pm by Perry Olson

Roll Call:

East POW AC Members	Officer	Designation	Present	Absent	Unexcused	Expiration
Perry Olson	Chair	Coffman Cove	x			June 2024
William Pattison	Vice Chair	Whale Pass	x			June 2024
Kurt Whitehead	Secretary		x			June 2025
Chris Anderson			x			June 2025
Jim Beard			x (phone)			June 2023
Matt Beck			x			June 2023
Della Colburn		Kasaan		x		June 2025
Dave Egelston			x			June 2025
Amy Jennings			x			June 2025
Kim Redmond		Thorne Bay	x			June 2023
Doug Rhodes			x			June 2024
Dave Roberts			x			June 2025
John Ryan			x			June 2024
Ray Slayton			x			June 2024
Dick Stewart			x (phone)			June 2023

15 Members:

Number needed for a quorum: 8

ADFG Staff Present:

None. The Unit 2 assistant, Tessa Hasbrouk, was scheduled to be online but sent an email 50 min prior to the meeting that she was sick and wouldn't attend telephonically. ADFG had no backup plan. Their staff comments aren't public yet so it would have been very helpful to have any SE region ADFG rep online to help answer our questions. It was also pointed out several times during the meeting by several members how we would have benefitted by having someone from ADFG.

Guests present: Chris Anderson (Whale Pass), Dave Roberts (Whale Pass), Rosey Roseland (Thorne Bay), Elijah Winrod (Klawock).

Approval of Agenda:

Motion made to approve the agenda.
Unanimous vote-yes.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

John Ryan stated there is no need to approve the minutes from 12.14.2021 since the chair has the ability to approve and was already done when submitted.



Reports:

Kurt said due to time constraints tonight, he will give reports on the past BOF & BOG meetings and Seasonal Residents at our next meeting.

Chair: None

ADFG: None

Other: None

Public Comment: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

Elections:

Moved and seconded to have elections.

Unanimous vote-yes.

Elections: Chris Anderson, Dave Roberts, Amy Jennings, Dave Egelston and Kurt Whitehead all spoke briefly about themselves/qualifications and each ran for election. All were unanimously elected including Della Colburn as the Kasaan representative. All seats on the AC are currently full.

Kurt Whitehead vote was 9-0

Dave Egelston vote was 10-0

Amy Jennings vote was 11-0

Chris Anderson vote was 12-0

Dave Roberts vote was 13-0

Della Colburn vote was 14-0

Proposals:

We started with the PoW props first.

Prop 42

Motion made and seconded to support.

Discussion: Brief but several agreed that deer meat is very important and it would also align the season with PoW.

Vote: Passed 12-2 Doug R. & Jim B. vote NO due to poor quality of meat in December.

Prop 43

Discussion: Brief but Kurt W. said he guided goat hunts in Units 1 and 4 for many years and that we shouldn't compare goats to deers as they are very different and also felt that Revillagigedo Is. is currently managed very well by ADFG for trophy goat hunting. He spoke about what a great hunting experience it was for him and his wife when she drew the tag on Revilla because of the multiple trophy goats they encountered and eventually ended up harvesting. He also spoke about not making a judgement on a prop if we didn't have full info.

No Action

Prop 44

Discussion: Brief but it was pointed out that having no ADFG staff present to answer our questions was a detriment and without more info we decided to take no action.

No Action

Prop 45

Motion made and seconded to NOT support (oppose).

Discussion: John Ryan summarized POW's past wolf management and how we got to our current mgt. plan. Rosey R. sealed 110 of the 163 wolves one year and the majority of the wolves came from the areas out of the hairboard study areas so he felt ADFG's data needs improvement.

Lots of discussion from several members about how the data collection could/should be improved with cameras and DNA analysis.

Ray Slayton abstains from voting since he works for the Forest Service and they are tasked as co-mangers of our wolves.

Vote: Passed to oppose 13-0 with 1 abstaining.



Prop 46

Motion made by John Ryan and seconded to NOT support (oppose).

Discussion:

John Ryan said the wolf season already opens early on federal lands under subsistence regs. Lack of prime fur quality was also cited as a reason to oppose.

Vote: Passed to oppose 14-0.

Prop 47

Motion made by John Ryan and seconded to NOT support (oppose).

Discussion:

John Ryan gave background on current sealing regs and how effective they are currently. Also cited how onerous it would be to have trappers have to comply with a 48hr requirement since many wolf trappers go by boat and camp for a few days when checking their traplines and many live in poor/nonexistent cell service. Several agreed the current sealing requirements are as good as we can get.

Rosey Roseland is a longtime trapper, hunter and authorized sealer in Thorne Bay and doesn't support this prop either due to the above reasons.

Vote: Passed 14-0

Prop 48

Motion made by Ray Slayton and seconded to support as written.

Discussion:

Extensive discussion for well over an hour on this proposal.

Jim Beard supports this prop as well.

Ray Slayton spoke in support of this so we can get better numbers.

Matt Beck said the state needs to get better numbers as well.

John Ryan read the proposal again and pointed out that genetic diversity is becoming a bigger issue. We need

"more tools and better research" which was agreed on by most everyone.

Amy Jennings asked who is a "qualified researcher" as worded in the prop?

Ray S. said the "researchers" would likely be grad students hired for the job.

Ray S. also said that the Roadless Rules hurt our deer herd due to all the stem exclusion on PoW and that we need hard science and better numbers to get our deer through the winter.

John R. said we should support better methodology.

Dave Egelston said he supports the first sentence of the proposal but not much else.

Jim Beard says he disagrees with our discussion and said the genetic diversity on PoW is very low and its important we pursue with the best science we can get. We want a viable population with NO ESA listing.

Elijah Winrod said he thinks the camera system would be the best and most accurate. Genetic diversity is what they are currently studying and add that **"It would be great to have 500-1000 wolves but there's not enough right deer now to support the numbers we have much less support that many wolves."**

Ray Slayton said the wolves diet is currently 40% deer, 20% beaver and 21% black bear using the latest DNA scat analysis methods. Wolves are encountering less deer now than they did 10 years ago when the wolves diet was 60% deer.

Rosey R. stated he hardly seals beavers now and in years past it was about 100 beavers sealed every year.

Agreement from many that the wolves are currently eating more beaver and black bear to make up for the lack of deer.

Amy Jennings said don't get rid of the hair boards but to add our comments to expand their methodology.

A motion was made to amend our motion to say "instead of change the methodology to expand the methodology"

Withdraw the motion to ammend. Motion is withdrawn.

Amy and Ray stated that we want to continue the hairboards but we also want more tools, we want collared wolves, we want cameras, we want trappers comments after the season and any other tools to better manage the wolves.

Ray said not every canine rolls, that's why hairboards aren't accurate. If they use the DNA, they can get it off the wolf tracks in the snow with the new technology.

Perry said we can support it the prop and also give comments. we support it with comments.

Kurt gave an example of how the current management doesn't work well.

Dave, John, Amy, Kurt and all agree that we need to get better technology.



Perry pointed out that the wording in the prop doesn't match the first sentence.

Kurt read from the current regs that **"Unit 2 wolves are currently managed for 20% of the population estimate"** and that prop 48 will change that to read **"The minimum population objective for wolves in Unit 2 shall be based on a biological population viability analysis, using available demographic data."**

Many of us agreed that the language in the prop sounds warm, fuzzy and admirable until you realize exactly what the new reg will look like.

Jim Beard said that he is changing his vote in light of Perry's analysis.

Motion to amend the main motion to "The East POW AC wants ADFG to use NEW science and new techniques to estimate the wolf population on POW in addition to existing methodologies."

Motion to withdraw the original motion.

Vote:

We had several motions to support this prop with amendments but ultimately we decided to oppose the prop completely.

Motion to NOT support (oppose) this prop passed unanimously.

We also voted unanimously to send the following comment to the Board of Game.

"The East POW AC wants ADFG to use NEW science and new techniques to estimate the wolf population on POW in addition to existing methodologies."

Prop 49

Motion made and seconded to NOT support (oppose).

Discussion: We cited all the reasons given earlier in prop 48.

Vote: Passed to NOT support (oppose) unanimously.

Prop 50

Motion made and seconded to NOT support (oppose).

Discussion: We cited all the reasons given earlier in prop 48.

Vote: Passed to NOT support (oppose) unanimously.

Prop 51

Motion made and seconded to NOT support (oppose).

Discussion: We cited all the reasons given earlier in prop 48.

Vote: Passed to NOT support (oppose) unanimously.

Prop 52

Motion made and seconded to NOT support (oppose).

Discussion: We cited all the reasons given earlier in prop 48.

Vote: Passed to NOT support (oppose) unanimously.

Prop 53

Motion made and seconded to NOT support (oppose).

Discussion: We cited all the reasons given earlier in prop 48.

Vote: Passed to NOT support (oppose) unanimously.

Our comments to the BoG: "We would like ADFG to follow their own management system and quit stopping the harvest season early."

Prop 54

Motion made and seconded to NOT support (oppose).

Discussion: We cited all the reasons given earlier in prop 48.

Vote: Passed to NOT support (oppose) unanimously.

Prop 1

Motion made by Amy J. and seconded to support.

Discussion: We would like it to be statewide.

Vote: Passed to support unanimously.



We agreed to send the following comments to the BoG **“We want this Hunter Safety Ed requirement to be statewide.”**

Prop 3

Motion made and seconded to NOT support (oppose).

Discussion: Kurt, Rosey & John all said that the current sealing regs provide valuable data to ADFG that is important in managing our black bears. Removing the requirement would make it much harder for ADFG to get accurate data.

Vote: Passed unanimously to NOT support (oppose).

Prop 6

Motion made and seconded to NOT support (oppose).

Discussion: Rosey, Will and several others spoke in opposition due to the fur primeness and how the current season works well.

Vote: Passed unanimously to NOT support (oppose).

Prop 8

Motion made and seconded to NOT support (oppose).

Discussion: Will and several other trappers spoke that the current season length is good as is and that after Feb.15 the fur is not as prime.

Vote: Passed unanimously to NOT support (oppose).

Prop 10

Discussion: Kurt, Amy and Doug spoke on this but it was pointed out that Unit 4 has the highest deer population in all of SE AK and there are NO wolves in Unit 4 so decreasing the bag limit on our great eating deer doesn't make a lot of sense.

No Action

Prop 17

Motion made and seconded to support.

Discussion: John, Will and several others said this would be a positive change and also help law enforcement.

Vote: Passed to support unanimously.

Prop 18

Motion made and seconded to oppose because we support Prop 17.

Discussion: The same reasons as noted above were cited.

Vote: Passed to NOT support (oppose) unanimously.

Prop 20

Motion made and seconded to NOT support (oppose).

Discussion: Doug R. is opposed for a variety of reasons and said that enforcement would be a nightmare and dealing with WX makes this untenable. Will P. echoed his thoughts.

Vote: Passed to NOT support (oppose) unanimously.

Prop 21

Motion made (by John R.) and seconded to support.

Discussion: John R. said it will align better with the rest of the state and it should improve enforcement.

Vote: Passed unanimously.

Prop 201

Motion made (by John R.) and seconded to support.

Discussion: John stated that we need to have a state sponsored sea otter season.

Doug and John spoke at length about how the sea otter have decimated our crab and dive fisheries. We agree that our comments to the BoG include **“make sure the board reviews the proposal.”** John said the prop was not submitted late but rather ADFG changed the deadline.

Vote: Passed 12-1. Jim Beard is opposed. Ray Slayton abstains due to wording and his employment.

We would like the Board of Game to make sure they review proposal 201.



Prop 202

Motion made (by Dave E.) and seconded to support.

Discussion: ADFG keeps moving the goalposts. They aren't following their own management plans. They have not had a full length season yet. They keep closing the season and they aren't telling us why they close it early.

John R. gave background info on wolf management. Rosey spoke in support. John spoke in support and said **"If there is an overwhelming harvest then ADFG should retain the ability to close the season by emergency order."**

We should have trappers comment after the season to provide ADFG more info.

Vote: Motion passed 13-1 to support.

Doug Rhodes is in opposition due to the poor wording.

We would like the Board of Game to make sure they review proposal 202.

William Pattison was unanimously voted to be our representative for the upcoming Board of Game meeting in KTN Jan 20-24, 2023.

Next meeting is Dec. 17 @ 3pm in Thorne Bay.

Adjourned at 6:01pm

Minutes recorded by: Kurt Whitehead

Minutes approved by: Perry Olson

Date: 11.21.2022



Call to Order: 3:10pm by Perry Olson

Roll Call:

East POW AC Members	Officer	Designation	Present	Absent	Expiration
Perry Olson	Chair	Coffman Cove	x		June 2024
William Pattison	Vice Chair	Whale Pass	x		June 2024
Kurt Whitehead	Secretary		x		June 2025
Kris Anderson			x (phone)		June 2025
Jim Beard				x	June 2023
Matt Beck			x		June 2023
Della Colburn		Kasaan		x	June 2025
Dave Egelston			x		June 2025
Amy Jennings			x		June 2025
Kim Redmond		Thorne Bay	x		June 2023
Doug Rhodes			x (phone)		June 2024
Dave Roberts				x	June 2025
John Ryan			x (phone)		June 2024
Ray Slayton				x	June 2024
Dick Stewart			x (phone)		June 2023

15 total Members, 11 are present

Number needed for a quorum: 8

ADFG Staff Present:

Ross Dorenedorf ADFG (online), Craig Schwanke ADFG sport fish biologist

Guests present: Glen Holt (Thorne Bay), Lee Burger (Thorne Bay), Beau Dale/KTN (phone)

Approval of Agenda:

Moved and seconded to approve the agenda.
Unanimous vote-yes.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Already done

Reports:

ADFG:

Craig Schwanke: gave a report on the fishery proposals that passed at the last BOF meetings.



Prop 82: Modifies the provisions in the SE AK King Salmon Management Plan. Specifically, changes to resident and non-resident bag limits based on the SE AK winter troll fishery CPUE and adds provision that any unused balance of the allocation percentage of the annual harvest ceiling established by the Pacific Salmon Commission be allocated to the troll fishery. Annual limits are changed for nonresidents according to date and creates requirement of a harvest record as specified in 5AAC75.006. Area specific provisions for bag and possession limits are eliminated and limits now apply to the entirety of Southeast. A provision is added for resident priority for closures or restrictions.
Implemented by EO June 20,2022.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reports:

Ross Dorendorf: 41 wolves have been reported so far by the call in. The sealing period is 15 days so by the end of December they will have the the exact number of wolves harvested on POW.

Kurt Whitehead: Will ADFG extend the wolf season since there have been requests due to the inclement Wx and if so how that would work.

Ross: Early to mid January they will have all the numbers and they will decide at that time whether or not to extend the season but they have never done that before.

Kurt Whitehead: Seasonal Residents report. He will be traveling to Juneau in February looking for sponsors of a bill addressing the seasonal resident issue in SE AK and meeting with several representatives.

John Ryan: Our seasonal resident issue has to be address by statute not regulation, that's why our prior proposals didn't pass at the past BOF.

Perry Olson: Coffman Cove passed a motion supporting the statement that "the city of Coffman Cove is NOT in favor of listing the AA wolves under the ESA."

Public Comments:

Beau Dale from KTN AC: Asked why we haven't discussed prop 19.

Lee Burger mayor of TBY: The City of Thorne Bay will be meeting soon to address the Wolf petition that proposes to list them under the ESA.



Glen Holt: He sent a letter to Perry Olson. He recapped predator control in GMU's 19, 16 & 13 and is in favor of predator control in the state and on POW. He has started an adopt a trapper program to support local trappers and encourage more trappers to get involved in trapping. He is also in favor of harvesting more 2nd growth timber in a sustainable fashion as it will improve our deer habitat but emphasized that habitat is not the main driver for the deer population decreasing, it is the wolf. He also thinks there is a poaching problem on POW and would like to see more enforcement, especially in November.

Old Business:

Proposal 19: Change the hunt structure for elk on Etolin Is in Unit 3

Ross: Dept is opposed to this prop b/c changing the methods and means might increase the harvest. 125 permits are currently given out and this prop will drop that number to 90 permits. 43 cows and 2 calves were observed in one of their recent surveys but he acknowledged, the habitat makes it very difficult to get a current pop estimate. He shared an elk harvest graph that showed there are currently about 5 animals harvested per year. The total permits are around 150-196, total permits hunted are 60-80 and success rate is around 8-10%. Most are taken during the draw and only about 1-2 animals taken every year during the registration hunt.

Matt Beck: What is the survival rate of elk on Etolin?

Ross Dorendorf: Great question, wasn't sure.

Beau Dale: The harvest statistics for the Etolin Island elk hunt show a consistent low harvest. Lower than what is sustainable. Nearly all of the harvest during the month long archery season has occurred during the first two weeks. Shortening the length of the hunt would have no effect on the average number of elk taken during the history of this hunt. The current number of DE321 tags issued creates crowding in the field. It is not uncommon to hear stories of multiple groups of hunters to be hunting the same area and even the same animal during this hunt. This diminishes the general aesthetics of the hunt, reduces productivity and creates a real concern of a potential cross-fire situation when hunters pursue the same bull unaware of each others presence. By the second half of October, short days and inclement Wx deter hunters from accessing the most productive hunting areas. Also as the alpine forage degrades the elk move to lower elevations where they are extremely difficult to locate. It is not uncommon for zero elk to be harvested during this hunt. I believe that eliminating DE323 and adding DE319 as a described in this proposal would result in a small net increase in total harvest and would provide a better quality hunt while giving ADFG the opportunity to compile harvest data if a registration hunt can occur that year beginning the 1st of November. Starting the registration hunt Nov. 1 would provide a better opportunity for people to simultaneously hunt elk and deer. Lengthening the duration of this hunt would make up for the net reduction in the number of draw tags this proposal creates. Allowing this additional opportunity later in the year during the period of historically low productivity mitigates any biological concern related to potential over harvest and provides the best possible opportunity to participate in elk hunting in this state.

Kurt Whitehead: Has heard about the crowding issues on Etolin every year. Thinks there are ways to improve the hunting experience.

Will Pattison: Has hunted it and is very familiar with the low success rates, crowding issues and in years past there were a lot of elk on it and the hunting experience was much better. Currently the hunting experience is poor, crowded, difficult and thinks it should be improved.

Moved and seconded to support by Kurt and Will.

Perry Olson: Asked Ross if the current hunt structure is meant to limit the harvest?

Ross Dorendorf: The current structure is built to allow opportunity but limit harvest.

John Ryan: Is ADFG going to put hairboards on the island to get a better count of elk.

Ross Dorendorf: No, hairboards are a poor way to estimate populations in ungulates.

Kurt Whitehead: Asked how many archery hunters actually hunt the last 2 weeks in Sept. & What is ADFG's answer to the crowding issue and the low success rates.

Ross Dorendorf: Good points that should be brought up at the BOG. Quality of the hunt and tag numbers issued.

Doug Rhodes: Supports the resident only part of the prop and doesn't know how many non-res actually want to go there.

Beau Dale: Last year, a NR guy killed an elk with a bow, made a YouTube video about his successful hunt and there were currently 1.5 million viewers of the video and suggests this will create a rush for that hunt.

John Ryan: Is in favor of shortening the bow hunt and remove the last hunt. Asked Beau: Why do you propose to close the season the last 2 weeks? Also said there is definitely a crowding issue. Having a longer registration hunt will allow many other hunts.

Beau Dale: What if we shortened the registration season to an earlier time?



Kurt Whitehead: Agrees with the prop other than the last part of the registration hunt being there at all and/or being so long. This prop will alleviate some of the crowding, improve the hunting experience and the safety of the hunt. ADFG can control the hunt permits but also allowing a registration hunt at the end of the season doesn't sit well with him considering the lack of data on the island.

John Ryan: Motion to amend the prior motion with " We support the new hunt DE319

Vote:

11-0 to amend the proposal and SUPPORT the proposal, by supporting the earlier rifle season and asking the board to decide on whether to shorten the registration season to two weeks (Nov. 1-15) or eliminate it completely.

Perry Olson: Read Jim Beards email:

I support sending a letter to FWS asking to NOT list the AA wolf as threatened or endangered. I have some concerns regarding draft letters:

1. Main argument seems to be cheap meat source (deer) vs wolves.
2. Not sure we should talk for tribes (Tlingit, Haida, Tsimshian people).
3. Keep focus on wolf management. Don't talk about sea otters with this letter.

Perry Olson: Read Glen Holts letter:

Wolves, deer and forest management on Prince of Wales Island

By Glen Holt, forester & wildlife biologist: Retired AK State Forestry 24yrs, ADFG 2 yrs

Small Business Owner: Alaska Forestry and Habitat Services (2023) Consulting Forester.

Formerly on the ADFG Matanuska and Fairbanks Advisory Committees

Dec. 17, 2022

Letter to the Commissioner of ADFG, the Forest Supervisor Tongass National Forest, the USFW Alaska Region, the East POW AC and Governor Dunleavy, regarding the above.

Who am I: I've lived on Prince of Wales Island full time since August 2018 and have lived in Alaska 40+ years. Venison is an important food for my household. This year is the first year I haven't seen a buck while hunting. Deer seems to be declining on POW Island. Other islands around POW have had lots more clear cutting on them and have more abundant deer and more successful wolf trapping on them for their size compared to POW Island. I've been a homesteader, an Alaskan big game hunting guide #1019; owned and operated Alaskan Woodsmen Hunting Adventures LLC. I earned two bachelor of science degrees in Wildlife Biology (Natural History Option 1981) and Forestry (Forestry Management Option 1982) from Michigan State University. I moved to Alaska in 1982. I've lived in Anchorage, Willow, Skwentna, Big Lake, Meadow Lakes, Fairbanks and currently live in Thorne Bay. I continue to work as a forestry consultant and am employed part-time by the UAF Cooperative Extension. I am a member of the Society of American Foresters.

It is my opinion that: Sitka black-tailed deer are in decline largely due to wolf predation, deep snow events and habitat that continues to decline in old clear cuts that have regrown to exclude sunlight and forage for deer. Furthermore, there is no increase in forage which is only created by a much more active forest management program. The US Forest Service should enhance deer habitat and numbers by encouraging and promoting an economically feasible second-growth commercial timber sale program. This program would regenerate new deer forage & habitat, forest diversity and enhance local and regional economic health. Existing large tree old growth stands in previously harvested drainages could be reserved for deep snow deer habitat. Previously un-accessed large tree old growth stands could be accessed to provide local timber in smaller units, spread out more than previously and at a smaller scale. Large tree old growth stands on federal land should be managed for ecosystem diversity and not just timber. Second growth timber sales should be spread out throughout the landscape. Timber sale units should be large enough to accommodate economic feasibility for the timber industry currently in place. Using grant funded deer habitat enhancement programs may be commendable and useful for research but are generally too restrictive at a scale too small to meaningfully improve deer habitat for subsistence. Ways and means to promote commercial timber sales in our POW second growth should be found.

I believe wolves and other predators are currently the limiting factors regarding the POW deer population.

The existing deer habitat could support more deer. Fewer wolves would in no way endanger or threaten the POW wolf population. Listing wolves on POW as "threatened or endangered" is an inappropriate ploy to do away with forest management here. Listing the wolf is a corrupted method of doing away with sustainable forest management and our viable and renewable means of local and regional economic sustainability.



I urge the East Prince of Wales Advisory Council, the USFWS, the USFS, the ADF&G and the Governor of the State of Alaska to oppose listing wolves on POW island as threatened or endangered, because they are not.

1st Wolf Letter as supplied to AC via email and hardcopy at the meeting:

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

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

If the wolf is listed under the Endangered Species Act, the Federal Government will takeover management from the state. This will end the legal taking of wolves and will severely curtail the hunting of deer, the preferred food for the wolves. There will be far reaching negative impacts on the residents of Prince of Wales Island (POW). This petition threatens our way of life, our ability to secure food, our hunting activities and lifestyle, the economic development on the island and negatively affects the shared culture of our people.

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

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

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

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

Groceries are expensive on the island. They are shipped up on a barge from Seattle to Ketchikan, then put on another barge to Thorne Bay where they are distributed by truck to the various stores. The cost to move the food is currently \$0.43/lb and \$0.82/lb if chilled or frozen. Currently, a gallon of milk is \$6.49, a dozen eggs are \$5.19, ground beef is \$5.99/lb. On top of the high cost of food, gas is expensive, currently \$5.87/gallon and \$6.23/gallon for diesel. The bottom line is that food and fuel costs are a larger percentage of the family budget than in most places around the country.

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

Other Southeast Alaska communities of Ketchikan, Wrangell and Petersburg travel to POW to deer hunt but since 2017, fewer and fewer off island hunters are coming to POW because the deer population has very obviously declined in the past ten years. Hunters have had to spend more time trying to harvest a deer.

At the same time, some of the subsistence foods that come from the sea are no longer available to users because of uncontrolled sea otters. Users without larger boats are generally unable to safely get to deeper waters to harvest

Dungeness crabs because of depredation by sea otters in shallower waters. Sea urchins are almost gone in shallower water and clams are also heavily impacted.

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

Everyone agrees that wolves are an important part of POW and we enjoy seeing them, hearing them or just knowing that they exist here. Locals have documented wolves swimming between POW and Zarembo Island and almost every other island in and around POW. Wolves are very resilient and like any other population of animals, reasonable population management is important so that they may still be taken for their traditional uses, but also maintain their place in the food chain. ADFG has been very cautious and conservative in management of the wolves and the population has responded by growing to levels many see as too high. Certainly they are not in need of further protection.

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

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

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

Kurt Whitehead & Trina Nation Treasure Hunter Lodge Klawock, AK	Alaska Outdoor Council Anchorage, AK	Clinton Cook Sr. Tribal President Craig Tribal Association Craig, AK	Scott Van Valin Heidi Van Valin Island Air Express El Capitan Lodge
David & Cynthia Egelston Alaska Rainforest Adventures Thorne Bay, AK	Josh & Chace Anderson Fireweed Lodge Klawock, AK	David and Jen Creighton Shelter Cove Lodge Rainforest Auto Rentals Craig, AK	Chuck & Jeanette Haydu Kingfisher Lodge & Charters Craig, AK
DJ & Anne Hansen DJ's Alaska Adventure Rentals Klawock, AK	Ray & Elizabeth Douville F/V Faith Faith Fisheries Craig, AK	Ellen Hannan & Brian Castle F/V Renegade Craig, AK	Kirk & Katie Agnitsch Sure Strike Lodge Craig, AK
Mark & Beth Farrar Eagles Wings Wilderness Lodge Klawock, AK	James Heppe Jr. Heppe & Sons Construction Klawock, AK	Grace Heppe Heppe's Indoor Edition Klawock, AK	Rosey & Lisa Roseland The Salt Shack Thorne Bay, Alaska
Sam & Michelle Peters Slammin' Sam's Charters POW Electric & Repair Klawock, AK	Tim O'Conner F/V Virginia Rose Craig, AK	LeRoy & Tanya Johns F/V Chelsea Dawn Klawock, AK	Spencer & Hannah Richter F/V Resolution Craig, AK
Vaughn & Carrie Skinna F/V Annalyn Klawock, AK	Phillip & Danel Winrod F/V Aurie G Thorne Bay, AK	Shawn & Jill Kato-Yates F/V Nauti Lady Klawock, AK	Jason Clowar/Luther Jenson Adventure AK Southeast Thorne Bay, AK
Brad McMillan TTP Director Klawock Cooperative Assoc. Klawock, AK	Rob & Val Steward Changing Tides Inn Klawock, AK	Sean Tomkinson Passages Alaska Adventure Therapy, Klawock, AK	Don & Teresa Busse Trophy Inn Klawock, AK



Ann Williams Klawock, AK	Jon & Debbie Winrod Webster Point, AK	Enoch & Elizabeth Winrod Ketchikan, AK	Sam Sawyer Thorne Bay, AK
Brian Ringeisen Anglers-Adventures Ketchikan, AK	Mike & Jan Bush B-3 Contractors Inc.e Klawock, AKe	John & Sheri Wylie Klawock, AK	Matt & Pam Beck Whale Pass, AK
Chris Guggenbickler Wrangell, AK	Nichole Pope Naukati, AK	Kyle Berg & Courtney Nase Ketchikan, AK	Sharon Toman Whale Pass, AK
Clay Bezenek Ketchikan, AK			

Kurt Whitehead: Read a 2nd version of the wolf letter and thinks we should separate the co-signers/supporters into a stand alone petition and the East PoW AC should draft their own letter. He will present more options at our next meeting.

2nd Letter: The Klawock, AK Fish and Game Advisory Council is grateful for this opportunity to participate in the public process about resource management in our state.

On July 15, 2020, the Center for Biological Diversity, Alaska Rainforest Defenders and Defenders of Wildlife petitioned the Secretary of Interior/US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW) to list the Alexander Archipelago (AA) Wolf in Southeast Alaska as threatened or endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. The first petition to list the AA wolf was filed in 1993. The second was filed in 2011. The third and current one was filed in 2020 also requests that critical habitat be designated for AA wolves in Southeast Alaska. The document can be found at www.biologicaldiversity.org and www.doi.gov. We would like to state that the recurring petition process takes time away from resource managers studying wolf populations and other important issues and is disruptive for certain residents. The signatories of this document believe that the AA wolf should not be listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Prince of Wales Island, the third largest island in the United States, is home to approximately 3500 residents that reside in twelve rural communities, ranging from 35 in remote Point Baker to over 1000 in Craig. Many residents rely largely on a subsistence way of life. Subsistence in rural Alaska means legally that residents can fish and hunt under bag limits that allow us to fill our freezers and pantries because we do not have access to goods and services that people who live in urban areas have. Traditional subsistence lifestyles have been and still are practiced by the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian people who have lived here since time immemorial. Prince of Wales area census data from 2021 shows 41.6% Alaska Native residents, almost half the population in POW's communities.(1) Subsistence is a very important part of Alaska Native culture, tradition and heritage.(2) Deer hunting, as a major part of the subsistence lifestyle, is vitally important on POW. Our relationships, mental and physical health and food security are all improved by deer hunting. Deer hunting on POW is more important because this is the only populated area in the region with just one ungulate game animal; POW does not have caribou, moose, elk, sheep, bison, mountain goat or muskox.

Today, subsistence on POW is critical in terms of food security, as soaring inflation nation-wide has increased the cost of all goods and services. Shipping chilled or frozen food here costs \$0.82/lb. In Klawock this week, a gallon of milk is \$6.49, a dozen eggs are \$5.19, and ground beef is \$5.99 per pound. Additionally, gas is currently \$5.87/gal and \$6.23/gal diesel. The bottom line is that food and fuel costs are a much larger percentage of the family budget than average.

Information presented by Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) and other agencies at the 2022 Deer Summit on POW (October 13-15, 2022) show that the deer population has obviously declined in the past ten years. In 2012, hunters in Unit 2 averaged about 3.5 days of hunting effort per deer harvested; in 2022, hunters spent an average of 4.9 days trying to harvest a deer, according to hunt report survey data from 2012-2021.(3)

We acknowledge that the deer population is affected by numerous factors, including habitat loss from fifty years of industrial scale old-growth logging on POW.(4) We have noticed that, while ADFG reports link POW old-growth forest to healthy deer populations and state that the POWA deer population is in trouble, (5) Division of Forestry staff continue to describe the old-growth stands they cut here as low value and minimize their importance to deer and to



hunters. (6) That doesn't agree with what we heard at the 2022 Deer Summit. We also acknowledge there is work to be done in terms of considering changing deer bag limits or seasons in response to population concerns.

While we acknowledge that POW is not the only place where the AA wolf exists, we do know that effects of management actions are felt more sharply on our island; in part, because it is an island. We have seen more wolves more frequently over the past decade, so we have questions about whether this trend is occurring in other places within the AA wolf's range. ADFG has been cautious and conservative, but to accurately assess the population of wolves in a temperate rainforest has always been difficult. As ADFG continues to refine the methodologies used to estimate and balance populations with carrying capacity, we expect the wolf population will remain healthy. We know the AA wolf is a top predator of Sitka blacktail deer and is far from being endangered. Our personal observations and trends in ADFG data lead us to believe the wolf is thriving in our area. Recent harvests of wolves (7) have shown that past estimates were much lower than current numbers reflect.

If the AA wolf is listed under the Endangered Species Act, the federal government will assume authority over management, which will end legal trapping and hunting of wolves. If deer populations are decreasing, it doesn't make sense to list one of its top predators as endangered unless there is credible science and data that show good cause. ADFG has a growing list of data and science, including its own studies here on POW, proving the AA Wolf should not be listed under the Endangered Species Act.(8)

Everyone agrees that wolves are an important part of POW and we enjoy seeing them, hearing them or just knowing that they exist here. However, listing the AA wolf as endangered will not accomplish better management and will eliminate all legal take of the top non-human predator in an island ecosystem where Sitka blacktail deer is the only ungulate prey available.

We strongly oppose listing the AA wolf as endangered or threatened.

The Klawock ADFG Advisory Council

Matt Beck: Did ADFG conduct wolf studies in other areas besides POW?

Ross Dorendorf: There were other TEK interviews conducted by other agencies but there are no other areas in SE AK doing wolf studies.

Matt Beck: Asked if ADFG has the best methods/means possible?

Ross Dorendorf: The POW hairboard study is the largest in the world and they are in the beginning stages to also incorporate trail cameras into the POW wolf study as well.

Perry Olson: It sounds like ADFG has already replied to USFW, so what does that document say?

Ross: That the AA wolf species is not endangered. Most of the info we have is centered around POW. ADFG is strongly against the listing of ADFG.

Kurt Whitehead: Is the document ADFG gave to USFW as their answer, public info?

Ross Dorendorf: He is unsure but will ask his supervisor and get back to us.

Glen Holt: The 2nd letter just read includes forest harvest issues. If we harvest the 2nd growth more readily it will improve the deer habitat. I do not approve of the vegetation parts of the 2nd letter. If they list the wolf under the ESA, it will really limit the commercial timber harvest.

Motion to table the wolf letter agenda item until the next meeting.

Perry: We should emphasize science more in our letter

Other comments: Etolin elk discussion regarding poor survival compared to most of range. In addition there are brown bears that prey on elk.

Sea Otter discussion:

John Ryan: Why does ADFG say the sea otters are outside of their purview. Why doesn't the state address the sea otter issue, draft their own plan, create a regulation for it and have it ready to go when/if the feds allow sea otter management?



Ross Dorendorf: The only way I know to get it changed is to talk to your legislators.

Doug Rhodes: What John is saying is why don't we have something passed first so if the feds change the rules we are ready to implement a plan.

John Ryan: Yes, put something in the books to start it. Start a regulation and get it in the books first to start the conversation.

Ross Dorendorf: This is all good stuff to relay to the BOG.

Doug Rhodes: Can we discuss the BOF proposals?

Perry Olson: I don't think we can legally talk about the BOF issues since its not on our agenda but it will be for our next meeting.

Next meeting date: Feb. 11 @ 3pm at Thorne Bay

John Ryan: Will talk to Skip Esteban & Della Colburn and see if they want to be on the committee so we can have a representative from Kasaan.

Perry Olson: If Skip wants to join, then we need to know in advance so we can hold an election.

Moved and seconded to Adjourn.

Adjourned: 5:06pm

Minutes recorded by: Kurt Whitehead

Minutes approved by: Perry Olson

Date: 12.17.2022



Fairbanks Fish & Game Advisory Committee
Game/Trap Subcommittee Meeting
December 5, 2022
ADF&G Office College Rd

- I. Call to Order: 6:07pm by co-chair Mark Richards
- II. Roll Call
Members Present: Levi Lewellyn, John Wisniewski, Lance Nelson (alternate), Gabriel Davis

Members Absent (Excused):
Members Absent (Unexcused):
Number Needed for Quorum on AC:
List of User Groups Present:
- III. Fish and Game Staff Present: None
- IV. Guests Present: Chris Bye
- V. Approval of Agenda
- VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
- VII. Reports
 - a. Chair's report
 - b. ADF&G
 - c. Others
- VIII. Public Comment
- IX. Old Business
- X. New Business
- XI. Select representative(s) for board meeting
- XII. Set next meeting date
- XIII. Other



Adjourn

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			Disenfranchises too many hunters in more remote locations, inability to complete the in-person aspects of hunter-ed course, hard to enforce
2	Require hunter orientation for hunting goat in Southeast Region units		
OPPOSE			Not necessary, as all but one goat hunt in these units are any goat
3	Remove the requirement for residents to seal black bear skulls harvested in Units 1 - 4		
OPPOSE			Hides still required to be sealed, or meat if hide not salvaged, skull data from sealing important to determine population parameters
4	Change the resident bag limit for brown bear in Unit 1 to one bear every two years		
TNA			
5	Change the waterfowl season in Units 1 - 4 by creating a split season		
TNA			
6	Lengthen river otter trapping seasons in Units 1 - 4 to align with Unit 5		
SUPPORT			All 5 units should be aligned
7	Extend marten trapping seasons to align with wolverine seasons in portions of Units 1 - 4 and 5		
SUPPORT			Any bycatch will be insignificant with typical above ground marten sets
8	Extend the marten trapping season in Units 1 and 2		
SUPPORT			Same as #8 above
9	Extend the wolverine trapping season to March 15 in Units 1 - 5		
TNA			
10	Decrease the bag limit to four deer in Unit 4, Remainder		
OPPOSE			No deer conservation concerns, no need to lower bag limit for non-federally qualified hunters
11	Decrease the bag limit to four deer in Unit 4, Remainder		
OPPOSE			Same as #10 above
12	Open the Mitchell Bay Closed Area in Unit 4 to brown bear hunting		
TNA			



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
13	Change the RB088 hunt boundary in Unit 4 to include Northeast Chichagof, and increase the allowable harvest for brown bear		
TNA			
14	Change the brown bear hunt area for RB088 in Unit 4 to include all of Lisianski Inlet drainage		
TNA			
15	Change the description of the Petersburg Road System Closed Area		
TNA			
16	Lengthen the deer season in Unit 3, that portion of Mitkof Island within the Petersburg Management Area		
TNA			
17	Establish a fall drawing permit hunt for elk on Zarembo Island in Unit 3		
TNA			
18	Establish a fall, drawing permit hunt for elk on Zarembo, Bushy, Shrubby and Kashevarof Islands in Unit 3		
TNA			
19	Change the hunt structure for elk on Etolin Island in Unit 3		
TNA			
20	Split Etolin Island in Unit 3 into two hunt areas for elk		
TNA			
21	Eliminate the regulation that excludes broken, damaged, or altered antlers from the definition of spike-fork antlers for Units 1B, 1C and 3		
TNA			
22	Eliminate the restriction for using motorized vehicles for the RM038 moose hunt in Unit 1B		
TNA			
23	Allow the use of electric bikes for the RM038 moose hunt in Unit 1B		
TNA			
24	Open the Petersburg Creek drainage of Kupreanof Island in Unit 3 to black bear hunting		
TNA			
25	Allow black bear hunting in the Petersburg Creek Drainage area, with season dates to align with Unit 3		
TNA			
26	Reduce the permit allocation and bag limit for nonresident, nonguided black bear hunters on Kuiu and Kupreanof Islands in Unit 3		
TNA			



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
27	Require 100-yard trapping setbacks along hiking trails and drivable surfaces on Wrangell Island in Unit 3		
OPPOSE			Restrictions not necessary
28	Change the hunt boundary from Little Sheep Creek to Sheep Creek, for the RG014 goat hunt in Unit 1C		
TNA			
29	Expand the hunt area of the RG014 archery goat hunt in Unit 1C		
TNA			
30	Open a fall archery goat hunt in Unit 1C, the southern end of the Chilkat Peninsula		
TNA			
31	Lengthen the resident, registration goat hunt in Unit 1C, the Southern end of the Chilkat Range		
TNA			
32	Restrict hunters who take nanny goat in Unit 1D from hunting goat the following regulatory year in Unit 1D		
TNA			
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		
TNA			
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		
TNA			
35	Extend the bear baiting season for Unit 1D		
SUPPORT			No conservation concerns, more opportunity
36	Reduce the bag limit for grouse for drainages that cross the Juneau-Douglas Road system in Unit 1C		
TNA			
37	Reduce the bag limit for ptarmigan for drainages that cross the Juneau Douglas Road system in Unit 1C		
TNA			
38	Amend the youth hunt for Unit 1C Mendenhall Wetland State Game Refuge		
TNA			



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
39			Amend the hunter education requirement for the Unit 1C Mendenhall Wetland State Game Refuge
TNA			
40			Allow the take of deleterious exotic wildlife in the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge
TNA			
41			Eliminate the Douglas Island Management Area in Unit 1C
TNA			
42			Extend the deer season to December 31, in Unit 1A Remainder
SUPPORT			Department supports, no conservation concerns, more opportunity during holiday season to put food on the table
43			Increase the resident bag limit to two goats in Unit 1A
TNA			
44			Extend the goat season in Unit 1A Remainder
TNA			
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
TNA			
46			Lengthen the hunting season for wolves in Unit 2, to open September 1
SUPPORT			No conservation concerns, more opportunity
47			Require wolf harvest information be reported within 48 hours of recovery and sealing within 14 days in Unit 2
OPPOSE			Sealing currently within 7 days, which is adequate, changing to 2 days is too short of time
48			Change the methodology for setting the population objective for wolves in Unit 2
TNA			
49			Utilize the lower confidence interval of the wolf population for estimating the population in Unit 2
TNA			
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
TNA			



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
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		
TNA			
52	Establish a harvest quota for wolves, between 20% and 35% of the estimated wolf population in Unit 2		
TNA			
53	Establish an estimated unreported mortality rate for Unit 2 wolves to be used for establishing the harvest quota		
TNA			
54	Identify an area in Unit 2 for protected status for wolves		
TNA			

Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: Mark Richards

Minutes Approved By: Fairbanks Advisory Committee

Date: 12/14/22



Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee
12/14/2022 Meeting Minutes
J.P. Jones Community Center
204 Rickert Street
Fairbanks, AK
&
Teleconference

I. Call to Order: Chair at 6:02PM

II. Roll Call:

	<u>CHAIR</u> John Siegfried	<u>VICE-CHAIR</u> Mark Richards	<u>SECRETARY</u> Mark Oppe	Jeff Lucas	Gale Vick	Virgil Umphenour	Mike Tinker	John Wisniewski
Present	X	X	X	X	x	x	x	x
Absent								
Abs/Excused								
	Levi Lewellyn	Austin Smith	Warren Guichici	Bill Larry	Mike Kramer	Chuck Derrick	Gabriel Davis	James Paine (alternate)
Present	X	X	x		x	x		
Absent				x			x	x
Abs/Excused								
	Lance Nelson (alternate)							
Present	x							
Absent								
Abs/Excused								

III. Introduction of Guests: Al Barrette (BOG), Chris Bye, Tim Hammond (BLM), Jen Yuhas

Fish & Game Staff Present: Tony Hollis, Trooper Valentine, Kyle Campbell, Deena Jallen, Christy Gleason, Chuck Brasil (F&G), Shane Ransbury, Trooper Dirks, Sam Decker, Andy Gryska



IV. Comments

Chair Comments: First time as chairman; please be patient. There is a lot to cover this evening, please keep comments brief.

Vice Chair: none

Trapping: none

Game: none

Fish: none

AC Member Comments: Virgil Umphenour announced publication of “Dall Sheep Management” by Wayne Heimer.

Public Comments: none

V. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: approval of November 9 minutes by unanimous consent

VI. Approval of Agenda: approved by unanimous consent

VII. Old Business:

VIII. New Business:

Steese White Mountains Travel Management Plan overview with Tim Hammond (BLM): Referred AC members to maps available at the meeting. White Mountains winter map shows approval for motorized access throughout almost all of the area, with exception of designated non-motorized trails intended for ski access to cabins. Summer map shows more extensive restrictions on motorized travel, color coded for differing restrictions. New areas may allow e-bike access. Accommodations for larger side by sides on some trails. Overview of Nome Creek map; highlighting differing OHV restrictions and restrictions on domestic sheep, goats, and llamas. Highlights of Steese winter map & proposed new motorized access as resources become available in the future. Summer Steese map; highlighting off-route game retrieval in areas otherwise closed to motorized access & proposed routes that depend on funding.

Jeff Lucas asked about using public to help out with new/extended trails. This will be part of the public outreach plan & depends on interest. There may be legal issues (insurance, etc.)



Chuck Derrick asked about repercussions of going outside of motorized boundaries. This would be a ticket and fine, but there are limited enforcement resources available throughout the area. Severe damage resulting from failure to follow travel management plan could result in trespass violation.

Mike Tinker asked about absence of trails on state lands on the maps. This was a conscious decision to avoid confusion and clutter on maps. There may be a forthcoming collaborative map that shows trails on both federal and state lands in these areas.

Mark Richards asked if horses are allowed in areas that restrict other domestic animals & about restrictions on feed. Horses are allowed. Weed-free feed is preferred. Improved signage will be installed to clarify all restrictions and boundary areas. Joint state/federal signs may be installed. Working on identification of approved route to Preacher Creek.

Al Barrette asked about definition of “exposed soils” and logic behind closed area on south side of Birch Creek. This is a judgement call in research natural areas. Closed area is result of policy not to open areas without current demand/evidence of use. There is an adaptive management strategy, so this could change in the future.

Mike Tinker pointed out that historic trails have been removed from these current maps, which erases evidence of past/traditional use. There was discussion of RS2477 routes, but these cannot be dealt with in travel management plans under BLM policy.

John Siegfried asked about how weight of vehicles is determined? Also would like to know about access for tracked vehicles. Tracked vehicles are currently not allowed. This may change in the future based on more data. Weight is based on curb weight (manufacturers published weight with full fluids and fuel).

Dept./AWT Update: Tony Hollis reported on 20A moose survey. Chose to do the survey in order to compare to last year after the hard winter. Est. 11,028 moose (down from 14,000 last year). Objective in the area is 10-15,000. Bull/cow ratio was 28/100. Calf/cow ratio was 33/100. Harvest data is not yet complete but is anticipated to be about normal compared to recent years. Anticipate less yearlings as a result of last winter, but this has not been calculated yet.

Trooper Valentine reported that the end of the 40 mile caribou hunt was quiet with few citations. There was some increased harvest off the Taylor Hwy. Mark Richards asked about subsistence violations. Most of these have been qualified hunters who were on state land rather than federal.

Fisheries Subcommittee Recommendations BOF AYK Proposals: Gale Vick



asked for approval of 11/7 subcommittee meetings from members who were in attendance. Approved by unanimous consent.

Review of proposals discussed by the subcommittee (packet included in materials for this meeting).

Discussion of Proposal 81, allowing retention of 24" and under kings on the Yukon (dipnets & fish wheels only). Some concern that this undermines the message that "every fish counts" during current/recent run declines. Holly Carroll suggested that this could be determined by emergency order depending on harvestable surplus to provide equitable fishing/harvest opportunity.

Mike Kramer does not support this proposal. 24" kings are likely to be successful spawners and there is no evidence that they will produce more 24" fish. Proposal will lead to enforcement issues, catch & release mortality, etc.

Mike Tinker stated that Canadians believe that 24" fish are not viable spawners. Have U.S. managers made this determination. Deena Jallen stated that these fish have simply come back early and are likely to successfully spawn.

Virgil Umphenour provided brief history of discussion of similar proposals in the past and other rivers in Alaska. Does not believe that with current run sizes managers will not allow harvest anyway.

Chuck Derrick asked if fish wheels are required to have a live box & are they required to be closely attended. Deena Jallen stated that fish must be immediately released. Holly Carroll supports use of selective gear, which we are already doing, and leaving bag limit and size limit to managers. The current proposal needs work, but this could be a valuable management tool when there is a small harvestable surplus. Chuck Derrick asked for clarification of whether the department has the discretion to require fish wheels to be closely attended. Holly Carroll stated that the department can require this when fishery is open to selective gear in conservation mode. Deena Jallen stated that this can be done through emergency order or by regulation making it a requirement of the permit.

Mike Kramer believes it is unrealistic to think that people will deploy fish wheels to keep two 24" fish. Gale Vick stated that wheels will not be in the water unless there is a harvestable surplus of chums and that this rule would apply under a permit.

Mike Tinker believes this discussion needs to be had by the Board and that in order for this to happen we need to support moving the proposal forward. Gale Vick agrees that proposal should be moved forward with detailed comments reflecting the discussion by the AC.



Motion by Mike Tinker to modify proposal with size & bag limit set by emergency order and support Proposal 81. Seconded by Mark Richards. Motion passed by vote of 13-1.

Discussion of Proposal 84 regarding lawful gear/specs for Yukon River subsistence fishery. Mike Tinker supports this proposal with language cleaned up. Christy Gleason stated that 6" gear would avoid targeting the few larger fish in the run & will generally benefit subsistence fishermen. Deena Jallen asked for list of changes and discrepancies in proposal so that they can be addressed by the time the board looks at this proposal.

Discussion to clarify that the fish subcommittee opposed Proposal 63 with comments.

Motion by Mark Richards to approve all fish subcommittee recommendations not already acted on. Seconded by Jeff Lucas. Motion approved by unanimous consent.

Game/Trap Subcommittee Recommendations on Region I BOG Proposals:
Mark Richards reviewed proposals discussed by subcommittee (recommendations included in packet for this AC meeting).

Motion by Mark Richards, seconded by Mike Tinker, to support recommendations of subcommittee. Motion approved by unanimous consent.

Other: Fish subcommittee will meet on Jan. 9. This meeting will be critical due to discussion of Area M.

Game/trap subcommittee will not meet in January.

AC will not send a representative to the BOF AYK meeting in Anchorage. Gale Vick and Virgil Umphenour will represent the AC at the BOF Area M meeting.

Hatchery meeting will take place on March 9.

Jeff Lucas will represent the AC at the BOG meeting in Soldotna March 17-21.

WACH working group meeting today and tomorrow. Dave Kilbourn is representing Fairbanks hunters. Mark Richards suggested inviting Dave to the next AC to report on this meeting.

IX. Adjourn: Chair at 8:34PM.

Minutes Recorded by Mark Oppe

Minutes Approved by Fairbanks
Advisory Committee on 1/11/2023



**Icy Straits Advisory Committee
January 04, 2023
Teleconference & Hoonah City Hall**

I. Call to Order: 5:02 by Casey McConnell

II. Roll Call

Members Present:

Name	Present?
Mark Ortega	Y
Larry Landry	Y
Jeff Skaflestad	Y
Bill Mills	N
Faith Grant	Y
Casey McConnell	Y
Duane Jack	Y
James Jack	Y
Bill Miller	Y
Andy Savland	Y
Ian Johnson	Y
Aaron StClair	N
Calvin Casipit	Y
Vacant	Undesignated
Vacant	Undesignated

Members Absent (Excused):

Members Absent (Unexcused):2

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 11

List of User Groups Present:



- III. Fish and Game Staff Present: Roy Churchwell, Steve Bethune, Annie Bartholomew
- IV. Guests Present: Bob Koenitzer, Amy Courtney, Jackie Dick, Jacob Pratt, Julian Narvaez
- V. Approval of Agenda

Calvin Casipit – Motion to approve the agenda

Ian – Second

None opposed

When commercial closes – discussion to open inland waters for king salmon. Cost of fuel is high and no subsistence fishing right now. When is next BOF meeting for SE AK? 2024/2025. Call for proposals goes out in late 2023 or early 2024

Board of Game [Southeast Region proposals](#): 1,2,4,5,7,9,10,11,12,13,14,30,31,32

Discussion for consideration of a letter surrounding proposals 45-54

Other business

- VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Bill Miller – motion to accept meeting minutes from December 7 2022 and February 15 2021

Calvin Casipit – Second

None opposed

- VII. Reports
 - a. Chair's report - None
 - b. ADF&G – None
 - c. Public Report
 - d. Others

- VIII. Public Comment

- IX. Old Business

- X. New Business
 - a. Board of Game Proposals



Alaska Board of Fisheries: Southeast and Yakutat Proposals January 4-15, 2022 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support/ Support as amended/ Oppose/ No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (pros & cons), Voting Notes, Amendments
<p><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></p>			
1	Require certified hunter safety education to hunt in Units 1 - 5		
	0	11	<p>ADF&G – In favor of these because of the safety factor, but not feasible due to staffing. They are neutral on this proposal.</p> <p>Casey M Motion – Support and approve as written. Calvin Casipit - Second</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal doesn't make sense here because of the delivery system for it in rural communities - Most hunt with uncles and dad - Not all rural communities have good internet to serve them remotely
2	Require hunter orientation for hunting goat in Southeast Region units		



Alaska Board of Fisheries: Southeast and Yakutat Proposals January 4-15, 2022 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support/ Support as amended/ Oppose/No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (pros & cons), Voting Notes, Amendments
	1	10	<p>ADF&G – Department is neutral on this proposal. Doesn't have a direct impact on goat populations. Important to be able to distinguish males and females. There are other mechanisms to solve this – a higher penalty for shooting a nanny</p> <p>Calvin Casipit – Support proposal two as written Jeff Skaflestad – Second</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal doesn't address a serious conservation issue. There are other restrictions that can be used for conservation at a local basis - Internet connectivity too difficult - Region-wide proposal is not appropriate because of impact on remote areas in SE - The content of the video is very helpful in identifying sex of the sheep
4	Change the resident bag limit for brown bear in Unit 1 to one bear every two years		



			<p>ADF&G – Opposed to it. This would change the mainland portion of 1A – 1D. This changes it from 4 years to 2 years. There is conservation concerns in 1D and they are managing those closely. The number of DLPs in a season would change the number of bears harvested there. The identified issue of population increase in some areas isn't totally true. The current regulation will reduce harvest because they are seeing increased hunters.</p> <p>What area are we in? We are in unit 4, this is for the mainland – so impacting Gustavus</p> <p>Mark – saw greater bear populations on Couverden. Would support this because there aren't many brown bear hunters and it would increase opportunity</p> <p>Casey - Could bear could be closed by emergency orders? Yes, but since BB are trophy hunts by guides, it would impact their hunts. They try to stay away from that to no impact trophy hunts.</p> <p>Casey – with one BB every four years, how often do the point quotas get maxed out for the regions? How often do they reach max harvest? – point quotas only exist in 1D.</p> <p>Casey - How many guides hunt homeshore? Chilkat has 1 guide with two hunts. 1D has 4 guides. Limits come from the USFS.</p> <p>Larry – what is the resident harvest on Homeshore towards Couverden?</p> <p>Motion – Andy Savland – Support proposal 4 Mark Ortega 2nd Jeff Call for question</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- There are plenty of people who could hunt bears, decreasing years wouldn't help- There aren't many people that who actually hunt bears- Lots of bears coming out of the park from Glacier Bay- Local people seeing a lot of extra bears
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Alaska Board of Fisheries: Southeast and Yakutat Proposals January 4-15, 2022 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support/ Support as amended/ Oppose/No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (pros & cons), Voting Notes, Amendments
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Not a good idea to weight the 1D issues into whether we support or don't support- Most of the time brown bears are shot they are not consumed
5	Change the waterfowl season in Units 1 - 4 by creating a split season		



			<p>ADF&G – Brings consistency to waterfowl season. Current season is alternating based on even and odd years for start date. Causes confusion in hunters. Anyone who wants to hunt late can hunt late and early hunters can hunt late, but we close in the middle of the season. Can only have 107 waterfowl days.</p> <p>Do we support it? When should the closure be?</p> <p>Calvin Casipit – move to support as written Ian – Second</p> <p>Bob Koenitzer – The current regulation doesn't really work. Administration is tough, the best season is the Sept 15- Dec 31. Most birds around then and this year there was a late migration. Going back to one consolidated hunt. Having a mid season closure is not good. Later season would be the sea duck seasons. Most hunters are out there from Sept 15 – Dec 31.</p> <p>Mark – Do a lot of hunting in September. Having September 16th</p> <p>Did F&G support the alternative season regulation back in the day?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Late migration, not as many bird around in early September- Quality of birds not as good September 1st- Most birds are September 15 and dwindling by mid December- Doesn't make it any easier to close the season in the middle of the season. Doesn't make it any easier to remember- The season used to be Sept 1 – December 16th season. Weather and light conditions are better in September. Lose quite a few shooting hours by shifting to the later part of the season. <p>Motion 5A – Andy Savland – Make a motion support a waterfowl season through September 1st – December 16th. Calvin – Second</p>
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Alaska Board of Fisheries: Southeast and Yakutat Proposals January 4-15, 2022 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support/ Support as amended/ Oppose/No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (pros & cons), Voting Notes, Amendments
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - September 1st has more daylight and time, but there aren't birds there. Migration timing has changed a lot. Not a lot of birds in September.
7	Extend marten trapping seasons to align with wolverine seasons in portions of Units 1 - 4 and 5		
			<p>ADF&G – Neutral on this. Extends marten season Units 1-3 except for Kuiu and Unit 4 remainder. Would be from November 10 – last day of February</p> <p>Calvin – Move to support motion 7 Bill Miller – Second Andy - QUEStion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides additional opportunity for trappers - Aligns several species together into a season which would benefit trappers - Marten prices are way down, most of the trapping is value-added products.
9	Extend the wolverine trapping season to March 15 in Units 1 - 5		



Alaska Board of Fisheries: Southeast and Yakutat Proposals January 4-15, 2022 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support/ Support as amended/ Oppose/No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (pros & cons), Voting Notes, Amendments
	9	2	<p>ADF&G – This would unalign seasons. They are opposed to this because wolverine are in the den by the end of the season. They start denning in February and females are vulnerable with pups</p> <p>Subsistence season in 1-5 ends March 1st.</p> <p>Why are they easier to target in den? – has to do with territory size. Males have a broad territory, but females with kits have a smaller territory. They have a faster revisit time.</p> <p>Andy – Motion to support the proposal as written Bill Miller – Second</p> <p>-Doesn't align with the federal season. Makes it difficult to keep the seasons all as one -This would go against our vote in #7 - Doesn't promote the sustainability of wolverine trapping</p>
10	Decrease the bag limit to four deer in Unit 4, Remainder		



	11	0	<p>ADF&G – public proposal for a bag limit reduction in unit 4 remainder. This doesn’t affect NE Chichagof east port federick and North of Tenakee. There was a 4 deer bag limit prior to 2019. This is for non-federally qualified users – they still have 6 bag limit. Average additional harvest of 88 deer/year based on increase from 4-6. Department stance is 4 deer is enough for most, but there is sustainable harvest is possible at 5-6 deer. This proposal was submitted in response to the federal proposal.</p> <p>Current in Hoonah – if you are hunting Westport on Private land the deer limit is 6. If we go to this proposal it would change limits on private land.</p> <p>Jacob – Unit 4 deer, does this apply to non-local or non-federally? If you are a Hoonah resident you would be able to hunt 6 deer on federal lands.</p> <p>Calvin – Move to support as written Andy – second</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most people who hunted NE chich this year it was slow for a lot of people. This differs from what the biologists are saying. - This proposal is aligns with #11 which was submitted by a local
11	Decrease the bag limit to four deer in Unit 4, Remainder		
			<p>Motion Ian – Take no action on #11 based on results of #10 Casey – Second</p> <p>None opposed</p>
12	Open the Mitchell Bay Closed Area in Unit 4 to brown bear hunting		



		11	<p>ADF&G – Neutral for it biologically. There is a lot of complexity here. This area was created in 1991 to make bear viewing and economic opportunities. Created to reduce conflict. Created to reflect cultural importance. F&G studies do not support that Brown bear are drivers of deer populations. Brown bear hunting isn't a common use by hunters in the area.</p> <p>Albert Howard – Angoon organizations oppose it. The area is close to town and they don't want wounded bears to be their problem. Anything w/in 600 feet of the boundary is on private land. There is also competition for other resources with bear hunters (pulling crab pots)</p> <p>Andy – Motion to support as written Cal – Second</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Testimony from Angoon is powerful and outlines the concerns- There is a lot of history in the spot as a closed area. There wasn't any consultation of the proponent to the community of Angoon
13	Change the RB088 hunt boundary in Unit 4 to include Northeast Chichagof, and increase the allowable harvest for brown bear		



		11	<p>ADF&G – Opposed to this proposal. There are conservation concerns if there were to pass. The changes could result in decline bear populations. Increase user conflict. There are two parts – one changes the boundary of the “inside outside hunt” and the harvest level of bear populations. Brown bear harvest is guided by brown bear management strategy – pandoras box to open this up. Proponent states will decrease deer predation, but bears aren’t a primary deer driver.</p> <p>Ian Motion to support as written Calvin – second</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creates competition along the coastline - Doesn’t meet the intent of the proposal of reducing conflict bears or impacting deer populations
14	Change the brown bear hunt area for RB088 in Unit 4 to include all of Lisianski Inlet drainage		
		11	<p>ADF&G – Changes “inside and outside hunt” in Lisanski. Neutral on this because not forecasting biology. However, could increase user conflict and difficult to change the brown bear management strategy. Would increase 11 days of hunting and follow the guide use boundary in that area. The hunt boundary “skips” Lisanski – if this passes it would open Lisanski until May 31st. Current dates have been in place for >40 years and have been successful. Brown bear strategy has been working good.</p> <p>Calvin – motion to support 14 Second – Bill Miller Question Andy</p>
30	Open a fall archery goat hunt in Unit 1C, the southern end of the Chilkat Peninsula		



		11	<p>ADF&G – Create an archery-only hunt Aug 1 – Aug 3. Extends the season. Extends hunt by 1 month but archery only.</p> <p>How many goats are harvested by archery in Juneau? There’s 8 points there. 1 points for Billy and 2 for a nanny. So, up to 8 goats taken. Have never reached that limit.</p> <p>This area could probably support more harvest</p> <p>Federal subsistence goat season is Aug 1 – September 30, but by state permit. We can hunt on August 1st? The state tags are only used for tracking of harvest.</p> <p>Andy – this would open up to nonfederally qualified</p> <p>Ian – motion to support proposal 30 as written Second Andy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Doesn’t create any more opportunity for people in Hoonah or Gustavus - Creates higher competition from non-rural users and competition with subsistence hunters. - The points are never filled, the opportunity is already there to hunt
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31	Lengthen the resident, registration goat hunt in Unit 1C, the Southern end of the Chilkat Range		
	3	8	<p>ADF&G – similar to the previous proposal. Increases the season by a month only. Its for residents only. Similar to previous one except no weapon restriction.</p> <p>Jeff – would this impact the population? No, there’s a lot of points available, but doesn’t impact population.</p> <p>Calvin – motion to support 31 Andy – second Question -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current federal season can hunt August 1st. adds hunting opportunity for non-rural users only. Increase competition to local users. -



32	Restrict hunters who take nanny goat in Unit 1D from hunting goat the following regulatory year in Unit 1D		
			<p>ADF&G – this proposal may go unit wide. Looking for comments from other ACs on that. This would restrict hunters who take a nanny. They are trying to keep people from taking female goats. This was put out by the AC up there to limit female harvest.</p> <p>Is it more likely that locals will take nanny's? More likely that local hunters will take a nanny.</p> <p>Who is proposing it? The AC who would be impacted.</p> <p>Motion – Calvin – Move to support proposal 32 as written as it applies to 1D but not the expansion of the proposal to unit wide.</p> <p>Andy – second</p> <p>As a comment :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Support of this could lead to under reporting.-



Name	1	2	4	5	5A	7	9	10	11	12	14	30	31	32
Mark Ortega	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Larry Landry	N	Y	N	N	A	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Jeff Skaflestad	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Bill Mills	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Faith Grant	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Casey McConnell	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Duane Jack	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
James Jack	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Bill Miller	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Andy Savland	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Ian Johnson	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Aaron StClair	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Calvin Casipit	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Vacant	Undesignated													
Vacant	Undesignated													
Number Yes	0	1	9	1	7	11	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	3

Discussion on 45 – 54. Proposals set up a dangerous precedent for areas with predator pits.

XI. Set next meeting date

XII. Other

XIII. Adjourn

XIV.



XV. Motion to adjourn – Jeff

XVI. Andy Second

Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: Ian Johnson
Minutes Approved By: Casey McConnell
Date: 1/6/23



**Juneau-Douglas Advisory Committee
November 1, 2022 6:00 p.m.
UAS Egan 223 & Zoom**

- I. Call to Order: 6:00 pm by Kevin Maier, Chair

- II. Roll Call
Members Present: Kevin Maier, Jesse Ross, Mike Bethers, Jesse Walker, Ed Buyarski, Kristine Trott, Jason Kohlhase, Thatcher Brouwer, Peter Robertson, Nick Orr, Chris Miller

Members Absent (Excused):
Members Absent (Unexcused):
Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8
List of User Groups Present: Hunting, Hunting Guide, Personal Use, Non-Consumptive, Commercial Fishing, Sport Fishing, Processor, Trapping, Guided Sport Fishing

- III. Fish and Game Staff Present: Roy Churchwell

- IV. Guests Present: Eric Schall, Thor Stacey, Jody Dixon, Mike Cole

- V. Approval of Agenda: Yes.

- VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
Kristine Trott, Non consumptive user. Not Bristol Bay.
Mike B. proposal did not get submitted.

- VII. Reports
 - a. Chair's report
 - b. ADF&G
 - c. Others

- VIII. Public Comment.
Thor Stacey.

Statement: "Lived in Juneau for 12 years. Hunting guide and represent a couple of wildlife groups as a lobbyist. All information is personal opinion/comment/thoughts.
I have lived in rural area and qualified for subsistence. As a commercial user most of clients are non residents.



Wolf proposals: suite of proposals from Alaska Wildlife Alliance. Unwind POW management plan. There is litigation. Please pay attention. A petition to list wolves under endangered species act.

Deer Hunting. Supportive of lowering bag limit from six to four deer. I have a lot of opportunities. Plenty of meat. Other opportunities for hunting/fishing. Four deer had been in place for a long time. No hardship. Looking at what I would like to have for my family. Growth of commercial use. More to story of the federal closures. Hopefully we can start a conversation with outlying communities. They have the power to close the season.

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

a. Member Elections

i. Nominations:

- Hunting Guide (1 seat)
- Charter Fishing – Saltwater (2 seats)
- Non-Consumptive Personal Use (2 seats)
- Sport Fish/Hunting/Personal Use (3 seats)
- Commercial Fishing (2 seats)

ii. Voting on Members

Everyone has been reelected who currently serves on the committee.

b. Alternate Elections (Voted on by Committee)

i. Nominations for 2 alternate Seats

Jody Dixon: I have lived in Juneau for 20 years and hunting for about 10. Fishing crabbing and hunting. Passionate about managing wildlife in a sustainable way.

No hunting and fishing violations.

Mike Cole: I will serve if nobody else wants to.

Mike and Jody were nominated/elected to fill alternative seats.

c. Board of Game Southeast Meeting Proposals

- Proposal 4: Change the resident bag limit for brown bear in Unit 1 to one bear every two years
- Proposal 5: Change the waterfowl season in Units 1 - 4 by creating a split season
- Proposal 6: Lengthen river otter trapping seasons in Units 1 - 4 to align with Unit 5
- Proposal 7: Extend marten trapping seasons to align with wolverine seasons in portions of Units 1 - 4 and 5



- Proposal 8: Extend the marten trapping season in Units 1 and 2 .
- Proposal 9: Extend the wolverine trapping season to March 15 in Units 1 – 5
- Proposal 10: Decrease the bag limit to four deer in Unit 4, Remainder
- Proposal 11: Decrease the bag limit to four deer in Unit 4, Remainder
- Proposal 28: Change the hunt boundary from Little Sheep Creek to Sheep Creek, for the RG014 goat hunt in Unit 1C
- Proposal 36: Reduce the bag limit for grouse for drainages that cross the Juneau-Douglas Road system in Unit 1C
- Proposal 37: Reduce the bag limit for ptarmigan for drainages that cross the Juneau Douglas Road system in Unit 1C
- Proposal 38: Amend the youth hunt for Unit 1C Mendenhall Wetland State Game Refuge
- Proposal 39: Amend the hunter education requirement for the Unit 1C Mendenhall Wetland State Game Refuge
- Proposal 40: Allow the take of deleterious exotic wildlife in the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge

We need to discuss all the proposals that pertain to our region. We can opt to take no action.

XI. Set next meeting date: To be determined by Doodle.

XII. Other

Adjourn

Minutes Recorded By: Thatcher Brouwer
Minutes Approved By: Juneau-Douglas AC
Date: 12/5/2022



Juneau-Douglas Advisory Committee - Agenda
Dec 5, 2022 6:00 p.m.
UAS Egan 218 & Zoom

I. Call to Order: 6:00 pm, Kevin Maier

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Kevin Maier, Atlin Daugherty, Kristine Trott, Ed Buyarski, Peter Robertson, Jesse Walker, Mike Bethers, Jesse Ross, Nicholas Orr, Forest Wagner, Chris Miller, Jason Kolhase, Thatcher Brouwer, Michael Cole

Members Absent (Excused): Terry White,

Members Absent (Unexcused):

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8

List of User Groups Present:

Fish and Game Staff Present: Roy Churchwell, Steve Bethune

Guests Present: Zach and Alisha Decker, Erin Galla, Erich Schall,

III. Approval of Agenda

IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

V. Reports

a. Chair's report

b. ADF&G

c. Others

VI. Public Comment

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

a. Member Elections

1..officer elections: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary

Current Officers:

Kevin Maier, Chair

Atlin Daugherty Vice Chair

Thatcher Brouwer, Secretary



- i. Nominations
- ii. Voting

Kevin: Unanimous consent to reelect all officers to two year terms. No objection.

- b. waterfowl split season discussion
- c. Board of Game Southeast Meeting Proposals

- Proposal 28: Change the hunt boundary from Little Sheep Creek to Sheep Creek, for the RG014 goat hunt in Unit 1C
- Proposal 36: Reduce the bag limit for grouse for drainages that cross the Juneau-Douglas Road system in Unit 1C
- Proposal 37: Reduce the bag limit for ptarmigan for drainages that cross the Juneau Douglas Road system in Unit 1C
- Proposal 38: Amend the youth hunt for Unit 1C Mendenhall Wetland State Game Refuge
- Proposal 39: Amend the hunter education requirement for the Unit 1C Mendenhall Wetland State Game Refuge
- Proposal 40: Allow the take of deleterious exotic wildlife in the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge

IX. Set next meeting date: Do we need to meet to consider statewide Board of Fisheries proposals? If so meeting date will be determined by doodle.

X. Other

Adjourn

Who wants to go? Nick Orr and Kevin Maier expressed interest. They will discuss it.

Adjournment: Jesse

Minutes Recorded By: Thatcher Brouwer
Minutes Approved By: Kevin Maier
Date: 1/6/2023



**Juneau-Douglas Advisory Committee
Summary of Recommendations
11/1/2022 & 12/5/2022**

**Consideration of Southeast Board of Game Proposals
During November 1 and December 5, 2022 JDAC Meetings.**

Alaska Board of Game Southcentral Region Meeting Proposals March 17-21, 2023 Soldotna, 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		
Support, as amended to make 2007 the year.	10	1 And 1 abstain	<p>Ed B. Support. It is essential to have hunter education. Easy to pack fire arms. Can go through online course and then be ready for in person instruction when it is time or logistically possible to attend.</p> <p>Steve B: Concern about getting to all the small communities. Generally support hunter education. Confused about the dates. One part of proposal allowing for under 15 year old kids not to have hunter ed.</p> <p>Nick O: Trying to standardize with language in interior. In 3 years would not be an issue.</p> <p>Steve B. Recommend that we standardize language for other units. 1996 is the generally the year after which hunter ed is required.</p> <p>Nick O. It will make it a lot more difficult to pass. People will not want participate.</p> <p>Steve B. Consistent with other proposals.</p> <p>Nick O and Ed B. Ask that they make it age 18. 2007.</p> <p>Atlin D. Understand Department’s concern that is difficult to access small communities.</p>



Alaska Board of Game Southcentral Region Meeting Proposals

March 17-21, 2023 | Soldotna, 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
			<p>Steve B. Transitioned to fully online classes. No work books to go through. Still require field day. We do not want to deprive anyone of the opportunity to go hunting.</p> <p>Ed B. 18 and older supervision helps with someone who cannot get hunter ed. Covers the opportunity for younger people to go out and get education.</p> <p>Thatcher: Who is responsible for the cost of the field day?</p> <p>Ed B. Fish and Game, but can be subsidized by other groups.</p> <p>Jason K. Are we going to entertain an amendment?</p> <p>Jason K. I move that we amended the proposal that it reads January 2007 in both places in proposal rather than 2010 propose and Nick Orr. 2nd.</p> <p>Steve B. Why are proposing this?</p> <p>Ed B. For educational purpose. Reinforcement of safety issues. Giving every new hunter to learn basics of safety.</p> <p>Chris Miller Question.</p> <p>Ed B. Question. Peter Robertson 2nd.</p> <p>10 support. 1 oppose and 1 abstain</p>
2	Require hunter orientation for hunting goat in Southeast Region units		
3	Remove the requirement for residents to seal black bear skulls harvested in Units 1 - 4		
4	Change the resident bag limit for brown bear in Unit 1 to one bear every two years		
Support As Amended	8	1 and 3 abstain	Jesse Ross's proposal.



Alaska Board of Game Southcentral Region Meeting Proposals

March 17-21, 2023 | Soldotna, 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
To Exclude 1 D and Berner's Bay			<p>Roy Churchwell: For all of unit 1. It would change the brown bear harvest limit from a bear every four years to a bear every two years in Berners Bay and other parts of unit 1. Suggested that Berners Bay be omitted.</p> <p>Department is neutral, but concerns about abundance.</p> <p>Do not want to manage with EO.</p> <p>Think current system is working well.</p> <p>Area that seem to be seeing an increase in Brown Bears in Chilkat and other places. Also seeing an increase in harvest in some areas.</p> <p>All my comments are in draft.</p> <p>Ed Buyarski: Berner's Bay harvest? Has gone down. 2013 was first year you could harvest one bear a year. Do not have a longstanding population estimate of area.</p> <p>Jason K and Roy C. There have been more bears harvested on Chilkat peninsula. Two bears versus five bears.</p> <p>Jason K: Harvest is mirroring population increase?</p> <p>Roy C. More harvesters</p> <p>Jesse R: I have spent a lot of time on the Chilkat Peninsula. I see a lot of big brown bears. That is why I authored proposal. Bears are managed differently in the interior than they are in southeast. Not fair. This is only for residents. Currently one brown bear every 4 years. This would change it to every 2 years. Expensive to take a brown bear. Not required to keep meat, just hide. Ryan Scott thought there was an increase in population.</p> <p>Roy C. 1 D population estimate is coming and is probably less than expected.</p> <p>Ed B: Amendment to proposal to exclude unit 1 D and Berners from this proposal.</p> <p>Nick O. 2nd.</p>



Alaska Board of Game Southcentral Region Meeting Proposals

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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
			<p>Amendment passed by unanimous consent.</p> <p>Roy C and Chris M. How often are population estimates done? Not very often.</p> <p>Kevin M. What is the estimate of resident brown bear populations?</p> <p>Roy C. I do not have estimate, but very few people shoot more than one bear.</p> <p>Jesse R. Comes down to predator management. Big mouth to feed.</p> <p>Kristine T: Who are their predators?</p> <p>Themselves.</p> <p>Kristine T: No controlling</p> <p>Ed B. Question Nick O. 2nd.</p> <p>As amended.</p>
5	Change the waterfowl season in Units 1 - 4 by creating a split season		
Support Concept Without Selecting Date Unanimous Consent.	12	0	<p>November 1, 2022 Meeting Discussion</p> <p>Roy C. Proposal for a split season. Would like a discussion about when the break would be in season.</p> <p>Kristine T: What is the reason.</p> <p>Roy C. Different timing of ducks. We cannot have length of season to cover everyone's needs without a break. Season is only allowed to be a certain number of days.</p>



Alaska Board of Game Southcentral Region Meeting Proposals

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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
Motion at 12.5.22 meeting not to reopen discussion on proposal			<p>Ed B. Who at Fish and Game is going discuss the length of closure/openings?</p> <p>Roy C: We are having these meetings now.</p> <p>Peter R: Likes current system. Feels like October can be good.</p> <p>Kevin: I polled several duck hunters. The closure should not be around thanksgiving. Mid October should be the closure.</p> <p>Kristine T: Who hunts sea ducks?</p> <p>Kevin: Lots of people do.</p> <p>Jesse W: I would support keeping Thanksgiving break open.</p> <p>Peter R: Can we have multiple splits?</p> <p>Roy C: One split.</p> <p>Jody: Break in first two weeks in November?</p> <p>Ed B: I have seen people hunt for both deer and ducks in November.</p> <p>Kevin M: Polled people and they did not support closure over Thanksgiving.</p> <p>Motion: Ed B: October 5th through the 15th closed. Nick o. 2nd.</p> <p>Kristine T: Population?</p> <p>Roy C: Stable.</p> <p>Jason K: Maybe we need to suggest a broad date range. It is going to come down to a range.</p>



Alaska Board of Game Southcentral Region Meeting Proposals

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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
			<p>Ed B: Withdraw motion.</p> <p>Kevin M: Can it go past December 31st?</p> <p>Roy C: Yes.</p> <p>Jody: October would be preferable for a closure. October 15th to November 15th as a closure.</p> <p>Kevin Maier: Move to support proposal and then poll duck hunters? Ducks unlimited? Not contacted.</p> <p>Ed B: I withdraw motion on closure dates and move to</p> <p>Support concept, without picking date range. Passed unanimous consent.</p> <p>December 5, 2022 meeting discussion</p> <p>Ducks unlimited December 12th banquet. Department is doing a poll. No results yet.</p> <p>Roy C: Fish and Game came up with proposal to give everyone a break in the middle.</p> <p>Concerns from Ketchikan about timing.</p> <p>Kevin M: Can it go past December 31st?</p> <p>Roy C: Yes.</p> <p>Peter: Do we have information on timing of harvest?</p> <p>Roy C . No</p> <p>Mike B: Make split, but let board do it. Does the department have time to do survey?</p>



Alaska Board of Game Southcentral Region Meeting Proposals

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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
6	Lengthen river otter trapping seasons in Units 1 - 4 to align with Unit 5		
Support	9	1 and 2 Abstain	<p>Roy C: Department is neutral. Some concern about catching pregnant otters.</p> <p>Nick O: Lots of river otters. Not a population concern. Species that does not get a lot of pressure. I do not think it will impact the resource.</p> <p>Kristine T: Otter gestation period?</p> <p>Roy C: I do not know.</p> <p>Jesse R: There is already otter season underway in other states. They do have a quota, but greater population in those states. Very underutilized. A lot of work to harvest/skin.</p> <p>Chris M: What are the current regs?</p> <p>Roy C: December 1 through February 15th.</p> <p>Jesse W: How much effort?</p> <p>Nick O: Very little effort.</p> <p>Roy C: limited.</p> <p>Jesse R: All recorded in the annual trapping report.</p> <p>Ed question and Nick 2nd</p>



Alaska Board of Game Southcentral Region Meeting Proposals

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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
7	Extend marten trapping seasons to align with wolverine seasons in portions of Units 1 - 4 and 5		
Support	11	0 and 1 Abstain	<p>Roy C: Department is neutral.</p> <p>Nick O: Good way to open season without impacting population.</p> <p>Jesse R: Aligned with a Ketchikan proposal authored by a long time trapper. Only get wolverine opportunity once a month. Reasonable to ask for more time. I support.</p> <p>Kristine T: I disagree. Have not seen Marten in 3 years. Not sure why.</p> <p>Nick O: Study suggested that there are lots.</p> <p>Jesse R: This is a renewable resource. A trapper does not want to over trap. Do not want to ruin next year's season.</p> <p>Ed B. motion and and Chris M. 2nd.</p>
8	Extend the marten trapping season in Units 1 and 2		
Voted to take no Action			<p>Jesse w: Proposal very similar to proposal seven.</p> <p>Jesse w: Moved to take no action. Nick O. 2nd</p> <p>Passed unanimous consent.</p>
9	Extend the wolverine trapping season to March 15 in Units 1 - 5		
Oppose	4	6 and 2 abstain	<p>Roy C: Makes it more difficult to manage if you take females out of den.</p> <p>Jesse R: Hard to target animal. Wide ranging animal. It is a sustainable resource. Trappers on north slope are allowed much longer season. I would support this. Season has been cut down over time.</p> <p>Mike B: Question and Nick O. 2nd</p>
10	Decrease the bag limit to four deer in Unit 4, Remainder		



Alaska Board of Game Southcentral Region Meeting Proposals

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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
Oppose	2	7 and 3 abstain.	<p>Roy C: The department is neutral. Let ACs and public weigh in.</p> <p>Kevin M: What is the update on the RAC proposal?</p> <p>Nick O: back side of Admiralty, Pelican and Hoonah are being considered by RAC as areas to limit deer harvest.</p> <p>Roy C: Three bucks in all areas. And some revisions.</p> <p>Kevin M: I proposed this as a starting conversation/negotiating chip. I do know this is a issue that matters.</p> <p>Nick O: I understand where Kevin is coming from. If they had considered it at the RAC then I would support it. I wrote the proposal for 6 deer. I want to know where the deer are being harvested. I authored my proposal to allow opportunity.</p> <p>Mike B: The reason they are not getting deer is because they are not hunting. The hunters that are still hunting are getting more deer than ever. Fish and Game thinks it is fine (6 deer). It is a real complicated mess.</p> <p>Jesse W: I am going to oppose these. We discussed it in April.</p> <p>Nick O: It is a management tool.</p> <p>Kevin M: This is a gamble because we do not have an opportunity to engage in federal subsistence process. My impression is that it is set up to take up traditional knowledge and not science. We do not have a lot of power in the federal subsistence process.</p> <p>Ed B: Not a biological reason to reduce bag limit.</p> <p>Mike B: None of these proposals meet ANILCA criteria. Not conservation proposals.</p> <p>Nick O: Nothing was offered up during RAC meeting.</p>



Alaska Board of Game Southcentral Region Meeting Proposals

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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
11	Decrease the bag limit to four deer in Unit 4, Remainder		
			<p>Jesse W: I have heard 4 deer is enough, but I think it depends on the family.</p> <p>Ed B. Question and Nick O 2nd</p>
28	Change the hunt boundary from Little Sheep Creek to Sheep Creek, for the RG014 goat hunt in Unit 1C		
Support	9	0 and 6 abstain	<p>Peter R: I want to make small change to current boundaries near Thane. Little Sheep boundary is very nebulous. Does not open up any more accessible terrain, but will make less confusing.</p> <p>Roy C: Department is neutral, but concerned will increase access to goats. It may make it very easy to hunt them in the area that is opened up. There are lots of goats within ¼ mile of road at end of season. Common area for people to watch goats. User conflicts.</p> <p>Roy C: Suggest amendment. Little sheep up to 2,000 feet contour and the ridge that goes to west peak and follow that west peak. Takes out creek portion and allows better established contour line. Does not open up area where there are predictably goats.</p> <p>Ed. B: Do you meet point system? More likely to need EO?</p> <p>Roy C: No, but have come close. Yes. More likely with proposed area.</p> <p>Atlin D: I like proposal as written. I think it is open okay to open area.</p> <p>Peter Question. Ed B. 2nd.</p> <p>Support 9. Oppose 0 Abstain 6</p>
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		



Alaska Board of Game Southcentral Region Meeting Proposals

March 17-21, 2023 | Soldotna, 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
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		
Support Unanimous Consent	16	0	<p>Roy C: Concerned about nannies. Create a penalty for harvesting Nanny. Other places in the state that this happens. Potential that it could go region wide. Some guides support this and some do not.</p> <p>Nick O: How many goats are taken by guides?</p> <p>Roy C: 1C more than half.</p> <p>Mike: Percentage of Nannies to Billies?</p> <p>Roy C. Depends on weather conditions. From 7-10% to 32-35% nannies.</p> <p>Jesse R. Is this a guide use area?</p> <p>Roy C. It would apply to all of 1D.</p> <p>Atlin D. Does the department want this to be regional.</p> <p>Roy C. Department is neutral.</p> <p>Jason K. Is there a biological concern? Is there support from guides in 1D?</p> <p>Roy C. There are some closed areas. Difficult population to manage. Have not discussed with them, but have with 1C and they generally support concept, but unsure if they want to do it this way.</p> <p>Chris M. Are there other populations that have declined/concerns.</p> <p>Roy C. Populations have declined, but still allow hunting. Introduced populations have twins more often.</p>



Alaska Board of Game Southcentral Region Meeting Proposals

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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
			<p>Peter R. Will outfitter be punished?</p> <p>Roy C. No.</p> <p>Zach Decker: I am one of the guides in the Endicott Arm area. I have submitted a proposal in the past. Outfitter could lose access. I understand challenges with the proposal.</p> <p>Chris M: Does not seem like much of a stick if this is only 1 year.</p> <p>Nick O. This is 1D . I am inclined to support.</p> <p>Jason K. Can't we just make this a male only hunt?</p> <p>Roy C. What do we do if someone shoots a nanny? Decided only 1 year.</p> <p>Jesse W. It can be very difficult to tell.</p> <p>Nick O. Step one is guides.</p> <p>Roy C. Guided hunters are less likely to take nannies.</p> <p>Zach. We do a pretty good job harvesting billies. This is our job.</p> <p>Peter R. Question. Ed. B. 2nd.</p> <p>16 support.</p>
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		



Alaska Board of Game Southcentral Region Meeting Proposals

March 17-21, 2023 | Soldotna, 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
35	Extend the bear baiting season for Unit 1D		
36	Reduce the bag limit for grouse for drainages that cross the Juneau-Douglas Road system in Unit 1C		
Support	13	1 and 2 abstain	<p>Roy C. I can see where Peter is going with proposal. Feel grouse population is more impacted by weather. Department is opposed, but not strongly opposed.</p> <p>Peter R: I do not want to make regulation book more complicated. I agree region wide is based on weather. However, we do have local impacts to populations. Technology changes have allowed better access. Could potentially be damaging populations. I believe a 3 bird bag limit is fair. Allow youth access.</p> <p>Nick O: Probably not make a difference in population. Never going to have easy birds. Not sure limit birds will increase easy access birds. Typically get more than 3.</p> <p>Peter R: Make easier for kids. Not easy.</p> <p>Ed B. Stop at 3. Spread catch around.</p> <p>Atlin D: Snowmachine will allow more access.</p> <p>Nick O: Will unnecessarily be limiting ourselves.</p> <p>Thatcher: Is there a biological/stock concern?</p> <p>Roy C: No. Some populations have declined.</p> <p>Jesse R: Worried that we will not get more back.</p> <p>Peter R: Just Juneau road system.</p> <p>Kristine T: disagree that population is healthy. I do not see ptarmigan or hear hooters.</p>



Alaska Board of Game Southcentral Region Meeting Proposals

March 17-21, 2023 | Soldotna, 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
			<p>Ed B: Heard hooters for years, but not this year. A change.</p> <p>Jesse W: I heard birds from lynn canal fire department parking lot.</p> <p>Chris M: Concern about enforcement side of it. Could be difficult.</p> <p>Kevin M: In the past I saw grouse all the time, but do not see them anymore.</p> <p>Peter R. Question. Ed B. 2nd</p> <p>Support 13. Oppose 1 Abstain. 2</p>
37	Reduce the bag limit for ptarmigan for drainages that cross the Juneau Douglas Road system in Unit 1C		
Support	9	4 and 5 Abstain	<p>Peter R. Regionally strong populations. Never seen a flock of 20 from road system. Bag limit is often a goal. Easy to go and shoot a flock.</p> <p>Roy C. We have very little information about ptarmigan. Do not have a lot of information to go on.</p> <p>Ed B. What about other parts of the state?</p> <p>Roy C. Students have looked at unit 13. Declines of the stees highway. Monitoring in other parts of the state, but not in Juneau. Need to be dedicated to go after ptarmigan. Undertaking to monitor them.</p> <p>Jesse R. Proposal is reducing bag limit from 20 to 5. Does science support this? Usually only get one shot even with a flock. Should be science.</p> <p>Atlin D. Easy to shoot more than one ptarmigan. Susceptable.</p> <p>Ed B. Seen a few ptarmigan in southeast. More in other areas in Alaska. I do not see a problem with a 5 bird limit.</p> <p>Roy C. Map is in the A and R.</p>



Alaska Board of Game Southcentral Region Meeting Proposals

March 17-21, 2023 | Soldotna, 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
38	Amend the youth hunt for Unit 1C Mendenhall Wetland State Game Refuge		
Support	16	0	<p>Roy C. Worded to follow big game youth hunt provisions. Mendenhall is a small game hunt. The department is neutral on this. Registrations for all hunters has been 350 – 400. Since change there have not been more youth. Department has no issues with this.</p> <p>Jesse R. Do youth hunts have an age limit?</p> <p>Roy C. No.</p> <p>Eric: Proposer. I proposed 38 and 39 because I have kids. Disappointed that 10 year old could not hunt with family while a 9 year old could.</p> <p>Mike: Disappointed parents this summer. Could not hunt.</p> <p>Jesse R. Makes more opportunity for youth. No set age. I like how this is written.</p>



Alaska Board of Game Southcentral Region Meeting Proposals

March 17-21, 2023 | Soldotna, 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
			Peter R. question and Ed B 2 nd Passed unanimous
39	Amend the hunter education requirement for the Unit 1C Mendenhall Wetland State Game Refuge		
Support	16	0	<p>Roy C. If you are over 10 you need hunter safety currently. Department is neutral on proposal, but leaning to opposed side. Were there is a youth cut off it is 10 elsewhere in state. Do understand that hunter ed is taught to 13 year olds. Creates a reg that is different.</p> <p>Eric: Proposer. Age 10 is arbitrary. School districts choose 13 (6th grade) for a reason. 12 year old can safely hunt with an adult.</p> <p>Atlin D. Parents responsibility. I will support this proposal.</p> <p>Jesse R. How old do you need to be to hunt wetlands.</p> <p>Kevin M. Any age if you have hunter ed. By yourself.</p> <p>Nick O. This makes sense.</p> <p>Peter R. All hunters need hunter ed unless you are under 10 with an adult.</p> <p>Ed B. Question.</p> <p>Unanimous.</p>
40	Allow the take of deleterious exotic wildlife in the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge		
Support as amended to allow during waterfowl season with the firearms			<p>Roy C. The department generally supports this, but could be dangerous and endanger ability to hunt on the wetlands. Year round as written? Can only shoot shotgun on refuge during waterfowl season. Deteriorate hunting experience for waterfowl. More likely shots will go towards houses. Will not have an impact on population. Huge user conflicts especially if occurring during spring and summer time.</p>



Alaska Board of Game Southcentral Region Meeting Proposals

March 17-21, 2023 | Soldotna, 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
that are currently permitted.			<p>Kristine T. Why would a pellet gun be considered illegal to shoot on wetland.</p> <p>Roy C. Only allow shotgun not pellet gun.</p> <p>Eric. I do not care if dog walkers are upset. They are ruining wildlife in other parts of the country. We are not going to lose common sense. This is a wildlife refuge and should be managed for wildlife not dog poop spot. We require hunter safety. You can still follow CBJ rules.</p> <p>Ed B. I agree with Eric that we should remove deleterious wildlife, but do not see them on wetlands. They are near homes. I do not believe opening up to different style firearms is a good idea. We should shoot bird feeders.</p> <p>Kristine T. I have seen flocks of starlings.</p> <p>Jesse R. I like the ability to do it during waterfowl season with allowed fire arms.</p> <p>Peter Robertson. Question. I move that we support alternative proposal/amendment. Ed B. 2nd. Rescind.</p> <p>Jesse Walker: Should we support as written. Question.</p> <p>Support 3. Oppose 6. Abstain. 4</p> <p>Peter. Support amendment (allow during waterfowl season with firearms that are currently allowed) Jesse R. 2nd.</p> <p>Unanimous consent. Support</p>
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		



Alaska Board of Game Southcentral Region Meeting Proposals

March 17-21, 2023 | Soldotna, 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
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
46			Lengthen the hunting season for wolves in Unit 2, to open September 1
47			Require wolf harvest information be reported within 48 hours of recovery and sealing within 14 days in Unit 2
48			Change the methodology for setting the population objective for wolves in Unit 2
49			Utilize the lower confidence interval of the wolf population for estimating the population in Unit 2
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
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
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
54			Identify an area in Unit 2 for protected status for wolves



Adjournment: Jody and Jesse Ross.....

Minutes Recorded By: Thatcher Brouwer

Minutes Approved By: Kevin Maier

Date: 1/6/2023



**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.



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
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			



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
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		



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
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		



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
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.



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
			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		



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
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



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
			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.

Ringeisen: 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



Klawock AC Meeting December 13, 2022

Call to Order: 6:09pm

Roll Call:

Original members present before elections: 3

Total Members after election: 14

Number needed for a quorum: 7

Klawock AC Members	Officer	Present	Absent	Expiration
Dennis Nickerson	Chair		x	June 2024
Kurt Whitehead	Vice Chair	x		June 2025
Brenda Leask	Secretary		x	June 2025
Nick Nickerson		x		June 2024
Tylo Kennedy		x		June 2023
Mike Kennedy Sr.			x	June 2023
Tom Leask			x	June 2023
Irving Langmaid			x	June 2025
Al Edsall		x		June 2023
Mark Tollfedt		x		June 2024
John Priddy		x		June 2024
Katie Rooks		x		June 2025
Roby Medina		x		June 2025
Madison Stumpf		x		June 2024

ADFG Staff present:

Tessa Hasbrouck Unit 2 Asst. Area Biologist (online), Ross Dorendorf Unit 2 Area Biologist (online), Henry Lesia Boards Support (online). Craig Schwanke sport fish biologist.

Guests present:

Al Edsall, Mark Tollfedt, John Priddy, Roby Medina, Madison Stumpf, Katie Rooks(online), Miranda Hamme(online)

Approval of Agenda:

Moved and seconded to approve the agenda for 12.13.2022

Vote:

Unanimously approved

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Moved and seconded to adopt the meeting minutes from 12.15.2021

Unanimously approved



Reports:

Chair: None

ADFG:

Craig Schwanke gave a report on the fish proposals that passed at the last BOF meetings in March.

Prop 82: Modifies the provisions in the SE AK King Salmon Management Plan. Specifically, changes to resident and non-resident bag limits based on the SE AK winter troll fishery CPUE and adds provision that any unused balance of the allocation percentage of the annual harvest ceiling established by the Pacific Salmon Commission be allocated to the troll fishery. Annual limits are changed for nonresidents according to date and creates requirement of a harvest record as specified in 5AAC75.006. Area specific provisions for bag and possession limits are eliminated and limits now apply to the entirety of Southeast. A provision is added for resident priority for closures or restrictions.
Implemented by EO June 20,2022.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other: None

Public Comments:

Roby Medina: Thanked the AC for passing the Klawock crab proposal that restricts crabbing in front of Klawock to locals only.

Nick Nickerson: Spoke with the mayor of Craig, AK about a recent lawsuit filed against the Alaska Trollers Association and the Alaska Longliners Association by a Washington based environmental group claiming the above organizations are taking too many fish and that killer whales/orcas are suffering as a result.

Kurt Whitehead: Will distribute the lawsuit info to the group after the meeting.

Old Business: None



New Business:

Elections:

Moved and seconded to hold elections.

Unanimous vote Yes.

Expired seats: Kurt Whitehead, Brenda Leask & Irving Langmaid's seats have all expired. They are all running for reelection unopposed.

Kurt Whitehead: I spoke with Irving and he would like to run again.

Henry Leasia: Are you nominating Irving?

Kurt: Yes

Nick Nickerson: Motion to nominate Irving Langmaid.

Henry Leasia: You don't need to vote for every individual separately and count votes if they are all unopposed and there is room on the AC. All members present that are willing to run can serve and will be unopposed.

Brenda, Kurt and Irving are all nominated, unopposed and reelected unanimously.

Other nominations:

Mark Tollfedt: Long time professional in the hatchery/fisheries enhancement industry for over 40 years. Local resident, subsistence user and angler that wants to serve on the AC.

Roby Medina: Born and raised on POW, resident of Klawock, local subsistence user, fishing, hunting, trapping background, is a charter guide and wants to serve on the AC.

Madison Stumpf: Charter guide as well, just graduated from college and wants to serve on the AC.

Katie Rooks: Local resident, subsistence user and charter guide that used to work for the FS for 15 yrs. Subsistence is her main interest. Wants to serve on the AC.

John Priddy: Local resident, subsistence user who traps, hunts, fishes and wants to serve on the AC.

Al Edsall: Local resident, subsistence user, angler, hunter and has a background in the AK fisheries enhancement/hatchery industry for decades.

Al Edsall, Mark Tollfedt, John Priddy, Roby Medina, Madison Stumpf and Katie Rooks were all nominated to run in elections on this AC.

Irving Langmaid, Brenda Leask, Kurt Whitehead, Katie Rooks, Roby Medina, Madison Stumpf, Mark Tollfedt, John Priddy & Al Edsall are all re-elected and/or elected to the Klawock AC.

All members are running unopposed and are approved by unanimous consent.

Kurt Whitehead: Gave background info why he drafted the wolf letter and shared his plan to release it.

Kurt Whitehead: Read wolf letter:

1st Wolf Letter as supplied to AC via email and hardcopy at the meeting:

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Groceries are expensive on the island. They are shipped up on a barge from Seattle to Ketchikan, then put on another barge to Thorne Bay where they are distributed by truck to the various stores. The cost to move the food is currently \$0.43/lb and \$0.82/lb if chilled or frozen. Currently, a gallon of milk is \$6.49, a dozen eggs are \$5.19 and ground beef is \$5.99/lb. On top of the high cost of food, gas is expensive, currently \$5.87/gallon and \$6.23/gallon for diesel. The bottom line is that food and fuel costs are a larger percentage of the family budget than in most places around the country.

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

Other Southeast Alaska communities of Ketchikan, Wrangell and Petersburg travel to POW to deer hunt but since 2017, fewer and fewer off island hunters are coming to POW because the deer population has very obviously declined in the past ten years. Hunters have had to spend more time trying to harvest a deer.

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

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

Everyone agrees that wolves are an important part of POW and we enjoy seeing them, hearing them or just knowing that they exist here. Locals have documented wolves swimming between POW and Zarembo Island and almost every other island in and around POW. Wolves are very resilient and like any other population of animals, reasonable population management is important so that they may still be taken for their traditional uses, but also maintain their place in the food chain. ADFG has been very cautious and conservative in management of the wolves and the population has responded by growing to levels many see as too high. Certainly they are not in need of further protection.

Trying to accurately assess the population of wolves in a temperate rainforest has always been difficult. Recent harvests of wolves have shown that the past estimates were much lower than the numbers actually present. As



ADFG continues to refine the methodologies used to estimate populations and balance the populations with carrying capacity, the wolf population will continue to remain viable and healthy.

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

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

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

Moved and seconded to support the wolf letter.



Discussion:

Katie Rooks: We should change some of the wording in the letter. I am opposed to the listing and if it happens it carries a lot of implications to our island and Southeast AK but I recommend we be careful about what is in the letter and how we go about opposing the petition. There are habitat issues, science issues, management issues etc. and the implication of your letter is that the wolf is entirely to blame for the lack of deer. We can get to the same conclusion but need to retool the letter to reflect a broader viewpoint.

Kurt Whitehead: Specifically, what parts of the letter do you disagree with?

Katie Rooks: Is willing to write a stronger argument to support our conclusion of opposing the ESA listing.

John Priddy: There's not a general consensus on why the deer herd is down but there is no logging on the islands of Fernando, Lulu, Noyes and Baker and believes the primary driver for the deer herd is wolves. There are other things affecting the deer but not on those islands that haven't been logged in decades. Believes the primary reason our deer population is low is because of the wolf. There has been a big jump in the predator population since 2012. Doesn't agree with calling them Alexander Archipelago wolves, they are Canadian wolves that migrated out to the POW islands. Gave more background on wolf management the past many years and is convinced the wolf is the main driver of the deer population.

Madison Stumpf: Wolves are the main problem. I've personally been seeing more wolves on our island and am very concerned that our subsistence lifestyle is suffering as a result of the wolves.

Kurt Whitehead: Do any of you have any specific suggestions on improving the letter? Wolves eat deer 365 days a year and are the major driver of the deer population. I'm firmly convinced that wolves are the biggest impact to our deer. Yes, we have stem exclusion.

Katie Rooks: Tens of thousands of acres are in stem exclusion. My suggestion is that we don't disagree but I don't think we should just use wolves as the culprit.

Nick Nickerson: I think a resolution would strengthen our argument. Lets strengthen our argument, then turn it into a properly worded resolution. Then we can submit it to the state and the feds. Petersburg is currently having the same issues with wolves that we are having. Wolves are killing dogs inside the Petersburg city limits. They are trying to list the wolves based on the opinion of one ex-ADFG biologist who is using his outdated data collected years ago. We need to continue gathering data and strengthen our argument. The info in the letter is spot on and if we improve it we can present it to the city council and the tribal council. I'm willing to put it in front of the city council and get their input.

Kurt Whitehead: If we can improve the letter asap and submit the letter it is a good plan.

Nick Nickerson: If we can do it after Christmas, then we can submit it to the tribal council.

Kurt Whitehead: We should leave the letter discussion until the end of the meeting and concentrate on the proposals.

Agreed to continue working on the wolf letter at the next meeting.

Proposals:

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

Tessa Hasbrouck: Neutral on changing the pop objective and opposed to changing the minimum threshold. Evidence suggests that population estimates are likely to be biased low, indicating that wolf management has been too conservative in years past. Agree that the objective itself should be reviewed but we are opposed to changing it right now. It is possible that the objective is to low.

Moved and seconded to Oppose.

Discussion:

Kurt Whitehead: Recapped the other POW AC's views and the opinions including Mike Douville who is likely the most knowledgeable wolf expert on POW as well as Ross Dorendorf. These props were all written by one ex ADFG biologist using outdated data.

Vote:

Majority 8-1 to support (Oppose the prop). Mark Tollfeldt votes in support.

Henry Lesia: If you can make the proposal to support the prop every time that makes it clear in the record exactly what you are saying. Asks that we always support the prop.



Kurt Whitehead: We did that last year on the other AC's but it was very confusing to many. But we will do it your way.

Nick Nickerson: Do you want me to chair?

Kurt Whitehead: Yes! Please! Thank you!

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

Moved and seconded to Support.

Discussion:

John Priddy: This will align the fed and state seasons. This will only affect a small number of wolves harvested. This will simplify the regs and make it easier to enforce.

Kurt: It will give more opportunity for the deer hunters in the field to harvest a wolf with a rifle.

Tessa: We expect this to result in a small number of wolves being harvested with a rifle.

Nick: He opposes it since there will be trapping gear out during the deer season.

Kurt: The hunting season currently starts Dec. 1. This proposal will lengthen the hunting season. This prop will not extend the trapping season, just the hunting season.

Tessa: That is correct Kurt.

Katie: I'm hesitant to support it but it won't add many wolves to the harvest.

Kurt: I'm in support because it will give more opportunity to shoot a wolf which is very difficult.

Vote:

Passes unanimously. Support.

Mark: Any wolf shot also counts towards the total harvest, correct?

Ross: Yes, that is correct. How many members are voting?

Kurt: We have a total of nine voting members here tonight.

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

Tessa Hasbrouck: The current reporting period is 7 days with a 15 day reporting period.

Moved and seconded to support.

Discussion:

Roby: Opposed to having the sealing restrictions become more restrictive.

Katie: What is being changed?

Group: This will make the reporting period shorter and it can be very difficult for our trappers if they are in remote areas out of cell range, on a boat and/or camping.

Kurt: Is in opposition.

Tessa: **Current regs:** The reporting period is 7 days and the sealing period is 15 days. This prop only impacts wolves harvested on state land.

Kurt: This is difficult for trappers if they are in remote areas. There are two different parts to this prop. There is a reporting period and a sealing period.

Ross: Current numbers on the wolf harvest is 29 but that is just for the call in period. The final count will be known on Dec. 31.

Kurt : What is ADFG's opinion of this prop?

Tessa: They are in support.

John: What percentage of federal lands are in unit 2?

Tessa: 80%

John: Why are the reporting periods different on the two different lands; federal vs state?

Tessa: The federal subsistence board did not like the call in period. That is why they are different.

Ross: Having a tighter call in period will give ADFG more accurate data.

Kurt: If this prop passes, would this help our argument to fight the ESA listing?

Ross: One of the criteria used to list the species is insufficient management which is a listable justification. A shorter reporting period will give us more accurate data sooner. So, yes it could help in that way.

Katie: This could absolutely be used in a comment and could help our cause to fight the ESA.



Kurt: What if we support it but suggest a 72hr reporting period. We can make it with our own comment.

Nick: Then we should oppose this motion and make a new motion.

John: There is a very small group of people that are trapping these wolves for all of our benefit. This will affect them much more than the majority of the trappers who harvest just a few here and there. There are less than 5 individuals on POW that catch the majority of the wolves for the benefit of all of us. This prop will disenfranchise those trappers. People don't realize how difficult, time consuming and expensive it is to catch a wolf and this will make it that much harder. He is adamantly opposed.

Roby: The more we restrict ourselves, we rarely get those changes back. We should be very careful.

John: Gave background on why there is a division between ADFG and trappers on PoW and spoke about some of the past history. Also does not agree with the name Alexander Archipelago wolf. They are just a Canadian wolf that swims out to the islands. Does not like it at all.

Tessa: The AA wolf is a known subspecies.

John: What does the science/dna show?

Tessa: I will send the AC that info.

Vote:

Fails unanimously. Opposed.

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

Moved and seconded to support.

Discussion:

Madison: I support this because we haven't had accurate population estimates in the past so this prop might offer better estimates.

Kurt: What is the current methodology and what will this prop change?

Tessa: This prop suggests we use a PVA model which gives a loose output. PVA's are good at showing you what data you are lacking. This prop only wants us to use PVA's to estimate populations. ADFG is opposed to this prop. A PVA is a tool but is not the only tool and shouldn't be used by itself. We are using a different method that works better.

Ross: Our pop objective is 150-200 wolves. If this prop passes our pop objective would change to whatever the PVA tells us it should be.

Kurt: The main methodology to estimate the wolf pop is the hairboard study. ADFG is also in the beginning stages of incorporating trail cameras into the pop estimate. Hairboards alone don't capture the wolves in the pack that avoid the hair boards. We have asked ADFG to continue refining its methodologies. If we pass this prop, it will change the pop estimate dramatically.

Katie: If you don't like the pop estimates using hairboards, you will like this even less, guaranteed.

Vote:

Fails unanimously. Opposed.

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

Moved and seconded to Support

Discussion:

Kurt: Asked Tessa/Ross to give an overview. This would unnecessarily restrict hunters and trappers to get out in the field.

Ross: ADFG is opposed b/c it unnecessarily limits harvest opportunity. They are trying to make it more conservative and want to use the lower confidence interval of the pop estimate. We have learned that we have been biased low in the past and this prop will not be accurate and it will unnecessarily restrict hunter/trappers.

Vote:

Fails unanimously. Opposed.

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



Moved and seconded to Support

Discussion:

John: This will change the wolf population estimate by removing the outer islands from the study. This is wrong.

Katie: How many folks trap on the outer islands?

Ross: The reason AWA proposes this is because most of the hair board study is not on the outer island due to logistics/Wx. They are saying we shouldn't be able to extrapolate the pop density on those islands. If passed this will lower the pop estimate. There are definitely wolves on those islands and it is appropriate to estimate the wolves on those islands. If passed this will limit harvest opportunity and lower the pop estimate.

Vote:

Fails unanimously. Opposed.

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

Moved and seconded to Support

Discussion:

Kurt: What are ADFG's comments on this prop?

Tessa: ADFG is opposed, this prop. It seeks to go back to a quota system. ADFG has met or exceeded the wolf pop estimate every year. In short, our management is working.

Kurt: This prop will change many things.

Vote:

Fails unanimously. Opposed

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

Moved and seconded to support

Discussion:

Kurt: Please give us ADFG's comments

Tessa: We are opposed to this for all the same reasons as the previous proposals.

Ross: This prop specifies that BOG will meet annually to make management decisions which is very burdensome.

Vote:

Fails unanimously. Opposed.

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

Moved and seconded to support

Kurt: What are ADFG's comments?

Tessa: We are opposed. Our current management strategy is working. Setting an unreported mortality rate isn't important b/c our current system accounts for the animals coming into and out of the area.

Katie: There is unreported mortality of deer and wolf due to illegal harvest.

Tessa: We know unreported mortality exists but this isn't a major factor on how we manage wolves b/c our system accounts for the animals coming into and out of the area.

Ross: Gave more info but doesn't think this prop will help manage wolves.

Vote:

Fails unanimously. Opposed

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

Moved and seconded to support

Kurt: Please give us ADFG's comments.



Tessa: Gave more info why ADFG is opposed.

Discussion:

Vote:

Fails unanimously. Opposed.

We should discuss several other props that affect SE but need to do it later.

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

Moved and seconded to have **Kurt Whitehead** represent the **Klawock AC** at the **BOG**.

Vote:

Passes unanimously. Support.

We will review the remainder of the proposals at our next meeting.

Nick: We need to get Dennis to draft a resolution for us prior to the tribal meeting.

Katie: I'm happy to help.

Kurt: Katie, I value your insight completely. You are excellent at writing, you are very knowledgeable and experienced, you care about POW and absolutely, we will enlist your help.

Nick: I would request to include Dennis on the drafting of the letter.

Next meeting is tentatively December 26 or 27, 2022.

Meeting adjourned: 8:28 pm

Minutes recorded by: Kurt Whitehead

Minutes approved by: Kurt Whitehead

Date: 12.13.22

Klawock AC Meeting December 27, 2022

Call to Order: 6:18pm

Roll Call:

Total Members: 14

Number needed for a quorum: 7

Klawock AC Members	Officer	Present	Absent	Expiration
Dennis Nickerson	Chair		x	June 2024
Kurt Whitehead	Vice Chair	x		June 2025
Brenda Leask	Secretary		x	June 2025
Nick Nickerson		x		June 2024
Tylo Kennedy		x		June 2023
Mike Kennedy Sr.		x		June 2023
Tom Leask			x	June 2023
Irving Langmaid		x		June 2025
Al Edsall		x		June 2023
Mark Tollfedt		x (online)		June 2024
John Priddy			x	June 2024
Katie Rooks		x		June 2025
Roby Medina		x (online)		June 2025
Madison Stumpf		x (online)		June 2024

ADFG Staff present:

Craig Schwanke sport fish biologist, Boards Support (online).

Guests present: Tom George

Approval of Agenda:

Moved and seconded to approve the agenda for 12.27.2022

Vote:

Unanimously approved

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Agreed to approve the meeting minutes from 12.13.2022 at our next meeting.

Reports:

Chair: None

ADFG: None

Other: None



Public Comments: None

Elections:

Agreed to elect officers & review expiration dates at our next meeting.

Old Business:

Wolf letter

The Klawock, AK Fish and Game Advisory Council is grateful for this opportunity to participate in the public process about resource management in our state.

On July 15, 2020, the Center for Biological Diversity, Alaska Rainforest Defenders and Defenders of Wildlife petitioned the Secretary of Interior/US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW) to list the Alexander Archipelago (AA) Wolf in Southeast Alaska as threatened or endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. The first petition to list the AA wolf was filed in 1993. The second was filed in 2011. The third and current one was filed in 2020 also requests that critical habitat be designated for AA wolves in Southeast Alaska. The document can be found at www.biologicaldiversity.org and www.doi.gov. We would like to state that the recurring petition process takes time away from resource managers studying wolf populations and other important issues and is disruptive for certain residents. The signatories of this document believe that the AA wolf should not be listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Prince of Wales Island, the third largest island in the United States, is home to approximately 3500 residents that reside in twelve rural communities, ranging from 35 in remote Point Baker to over 1000 in Craig. Many residents rely largely on a subsistence way of life. Subsistence in rural Alaska means legally that residents can fish and hunt under bag limits that allow us to fill our freezers and pantries because we do not have access to goods and services that people who live in urban areas have. Traditional subsistence lifestyles have been and still are practiced by the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian people who have lived here since time immemorial. Prince of Wales area census data from 2021 shows 41.6% Alaska Native residents, almost half the population in POW's communities.(1) Subsistence is a very important part of Alaska Native culture, tradition and heritage.(2) Deer hunting, as a major part of the subsistence lifestyle, is vitally important on POW. Our relationships, mental and physical health and food security are all improved by deer hunting. Deer hunting on POW is more important because this is the only populated area in the region with just one ungulate game animal; POW does not have caribou, moose, elk, sheep, bison, mountain goat or muskox.

Today, subsistence on POW is critical in terms of food security, as soaring inflation nation-wide has increased the cost of all goods and services. Shipping chilled or frozen food here costs \$0.82/lb. In Klawock this week, a gallon of milk is \$6.49, a dozen eggs are \$5.19, and ground beef is \$5.99 per pound. Additionally, gas is currently \$5.87/gal and \$6.23/gal diesel. The bottom line is that food and fuel costs are a much larger percentage of the family budget that average.

Information presented by Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) and other agencies at the 2022 Deer Summit on POW (October 13-15, 2022) show that the deer population has obviously declined in the past ten years. In 2012, hunters in Unit 2 averaged about 3.5 days of hunting effort per deer harvested; in 2022, hunters spent an average of 4.9 days trying to harvest a deer, according to hunt report survey data from 2012-2021.(3)

We acknowledge that the deer population is affected by numerous factors, including habitat loss from fifty years of industrial scale old-growth logging on POW.(4) We have noticed that, while ADFG reports link POW old-growth forest to healthy deer populations and state that the POWA deer population is in trouble, (5) Division of Forestry staff continue to describe the old-growth stands they cut here as low value and minimize their importance to deer and to hunters. (6) That doesn't agree with what we heard at the 2022 Deer Summit. We also acknowledge there is work to be done in terms of considering changing deer bag limits or seasons in response to population concerns.

While we acknowledge that POW is not the only place where the AA wolf exists, we do know that effects of management actions are felt more sharply on our island; in part, because it is an island. We have seen more wolves more frequently over the past decade, so we have questions about whether this trend is occurring in other places within the AA wolf's range. ADFG has been cautious and conservative, but to accurately assess the population of



wolves in a temperate rainforest has always been difficult. As ADFG continues to refine the methodologies used to estimate and balance populations with carrying capacity, we expect the wolf population will remain healthy. We know the AA wolf is a top predator of Sitka blacktail deer and is far from being endangered. Our personal observations and trends in ADFG data lead us to believe the wolf is thriving in our area. Recent harvests of wolves (7) have shown that past estimates were much lower than current numbers reflect.

If the AA wolf is listed under the Endangered Species Act, the federal government will assume authority over management, which will end legal trapping and hunting of wolves. If deer populations are decreasing, it doesn't make sense to list one of its top predators as endangered unless there is credible science and data that show good cause. ADFG has a growing list of data and science, including its own studies here on POW, proving the AA Wolf should not be listed under the Endangered Species Act.(8)

Everyone agrees that wolves are an important part of POW and we enjoy seeing them, hearing them or just knowing that they exist here. However, listing the AA wolf as endangered will not accomplish better management and will eliminate all legal take of the top non-human predator in an island ecosystem where Sitka blacktail deer is the only ungulate prey available.

We strongly oppose listing the Alexander Archipelago wolf as endangered or threatened.

The Klawock ADFG Advisory Council

Moved and seconded to approve the above wolf letter.

Discussion:

Irving Langmaid: Who filed the petition?

Katie Rooks: Told us who filed the petition. It is a public process which means that any person in the USA has a right to file a lawsuit regarding public lands.

Tom George: Doesn't like the Nov. 15 start date with wolf trapping due to the deer harvest/rut. He would like to see the start date moved to Jan. 1. This will greatly reduce the number of bears and deer caught in the traps. The number of deer caught in traps in Nov. is substantial.

Nick Nickerson: We don't have this letter in resolution form but maybe we can by the time of the BOG.

Vote:

Passes unanimously. Support.

New Business:

Nick Nickerson: Lawsuit against trollers and longliners. A Washington conservation group filed a lawsuit against the AK Trollers and AK Longliners on behalf of Orcas. We need to respond to this new Orca lawsuit as well as the wolf lawsuit.

Roby Medina: Asked about getting the exact info/facts so we can give an educated response on the Orca lawsuit.

Tom George: Spoke about the lawsuit and how there used to be so much more herring in all of SE AK. We are currently at a 10.4lb average on kings and the kings are starving because there isn't anymore herring. In years past, there was a lot more herring and now it's a drop in the bucket compared to what it used to be. This lawsuit should be targeting the trawlers out West that kill our juvenile king salmon. The herring needs to be protected around here, this is the food source for all the other fish. We need to quit harvesting our herring.

Kurt Whitehead: We will address the fishing proposals at our next meeting, right now we need to comment on the hunting props before the Jan. 6 deadline. Prop 201 was written to address the sea otter infestation in SE AK.



Proposals:

Prop 201: Create a sea otter management plan.

Moved and seconded to support prop 201

Discussion:

Roby Medina: One important issue is the fact that Alaska Coastal Natives currently need to meet a 1/4 blood quantum to be able to harvest otters and that is becoming more difficult. A solution would be to change the minimum requirement to harvest sea otters to "being enrolled in a Federally recognized tribe".

Nick Nickerson: Spoke about how this is a federal regulation under the marine mammal protection act. The state won't listen to us about the otter issue but something needs to be done. This is a state proposal regarding federal law so it won't go anywhere.

Katie Rooks: Doesn't support this prop.

Tom George: One solution might be able to have the tribal governments stamp the otter hides and be able to sell the hides afterwards.

Craig Schwanke: Gave background on why the prop was written to highlight a problem and spur discussion.

Vote:

Unanimously fails.

Prop 1: Require certified hunter safety education to hunt in Units 1-5

Discussion:

Irving Langmaid: Is not in support of this prop and gave background. It is a good concept but he has issues with the instructors/implementation in rural areas.

Al Edsall: There are a lot of people that don't have a clue what they're doing with firearms.

Katie Rooks: It is a good idea but is not in support of it in AK.

Nick Nickerson: Is not in support, he doesn't hear of any Accidental Discharges in AK.

Moved and seconded to Oppose.

Vote:

Unanimously opposed. Voted against prop 1.

Kurt Whitehead: Moving forward, we need to support every prop and if we don't like it, we vote it down. We shouldn't make a motion to oppose any props.

Prop 2: Require hunter orientation for hunting goats in SE AK

Kurt Whitehead: Opposed to this because nannies are legal, they taste good, they are difficult to judge and some folks want to take a nanny. The burden to comply with the prop would be significant.

Moved and seconded to support.

Discussion: None

Vote:

Unanimously fails. Opposed.

Prop 3: Remove the requirement for residents to seal black bear skulls in Unit 1-4.

Kurt Whitehead: Read the prop and is opposed to it for many reasons. Spoke about how the current system works well and allows ADFG to collect important data that is valuable to help manage our bears.

Moved and seconded to support

Vote:

Unanimously fails. Opposed.



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

Kurt Whitehead: Asked Craig Schwanke to speak on it since they can hear him better and he's been at the other AC meetings and is a duck hunter himself.

Craig Schwanke: I am not a wildlife biologist but I can give more info. as I've been at the last several meetings discussing the same prop. Gave background info on why this prop came about and how the federal season is 107 days.

Kurt Whitehead: Lots of bird hunters like to hunt early for the migrating ducks/geese and there are also many that like to hunt late for seaducks. It seems the best two weeks to shutdown would be the last two weeks of Sept. but it is a difficult decision b/c SE AK is so large.

Roby Medina: Anything that is not during trapping season would be his preference but he doesn't have a favorite.

Tom George: Asked exactly what a split season was?

Craig Schwanke: Answered his question.

Tom George: It is tough to pick the 2 worst weeks of waterfowl season.

Craig Schwanke: Correct. SE AK is a big area so its different up around Haines than down here.

Tom George: Oct 16 is when geese are going by the Stikine but not out here. The first 2 weeks of Oct would be his vote to close the season.

Craig Schwanke: Yes, it's a difficult to get the perfect closure.

Irving Langmaid: Spoke about how it is not ideal to have a split season.

Craig Schwanke: The federal season is 107 total days and that is what we are working with and why it can't be longer.

Tom George: It's tough to get the perfect closure for all of SE AK.

Moved and seconded to approve.

Vote

Unanimously fails. Opposed.

Craig Schwanke: The department wants to know about dates as well.

Irving Langmaid: The last week of Sept and first week of Oct are his vote for a closure.

Nick Nickerson: The prop will create a split season

Prop 6: Lengthen river otter trapping seasons in Units 1-4 to Nov. 10-March 31.

Kurt Whitehead: Supports trappers completely but isn't an expert so he's glad Roby and Tom are able to speak on this prop.

Tom George: Is a life long trapper. Otter is one of his specialties. In the past, he has trapped 278 otter in one year. Fur is not prime on Dec. 1 but doesn't start to get really good until the 2nd or 3rd week of Dec. Lengthening the season past the end of Feb is as long as it should go. Pelts in March get singed and aren't prime. Is opposed to starting earlier than Dec. 1 and also opposed to trapping after the end of Feb due to fur quality. Has always put up exceptionally well cared for furs. Objects to this prop.

Moved and seconded to support.

Vote:

Unanimously fails.

Prop 7: Extend marten trapping season to align with wolverine season in Units 1-4 to Nov. 10-Feb. 28.

Kurt Whitehead: Asked Tom or Roby to speak to the proposal.

Tom George: Marten fur is not prime until Dec. 1 at the earliest but is in support of trapping them until Feb. 28.

Moved and seconded to support.

Vote:

Unanimously fails.



Prop 8: Extend marten trapping season in Units 1 & 2 to Dec. 1-Feb. 28.

Kurt Whitehead: Asked Tom to speak on prop.

Tom George: Is in support of the prop. Blue hide means the hairs of the pelt have not embedded in the hide and are not prime.

Moved and seconded to support.

Vote:

Unanimously passes in Support.

Kurt Whitehead: Didn't address the last statewide prop 4 regarding brown bear but asked if anyone has anymore props we want to discuss/comment on in the other regions.

Next meeting date to review board of fish proposals. Tentatively scheduled for Jan. 9-18. Comments are due by Feb. 23, 2023.

Kurt Whitehead: Asked if Tom George wants to be a member of the AC? If so, we can hold another election.

Tom George: Yes, he would like to be a part of the AC.

Kurt Whitehead: Great, we will hold another election at the next meeting and we will also hold officer elections at that time.

Meeting adjourned: 7:32 pm

Minutes recorded by: Kurt Whitehead

Minutes approved by: Kurt Whitehead

Date: 12.27.22



**Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee
December 21, 2022
Zoom**

I. Call to Order: 7:04pm by Herb Mansavage

II. Roll Call

Name	Present	Excused/Unexcused	Terms
Herb Mansavage-Chair	X		06/30/2024
Chad Schierman- Sec	X		06/30/2023
Chad Lipse-Fish		Excused	06/30/2023
Gene Sandone	X		06/30/2023
Robert Cassell	X		06/30/2023
Mike Barnett		Excused	06/30/2023
Melvin Grove	X		06/30/2024
Birch Yuknis		Excused	06/30/2024
Neil DeWitt	X		06/30/2024
Dom Nickles	X		06/30/2024
Dan Montgomery-Game	X		06/30/2025
Andy Couch	X		06/30/2025
Austin Manelick	X		06/30/2025
Aaron Bloomquist		Excused	06/30/2025
Hunter Hongslo	X		06/30/2025
Casey Dinkel- ALT		Excused	06/30/2023
Dan Lewis- ALT	X		06/30/2023

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8

List of User Groups Present: None

III. Fish and Game Staff Present: Fari Sylvester

IV. Guests Present: None

V. Approval of Agenda: Neil motioned, Andy seconded – Approved with no objections.

VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: None

VII. Public Comment: None

VIII. Old Business: None

IX. New Business:



- a. **Western Arctic Caribou Working Group Update (Neil)**
 - Declining preservative mode, 166k population, 12k subsistence harvest
 - Proposal to change limit from 5 per day to 4 annually (1 cow)
 - Letter of interest needed to consider adding Matanuska Valley member.
- b. **Letter to Governor regarding funding of Weir Projects (Andy)**
 - Motion by Dan for AC to approve letter, Neil seconded.
 - Amendment to motion by Dan to allow Andy and Gene to add visuals/charts and submit no later than 12/30/2022, Neil seconded.

X. Proposals:

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>			
2	Require hunter orientation for hunting goat in Southeast Region units		
Support	9	2	Support: Differentiating Billies and Nannies can be difficult, education for novice hunters, lowering Nanny kill helps population. Oppose: Orientation in other units did not help Nanny kill, adds layer and not necessary.
4	Change the resident bag limit for brown bear in Unit 1 to one bear every two years		
Oppose	0	11	Oppose: Not necessary to liberalize, department is opposed, potential overharvest.
7	Extend marten trapping seasons to align with wolverine seasons in portions of Units 1 – 4 and 5		
Oppose	0	10	Oppose: Marten season currently aligns with other furbearers so extended would take it out of alignment, not necessary to change current seasons. Interest in understanding reasoning for trapping seasons on different species not aligning.
8	Extend the marten trapping season in Units 1 and 2		
Oppose	0	10	Oppose: Not necessary to change current seasons.
9	Extend the wolverine trapping season to March 15 in Units 1 - 5		
Oppose	0	10	Oppose: No reason to extend season, denning/pupping concerns.



XI. Set Next Meeting Date: January 25th, 2023 (TCM) – Agenda to include Anchorage area (14C).

XII. Other:

- Aleutian Island BOF comments due February 3rd, Gene to send out proposals of interest
- Southcentral BOG comments due March 3rd
- Andy suggested discussion about moose permits in valley on agenda in near future.

XIII. Adjourn: 8:48pm

Minutes Recorded By: Chad Schierman

Date: 12/21/2022



Pelican Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, December 15, 2022, 6:00 pm Location: Pelican City Office

Call in 1-833-548-0282 Access Code 837 7832 4827

Members Present: Michael Allard, Patricia Phillips, Celeste Weller, Jamison Mork, William Combs

Members on Teleconference: Norm Carson Quorum Present.

Also on teleconference: Steve Bethune, ADFG; Haley Heniff, ADFG

Patricia Phillips renews 3-year term

Michael Allard renews 3-year term

Jamison Mork renews 2-year term

William Combs renews for a 2-year term

Member Elections

Chair – Nominations opened. Celeste Weller nominates Patricia Phillips for Chair. Nominations closed. Michael Allard seconds. All those in favor 6/ opposed 0. Motion carried. Passes

Vice Chair - Nominations opened. Celeste Weller nominates Michael for Vice Chair. Nominations closed. Jamison Mork seconds. All those in favor 6/ opposed 0. Motion carried. Passes

Secretary – Nominations opened. Patricia Phillips nominates Celeste Weller for secretary. Nominations closed. Michael Allard seconds. All those in favor 6/ opposed 0. Motion carried. Passes

Board of Game Southeast Region Proposals

Proposal 1, 5AAC 92.003 Hunter Education and orientation requirements. Celeste Weller moves to support; Patricia Phillips seconds. Motion carries 6 in favor, unanimous.

Support the proposal in general. Where can you take the course; support if the course can be taken online. Train a local resident to administer the field test; ask the Alaska State Trooper and/or the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program to administer the field test. The logistics of requiring a person to travel to Juneau to take the field test is cost prohibitive, roundtrip to Juneau is \$500, lodging and meal is another \$250. Need to find a solution to send someone to the villages to administer the field test.

Proposal 5, 5AAC 85.065 Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. Mike Allard moves to support; Celeste Weller seconds. Motion carries 6 in favor, unanimous.

Support the ADFG recommendation to implement a split season in Units 1 – 4 to hunt migratory birds. The Pelican AC has no preference on closure dates.



Proposal 10, 5AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer. Celeste Weller moves to support; Mike Allard seconds. Motion carries 6 in favor, unanimous.

Proposal 11, 5AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer. Jamison Mork moves to support; Mike Allard seconds. Motion carries 6 in favor, unanimous.

The proponent provides a clear justification and reasonable observations. Deer numbers in Lisianski Inlet and Lisianski Strait are wary to increased vessel traffic. There is more deer numbers on the outer coast. Good deer numbers behind Pelican. No snow in November keeps the deer out of the beach fringe.

Proposal 14, 5AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. No action taken.

Steve Bethune provided an explanation of the proposal. The Pelican AC chose to take no action. Some members supported the proposal; abundant bears need to be managed; other members concerned about the safety of others by expanding hunt areas closer to the community.

Fish Issues

Move to support reinstatement of the spring troll king salmon season in Lisianski Inlet area. Mike Allard moves to support; Jamison Mork seconds. Motion carries 6 in favor, unanimous.

Keep the local economy going in the spring. Keep a count on the number of wild fish versus tagged fish. Number of fishermen is low, the impact to the resource is low.

Move to support Fish Creel person in Pelican. Jamison Mork moves to support; Celeste Weller seconds. Motion carries 6 in favor, unanimous.

Need a creel observer in Pelican meeting boats, assessing catch, deter undersize and illegal king salmon retention and wanton waste. Sport fishing going on in inlet while the traditional commercial trollers are shut down.

Want to know the numbers of fish caught, including tagged fish; rockfish, and halibut.

Seasonal residents are impacting the local area. There are increasing numbers of sport fish clients earlier in the season, impacting the local area harvest.

There is a black-hole lack of information, the sport fish harvest goes un-reported.

Puget Sound Lawsuit – what is ADFG’s plan to respond to the Puget Sound lawsuit?

Move to adjourn 7:15 pm

Minutes Recorded By: Patti Phillips, Chair
Submitted on: 12-19-22



**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

<p>Alaska Board of Game Southeast Region Meeting Proposals January 20-24, 2023 Ketchikan, AK</p>	
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
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



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
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			



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
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



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
			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		



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
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



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
	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.



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
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



**Sitka Advisory Committee
Summary of Recommendations
12/7/2022 & 12/14/2022**

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		
	0	15	not practical in SE
2	Require hunter orientation for hunting goat in Southeast Region units		
	0	15	current online education course and "one and done" are working
3	Remove the requirement for residents to seal black bear skulls harvested in Units 1 - 4		
			No Action. We do not have black bear in our area.
5	Change the waterfowl season in Units 1 - 4 by creating a split season		
	15	0	Amended: Season would be Sept 1 to November 30. closed December 1 through 15. Open December 16 to 31.
6	Lengthen river otter trapping seasons in Units 1 - 4 to align with Unit 5		
	12	2	Low effort, no population concern
7	Extend marten trapping seasons to align with wolverine seasons in portions of Units 1 - 4 and 5		
	14	0	Amended to change Feb 28 to "last day in February."
8	Extend the marten trapping season in Units 1 and 2		
			No Action. out of area
9	Extend the wolverine trapping season to March 15 in Units 1 - 5		
			No Action. not applicable
10	Decrease the bag limit to four deer in Unit 4, Remainder		
	4	10	Majority:No conservation reason for this; Minority: political stability
11	Decrease the bag limit to four deer in Unit 4, Remainder		
	4	10	Majority:No conservation reason for this; Minority: political stability
12	Open the Mitchell Bay Closed Area in Unit 4 to brown bear hunting		
			No action- out of area



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
32	Restrict hunters who take nanny goat in Unit 1D from hunting goat the following regulatory year in Unit 1D		
	0	14	amended to substitute "Unit 4" for "Unit 1D". Proposal would encourage non reporting of Nanny kills. Our "one and done" management strategy is working.

Minutes Recorded By: Stacey Wayne
Minutes Approved By: Heather Bauscher
Date: 1/6/2023



Sitka Advisory Committee
12/7/2022 6:00 p.m.
Sitka Sound Science Center & Zoom

AC Members Present:

- Lucas Bastian, Guide
- Steve Ramp, Resident Sportfish
- Tad Fujioka Processor
- Heather Bauscher, Conservation
- Mo Johnson, Seine
- Karen Johnson, at large
- Dick Curren Longline
- John Murray, Troll
- Woody Cyr,
Trapping
- Spencer Chute,
Charter Eric
Jordan, at large
- Stacey Wayne, shellfish
- Kent Barkau, Hunting

ADFG STAFF

Jake Wieliczkiwicz, Assistant area manager for sportfish

Steve Bethune- Area Wildlife biologist

Members of the public

- Carrie Driver, interested in subsistence seat (background in trolling and degree in biology from Humbolt State)
- Scott Wagner, interested in at large seat (general manager at NSRAA, SJ hatchery interested in Alternate seat)
- Mike Coleman-gillnetter
- Mike Vaughn-duck hunter
- Schuyler Mace, interested in HT, hunting or subsistence seat (hand troller, fairly new to fishery)
- Josh Chevalier, interested in subsistence seat, could also serve in HT seat (long history of trolling, subsistence)



Agenda for tonight's meeting:

- Call to order
- Roll Call
- Quorum
- ADF&G Staff intros
- Guests Present
- Approve Agenda
- Approve Previous Minutes
- Elections- Hunting, Subsistence, Hand Troll, Seine, At Large, Alternate (2)
- Public Comment- MSC re-certification process for Alaska salmon is currently underway, there are specific concerns regarding hatcheries and also SE troll Chinook fishery due to issues with Puget Sound orca
- Reports- Chair, ADF&G, Others (Jake Wieliczkievicz has a sport fisheries report of last summer)
- Old Business- NPFMC updates (our AC comments and testimony so far is attached to this email)
- New Business- BoG
- Start digging into Board of Game Proposals "Not Deer" (Deer will be next week)
- Adjourn

Agenda approved

Minutes approved as amended (Steve asked to remove an exclamation point).

Elections:

Interested parties introduce themselves and explain why they want to be elected to the committee.

- Seine Seat: Tad Nominates Moe, Karen seconds, Moe Johnson is elected.
- At large: Steve Nominates Karen, Tad Seconds, Karen Johnson is elected
- Hunting seat: Stacey nominates Kent for hunting seat, Steve seconds, Kent Barkau is elected.
- Hand Troll seat: Tad nominates Josh Chevalier, Josh steps aside in favor of Schuyler Mace. Schuyler Mace is elected to the Hand troll seat.
- Subsistence Seat: Both Josh and Carrie are nominated for subsistence seat. Josh Chevalier wins seat by secret ballot.



- Alternates: Tad nominates Carrie Driver, Steve seconds; Stacey Nominates Scott Wagner for the second alternate seat, Kent seconds. Carrie and Scott are elected to the two alternate seats.

We flip a coin and Carrie will serve in the one year seat and Scott will have the 2 year seat.

FISH REPORT

- Jake Wieliczkiwicz gives a report about sport fishing effort and catch rates this past year and answers questions from the AC.

- total SE sport king catch 42,600, including 34,500 treaty fish, 12,600 below sport allocation

-Sitka area stream survey for coho was > escapement goal as it usually is; 2022 was ~ long term average

- Redoubt sockeye escapement was very high

-Lingcod slot limit was liberalized in an attempt to increase sport catch to closer to GHL

-Good turn out at Swan Lake kid's fishing day

- John Murray: Why were so many Kings (12,600) were left on the table in the sport fishery? Jake indicated that the public had complained about the complexity of the previous regulations, so sportfish simplified the regs and refrained from in-season management, but that meant that they were not able to respond to low inseason catch rates except for removing the 28" size limit in Silver Bay.

-Mo Johnson: What were coho counts in Nakwasina and Katlian?

Jake said that they don't survey Katlian. Nakwasina peak count was 444 which is close to the 10-yr average

Steve: Local residents were frustrated that the resident bag limit in 2022 was lower than it had been in 2021 even though the sport allocation in 2022 was higher than it had been in 2021

Heather Baucher gives a **report on the North Pacific Fisheries Management meeting**: She sent in our comments from our last meeting asking for stricter limits on sablefish, crab and salmon bycatch in the Trawl fisheries. The council will likely wait until their meeting this spring in Sitka to vote on whether to impose stricter limits. Also submitted letter on unguided boat rental issue

Steve **reports on the halibut charter committee meeting that he attended with the region's charter group**. Steve was able to share our concern about unguided fisherman using that



status as a loophole to have more liberal limits on halibut and how this could lead to overfishing. Some of the charter council members especially Andy Mezirow voiced interest in recommending action to create some regulations for unguided boat rental fishery. John M. asks about the difference between the issue in 3A and 2C. Answer- 2C has 1 fish limit and only uses size limits with reverse slot limit to manage harvest. 3A uses more tools including weekly closures, boat limits and annual limits. One of the challenges is formally identifying/defining rental boats.

Steve Bethune reports on regions game issues

He petitioned the BOG to move the GMU 1C/ GMU 4 boundary to the south side of Pleasant Island (near Gustavus). Sitka has a new program technician, Haley. Now we will be able to do more field projects.

He is still lobbying for a new brown bear population study. He feels like the population is steady

We can take up to 172 bears each year; recent average only 120 bears taken per year, and 85% of those are male. That 120 includes all the bears taken in defense of property or by accident. Last year we killed 14 bears in Sitka in 2021 and 5 bears this year. 5 sounds like fewer bears, but that is still one of the highest numbers in history. He has attended the local bear task force and thinks the group will make final recommendations to the city.

Steve has been promoting bear resistant trash cans and thinks that there are grants. He says currently help is available for purchasing electric fencing to deter bears from getting in chicken coops or trash cans.

Tad asks if there is a correlation between harvest rates around town and the rate of problem bears in the town. Steve says that because hunters are targeting trophy size bears, there is not a correlation. He says we have seen a decrease in harvest due to bad weather and non-resident closure in spring of 2020.

Eric asks about aggressive bears in town. Steve reports that he is not surprised that we have not seen any incidence of bears attacking people in town with all the bears we have wandering around town at night. He says the bears are like rats sneaking around the community at night and they really do not want to come into contact with people. He has a hard time locating them when he is called out at night. Almost all the activity happens in the middle of the night. Bears are adept at avoiding people.

We have not been able to get the research updated on population numbers (our numbers are 20 years old) because there is only one team at ADFG to do the study. They have been busy with a study in Haines.



Deer Harvest was up in the past year. Last December we had good hunting with snow bringing the deer to the beaches.

Unit 4 averages 5700 deer taken by 3400 hunters. In the past ten years. Unit 4 has the highest level of harvest and the lowest days per/deer effort in the state. ADFG is moving away from pellet surveys and moving to camera based tracking of deer. Steve was short staffed last year, but hopes to get his cameras into the field for this year. He had anticipated high deer mortality on the beach surveys because of the snow in December last year, but saw no evidence of that in 35 beach mortality surveys.

Mountain goats surveys showed a high of 1900 goats on Baranof island in 2019. Our numbers are still high and goats are doing well. Harvest has been moderate. Historically we had a big drop off in population in 2009. ADFG changed the management on Baranof Island to create multiple (35) management zones and he closes a zone when a nanny is taken (one and done). As a result, we have gone from 20 nannies a year taken by hunters to more like 4. Our harvest rate of Billy goats is back to previous averages.

Board of Game Proposals

Proposal 1: Require certified hunter safety education to hunt in Units 1 - 5

Steve Bethune comments on behalf of ADFG . The department supports hunter education, but would not be able to teach all the classes. Most existing requirements for hunter safety are in urban areas. The department does not know how they could provide classes in all the remote places in our region. Potential loss of opportunity for hunters who aren't able to attend. Skyler asks if it could be specific to the Juneau region. Juneau has hunter safety as part of the school curriculum.

Stacey asks about an online class option. Steve says that might be possible, but would forego the currently required ½ day field sessions which cannot be done online.

Kent asks for more information about the Juneau program and Steve says that ADFG staff in Juneau teaches hunter safety in the Juneau schools

Eric: How many people are injured or killed in hunting accidents? Steve does not have numbers on injured, but believes number of people killed is virtually zero. Eric is opposed to requirements. He worries that some families need family numbers to hunt and that person may not be able to go hunting. Eric recalls having to take his Dad's place as a family hunter. Tad sees the proposal as uncool in that due to the age limits being proposed all the members of the Juneau-Douglas AC that is sponsoring the proposal would be grandfathered in, and the proposal would only affect others. Luke also does not like the requirement, says this would be solving a non-existent problem. Woody would like to see the schools in Sitka follow Juneau's



lead and have the schools here offer the course. Thinks that it is a good concept, but not practical to execute in SE Alaska, and furthermore, no need since the hunter density is very low there is little danger from others. He grew up hunting down south where hunters were much closer together and despite wearing orange accidental injuries still occurred, especially when shooting at running deer.

Steve proposes AMENDMENT **to allow for a Fully online course by the NRA as an alternative to the department course and to make it apply to all hunters born after January 1986.** Stacy 2nds. Eric says it is not worth discussing because it would not pass. **Amendment fails 2-12-1.**

Eric and John: proposal is unpopular with or without the amendment

Proposal 1 fails 0-15.

Proposal 2: requires passing a mountain goat identification quiz for goat hunting in area 4. We already require the online quiz on the honor system for our area. Tad **moves amendment take no action** as it does not apply to our area as we already require the quiz. Kent questions Steve about the history of Nanny harvest and education. Steve says that the attributes the “one and done” policy that shuts down sub-areas whenever a Nanny is taken is the reason that unit 4 nanny harvest dropped some much, and that the education requirement isn’t driving this. Stacey seconds Tad’s motion. John asks for clarification that our requirement is not voluntary, but that no proof of testing is required. Steve Ramp says we should weigh in on the proposal because he thinks that it would make the current quiz more stringent and more formal. ADFG (Bethune) confirms that this is correct. Tad withdraws amendment.

Proposal 2 fails 0-15

Proposal 3: Remove the requirement for residents to seal black bear skulls harvested in Units 1 - 4 Eric moves that we **do not take up proposal 3** because we do not have black bear in our area. **Seconded and passed 15-0**

Proposal 5: Change the waterfowl season in Units 1 - 4 by creating a split season

Steve explains that the Department is looking for consistency in the season and dates that make sense.

Members of the Public:



Mike Vaughn comments that his preference is a fall season with a closure. He does not want a closure the September or October because the duck hunting is good then, or in the first week in November because people hunt deer and birds together at that time. He also thinks people hunt over Thanksgiving weekend.

He suggests opening Sept 1- November 10 close 11-25th of Nov, open Nov 26- December 31 as this would allow for hunting on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday following Thanksgiving on 7 out of the next 10 years. Kent asks why the department did not suggest a closure period. Steve says the department really wanted public comment. Tad says that without closure dates included, the proposal is only half of a proposal. Tad asked Mike if he would support a 14 day closure in mid November with the reopening on Thanksgiving Day. Mike opposes that idea on the grounds that he doesn't think that many people hunt on Thanksgiving, but rather start on the following day.

John Murray clarifies that the season needs to be 101 days.

Woody comments that he only hunts ducks when he is deer hunting in November. He does not like the split season with a closure in mid-November. He worries the deer/duck hunters might be cited for hunting illegally if they bring ducks home after the closure, even if the ducks were taken earlier when the season was open.

Luke likes the concept of the split season but doesn't think that the public can agree on closure dates.

Eric moves to amend the proposal to include a closure from November 11th-25th. John seconds. Tad says the department was disingenuous by not providing dates. Most people will prefer the concept of a split season over either Sept 1-Dec 15 or Sept 16-Dec31, but they will disagree on when the closure should be. Hence the proposal doesn't solve the disagreement, but merely shifts it. He supports the proposed dates. He does not like the season changing every year. When the alternating schedule was proposed, the Sitka AC preferred always starting on either Sept 1 or Sept 16 over alternating. Tad agrees closing any part of October is bad.

Steve can not support having it closed during Thanksgiving, even 3 times in 10 years is too many.

Carrie suggests we change the language to say the closure is the two weeks prior to Thanksgiving.

Woody thinks that would be confusing because Thanksgiving changes every year so the closure would change every year too and the problem with the current season that the proposal is trying to solve is the inconsistency.



Woody proposes **amendment** to change to Sept 1 to Nov 30 with Dec 1 closed for 2 weeks reopen December 16 to the 31st.

Luke seconds Woody's amendment- saying that there are more duck-deer combo hunts in November than in December.

Vote on AMENDMENT to change dates to Sept 1-Nov 30 dates with a closure first 2 weeks in December and reopen December 16-31 PASSES 15-0

Vote to accept Proposal 5 as amended PASSES 15-0

Heather wraps up meeting. Says we will start with Deer next week. Says if we have to meet Dec 21 it would be on zoom.

Adjourn.

Minutes Recorded By: Stacey Wayne

Minutes Approved By: Sitka AC

Date: 12/14/2022



**Sitka Advisory Committee
12/14/2022 6:00 p.m.
NSRAA & Zoom**

AC Members Present:

- Lucas Bastian, Guide
- Steve Ramp, Sportfish
- Tad Fujioka Processor
- Heather Bauscher, Conservation
- Mo Johnson, Seine
- Carrie Driver, alternate
- Josh Chevalier, subsistence
- Karen Johnson, at large
- Stacey Wayne, shellfish
- Kent Barkau, Hunting
- Schuyler Mace-Hand troll
- John Murray, Power Troll
- Woody Cyr, Trapping
- Spencer Chute, Charter
- Eric Jordan, at large, excused
- Scott Wagner excused
- Dick Curren Longline excused

ADFG STAFF

Marysia Szymkowiak, NOAA
Steve Bethune, wildlife biologist
Haley Heniff, ADFG Technician

Members of the public

Thor Stacey, Juneau-Douglas AC member
Atlin Dory, Juneau-Douglas AC vice chair
Mike Vaughn, local hunter
Amy?
Kurt Whitehead, Klawock resident, fishing lodge owner and member of Craig AC, Klawock AC
and East POW AC
Andrew Thoms
Ashley Bolwerk



Agenda for tonight's meeting include:

- Federal Subsistence Board Deer Proposals
- Board of Game Deer Proposals
- Remaining Board of Game Proposals
- Other Business

Motion to approve previous minutes as amended; Carried w/o Objection

Kurt Whitehead: POW deer population has been going down since 2012 especially since 2018, as the result of change in wolf management. He believes that the wolf population is the cause of the drop of deer population there. After two previous attempts were stopped there is now a 3rd effort to list SE AK wolves as a subspecies protected under ESA afoot. He does not want the wolves listed as endangered because then they could not hunt them. The subsequent explosion in wolf numbers would drive deer populations to unhuntably low numbers. POW residents need access to subsistence venison, as grocery prices are very high and stores are far from the smaller communities. If the SE wolves were ESA listed, this would be a big deal for not just POW, but mainland areas and other island with wolves- but perhaps not such a big deal for ABC islands. He is seeking the Sitka AC signing off on the letter or at least offering suggestions on improving it. He lauds ADF&G's great job in previous wolf management.

Woody comments that Sitka locals used to hunt on POW because the hunting was better than around here. They do not do that any more. He remembers that at one point the wolf population was estimated at 125 and then 120 were killed in a single trapping season, so the pre-season estimate must have been far too low.

Kurt reports that in 2012 the wolf management changed. Average take used to be 80-100 over a Dec-March season. In 2012 the Quota was set at only 12 wolves. The quota went up slightly each year, but only to as high as 30 by 2014, and the wolf population blew up. In 2019 it went to a tiered management system with a goal of 150 to 200 wolves on POW. In 2019 they estimated there were 172 wolves before the season opened. In a 5 week season about 165 were caught and plenty remained. Clearly the pre-season estimate had been too low. Then ADFG changed their enumeration methodology to use different sample systems like trail cameras and hair boards. This is supported by the local Haida tribe. They proved the ADFG estimates were off. There are current BoG proposals that are still using the old data.

Ten years ago, deer were 60 percent of the diet of POW wolves, and now deer is only about 40 percent of their diet. They are now eating more black bear and beaver.. But the local beaver numbers are way down now. The wolves are eating themselves out of house and home and will



crash the deer stocks if allowed to continue. They are resorting to eating crab apples, chitons and sea otter(!)

Kurt continued. It used to be that if you drove from Hydaburg to Craig, you might see 80-100 deer. This year in my most recent drive, I saw zero. I used to guide deer hunters on POW from 2006-2018, but that last year the hunting was embarrassingly poor so I gave up guiding.

John comments that this is not a Sitka topic. Not something he thinks we should weigh in on.

Schlyer asks for hunting effort and harvest data.

It is not readily available from ADFG staff at the moment.

Mo agrees that it is out of our area. We do not know how much of the population drop is due to wolves and how much is due to clear cuts becoming poorer deer habitat. Mo says that he can support a general statement of a preference for State management over Federal, but nothing specific to this issue.

Mo moves that we do not take action. Steve seconds, Passes unanimously.

NOAA would like to do a survey with us, but Marysia Szymkowiak's Zoom connection has been lost and the group agrees that we don't have time to talk about it before Christmas anyway.

Chair report on North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. They agreed to explore what additional potential bycatch limits might look like. The Advisory Panel supported starting an analysis into halibut catch from rental boats, but the council did not take it up at this meeting. We need to bring the issue up again at the next meeting.

Steve recognizes Heather's good work going to the meeting.

Tad moves and John 2nd that we address the Federal deer proposals before the state deer proposals. Motion carries 7-6-1

Tad moves that we do not take a position on the Federal proposals as they are not in our area. John seconds. There is general agreement that the Hoonah and Angoon proposals are not in our area, but clarification on the area encompassed by the Pelican proposal is requested and subsequently provided by ADFG staff.

Luke: The Pelican proposal is our area. This affects some Sitkans. I see a trend in locals excluding others from hunting nearby in Interior caribou and sheep hunts.



Josh comments how in Ketchikan they are moving to exclude hunters from other areas. He cautions about the need to prepare for losing our rural designation.

Steve comments that should talk about the federal proposals. He opposes the Pelican proposals, but could support No Action on the Hoonah and Angoon proposals.

John: Sure, a few Sitkans might hunt these areas once in a while, but they aren't our main hunting grounds. These proposals are directed at Juneau, not at us.

Heather feels we should be consistent about not discussing the proposals out of our area.

Mo agrees. I used to hunt around Tenakee, but that's not my backyard. I'm not a legitimate stakeholder. The actual locals should be the ones with the voice.

Vote on proposal to **TAKE NO ACTION on the federal deer proposals. Motion carries 8-6**

Tad moves to support BOG proposals 10 and 11 together. Seconded by John

Proposal 10 & 11 would reduce the sport hunting bag limit in most of GMU 4 from 6 deer to 4 deer. The limit in NE Chichagof would remain at 3 deer under the proposals.

Steve Bethune: department opposes this proposal, but can manage under either a 4 or 6 deer limit. Unit 4 consistently has the highest pellet counts in SE. Surveys of alpine and deer pellet counts and beach mortality all show strong deer populations in GMU 4. Even in 2022, after a big snow winter, with a concerted effort (35 surveys vs 15 normally) to check beaches, he did not see significant deer winterkill on the beaches. The last bad winter was 2007-8 when ~75% of the deer died. Population now high and stable. We harvest more deer in this area than any other GMU. We average 5700 deer a year taken by 3400 hunters. Our days of effort per deer is 2.3 days which is the lowest in the state. Harvest has been high and stable since 2011.

Steve continues: The GMU 4 bag limit has been 4 deer since before statehood, until 2019 when it was raised to 6 deer. After the rule change, an average of 88 additional deer/yr were taken by non federally qualified hunters-~80% from Juneau. Sitka hunters are federally qualified and have been able to take 6 deer and have an additional month (January) to hunt under Federal rules. Unit 4 is not a very popular place for non resident hunters because the deer have smaller antlers. Of the NFQ hunters in GMU 4 since the limit was increased in 2019, 37% took no deer, 31% took 1 deer, 15% took 2 deer, 9% took 3 deer, 5% took 4 deer, 3% took 5 or 6 deer. Four deer appears to be adequate for most NFQ hunters. The 3% of hunters that took more than 4 deer only accounted for 88 additional deer/year

Tad: Does that 88 additional deer include situations where a hunter would previously have stopped at 3 deer in order to save his last tag for a trophy and never fills it because he didn't



encounter a deer worthy of his last tag, but now the hunter takes four deer knowing that he still has two tags left for trophies?

Steve Bethune: No, the department doesn't have any way of knowing what hunters are thinking on that level.

Steve continues: These proposals were submitted as an alternative to the 3 federal proposals that would limit or exclude NFQ hunters more severely. However, the department believes approving this proposal will not ensure the Federal Board won't also approve the more limiting proposals. The department does not believe there is a scarcity issue that would warrant this proposal.

Steve Ramp asks if hunting could ever have an effect on the deer herd in our region.

Steve Bethune explains that there just is not enough hunter effort to have an effect on the deer population at the current level. If we have a tough winter, that could change, but in that case, the department can limit hunting for does.

Luke- When the snow is deep and the deer are on the beaches, a guy can shoot 6 deer in a day. What effect does high harvest have on the remaining deer when there is a bad winter?

Steve Bethune: Two schools of thought on this- One is that the deer are likely to die anyway, so no harm in shooting them; You can't stockpile deer. The other is that you want to protect the does. They are more likely to survive the winter and their survival is more critical for the subsequent recovery.

John: Would passage of these proposals affect Sitka deer hunters?

Steve Bethune: Only minimally- so long as Sitka retains its Federal subsistence designation, the only effect that these proposals would have is that a Sitkan would have to be on Federal land when shooting their 5th or 6th deer.

Andrew Thoms (public) comments that it is important to protect deer hunting opportunities for rural residents. Some of these small communities are expressing concern and we should look into why. There are changes occurring that are triggering these Federal proposals.

Ashley Bolwerk (public) comments that we are seeing proposals because people in Pelican, Hoonah and Angoon are concerned. Maybe ADFG data is not sufficiently detailed at the local level. We need to talk to the locals and see why they are having trouble getting deer. She points out that these local people may be hunting easily accessible spots which are not the focus of the ADFG surveys. Localized depletion wouldn't necessarily be reflected in ADF&G's broad Unit 4 surveys.



Thor Stacey (public) is commenting from Juneau. He is a hunting guide and is the Director of Government Affairs for the Professional Hunters Association. He recognizes these BoG proposals as an olive branch in hopes of heading off Federal proposals that would be more restrictive. Thor says that they were submitted by Juneau residents. He hunts deer in unit 4 near Elfin Cove. He supports rural preference in times of shortage. He is concerned about the divisive nature of the Federal proposals that exclude some Alaskans. He asks us to approve the proposal to reduce the limit from 6 deer to 4. While the population is able to withstand the extra harvest, these are purely allocative proposals. Four deer per person is a decent number. He is willing to take a minor reduction in order to avoid potentially harsher restrictions in the future. He wants to get back to the stability enjoyed prior to 2019. Allocation is settled by negotiations. He wants to negotiate.

Atlin Daughtery (Public) from the Juneau AC. He is a 3rd generation Alaskan, fisherman, hunting guide, hunter. Hunts Icy Straits. He would like us to support proposals 10 and 11 in the hopes that areas around Hoonah, Pelican and Angoon are not subject to even more severe restrictions for non Federally-qualified hunters. Wants to return to the stability of the previous era. Four deer per person is plenty. Most families that are into hunting enough to have one hunter who takes four deer have more than one hunter in the family anyway.

John Murray clarifies that these Juneau hunters want to see the bag limit reduced in the hopes that it will prompt the federal board to not adopt one of the more restrictive alternatives.

Thor Stacey responds that he feels the increase in the bag limit a few years ago prompted a war about deer hunting opportunities between NFQ and FQ hunters. The more severe local restrictions will affect village family members who move to Juneau or Ketchikan. They won't be able to return to the villages and hunt with family members. They would be caught in the middle of this political fight.

Steve Ramp- Opposed to these proposals. Doesn't believe that the opportunity should be reduced unless there are conservation concerns. Afraid that Sitka might lose rural priority in the future.

Luke is opposed. He does not see a conservation issue given the minimal additional harvest. Doesn't like the State attempting to negotiate with the Federal Subsistence Board. Does not think passing 10 and 11 would change what the subsistence board will do.

Schlyer is opposed as he doesn't know what the Federal Board will do and does not see this as an effective form of negotiation.

Tad is disappointed with ADFG taking a strong stance on these deer proposals because they are allocative and the department is supposed to be neutral on allocative proposals. Three years ago when the proposal to raise the limit from 4 deer to 6 was submitted the department was



neutral-as was proper. But now, with no change in the biological situation, they are very strongly opposed to changing back. The department was similarly neutral when the limit in mainland GMU 1c was dropped from 4 deer to two bucks even though the department stated that there was no pressing biological concern.

Tad continues, saying that it is important that the department maintain neutrality on allocative proposals because if a user group perceives the department as being biased against them, the department's relationship with that user group suffers. The resulting communication barriers and distortions handicaps the department's ability to manage, which is their primary responsibility.

He supports proposals 10 and 11, as it would be good to go back to a 4 deer limit before NFQ hunters become entrenched in a 6 deer limit. There will be a bad winter sooner or later, and there will be more resistance to restrictions if the liberal limits have had time to become accepted. Tad lauds the Juneau resident proposers who are willing to return their limits to the old 4 deer level for long-term stability.

Tad points out that Alaska has a Constitutional priority for subsistence. When the ANS is not being met, there is no controversy when a non-subsistence user's harvest is reduced by one deer in order to increase a subsistence user's harvest by one deer. However, in many cases, the non-subsistence harvest has to be reduced by more than one deer in order to raise the deer density to the point that the subsistence harvest increases by one deer. This sort of scenario is common in fisheries. Determining the necessary ratio of non-subsistence harvest reduction to subsistence harvest increase is controversial, but the appropriate ratio is generally understood to be larger than 1:1.

Tad refers to personal experience where his long-productive favorite deer hunting area recently stopped producing many deer. After more than 15 years of high success, he has been forced to hunt other areas. He found deer in other places, but he questions whether he would have done so had there been more competition to the point where he couldn't go elsewhere without moving into ground recently vacated by another hunter. He could easily envision a situation where competition would contribute to reduced harvest following a naturally-occurring change in deer habits, even if the level of competition hadn't increased. He points out that the concerns of the local villages might be merited even if the overall deer density in GMU 4 is high and outside pressure hasn't increased.

Carrie asks about the history of the bag limit change. Steve Bethune explains the change happened because a member of the public asked for a higher limit. It did not happen because of higher populations. She talks about migrating wolf packs and an increase in pathogens if the deer herd is too dense.



Steve Ramp talks about the concern about too big a herd and the carrying capacity of the land and the danger of overbrowsing leading to a population crash

Vote on proposals 10 & 11 (considered simultaneously) fails 4-10

M/S Tad/Woody to support Proposal 6 to extend the river otter season.

Steve Bethune says the current season has been in place since 1983 and that it provides adequate opportunity while maintaining the population. The department is neutral.

Tad (former trapping representative) comments that he appreciates the department's neutrality on this allocative proposal. He says that the department should be consistently neutral when weighing in on allocative issues when both alternatives provide adequate opportunity while maintaining the population. He comments that he has trapped many otter on both ends of the current season and that the pelts have always been prime, so he thinks that they would be in good shape under the proposed season as well. There is not much pressure now with fewer trappers, so a lengthened season would not increase the total harvest beyond what was taken historically. He is in support.

Woody (trapping representative) comments that he too supports the proposal because there is no conservation concern. Otter bycatch occurs in beaver sets. Beaver season runs later into the spring, so it would be good to more closely align these seasons. Fur primeness is a function of photoperiod which is a function of latitude, so as the proposer states, the fur should be just as prime in GMUs 1-5 as it is in GMU 9.

John Murray worries about the increased overlap on the time the mothers are rearing young.

Tad comments that the current harvest, and even the likely harvest under the proposed season is so low that the additional stress on the population of otter during pupping season is not likely to be an issue. If the harvest was approaching the sustainable yield, then it would be necessary to consider how to manage the harvest with minimal impact on the population, but given the current very low effort, there are plenty of otter to spare. The general trend is dropping prices and declining effort. Otter pelts are down from over \$200 to \$40-if you can find a buyer at all. Not many people are trapping compared to 80-100 years ago, or even compared to 20-30 years ago. Hence no concerns that current harvest would exceed sustainable limits even with reduced reproductive levels.

Proposal 6 Passes 12-2



M/S Woody/Tad to support Proposal 7 to expand the marten trapping season

Steve Bethune reports the effort has followed prices. Prices are down. Pros would be more opportunity, Cons would be misaligning the season with seasons for other species- specifically mink. Says that marten tend to run on a six year cycle. They were very high in 2012, which coincided with the very high prices, and high, but not as high in 2018.

Tad moves to Amend to change the proposed closing date of “Feb 28” to “last day of February” to avoid issues with leap years. Amendment accepted as friendly.

Proposal 7 passes as amended to change the closing date to “last day of February” 14-0

Move to take no action on Proposal 8 (out of area) and 9 (not applicable); passes without objection

M/S Steve Ramp/Luke to overturn previous decision to take no action on Proposal 12 to open Mitchell Bay to Bear Hunting

Steve Bethune reports that the Admiralty GHL is 62 bears/yr and the recent harvest has been around 42 bears/yr. The area was closed to hunting in order to increase opportunities for bear viewing 1991. The native corp Kootznohoo is a major landowner and feels strongly about keeping the area closed. They cite safety concerns over wounded bears attacking people among other concerns. It is a polarizing issue and the BoG voted to retain the closure as recently as 2004. The cruise ships have asked to keep it closed for wildlife viewing. Little evidence that brown bear predation impacts the deer population despite what the proposer claims. Only 6 DLPs in Angoon in the last 10 years. Angoon locals do not hunt brown bears and usually call ADFG for problem bears. Bears have local significance for Angoon Natives. Not much bear hunting occurs in the Angoon area now as the prime areas are closed.

Tad asks if the dump is open for hunting. It is not.

Kent asks if there is a concession system for guiding in the area and Steve Bethune says there are 3 companies that have permits to guide bear hunts in this area.

Luke points out that all three of the proposals to liberalize bear hunting were submitted by employees of one of those guiding companies.

Mo says that this is out of our area. We shouldn't want to get into Angoon's backyard- we don't want other AC's interfering with our local issues. We had concerns over halibut and developed



the Local Area Management Plan (LAMP). Angoon has had bear concerns. They have developed a local plan.

Woody says we should not mess with the management plan for this area. It was hard fought.

John says the Forest Service probably took 10 years to develop the plan.

Steve: After listening to the discussion, I have changed my mind. Withdraws motion, thus allowing previous **No Action** position **on proposal 12** to stand.

Steve Bethune explains that he believes that the BoG is likely to consider proposal 32 in the context of the entire SE region. As written, the proposal would prohibit a goat hunter that shoots a nanny in GMU 1-D from hunting goats there in the following year. Since GMU 1-D is far from Sitka, for the purpose of allowing discussion on a proposal that would otherwise be out of area, Tad proposes the AC support an amended version of Proposal 32 with substitute language replacing "Unit 1-D" with "Unit 4". Kent seconds.

Woody says that he thinks a penalty of this nature would result in some nannies that were accidentally shot being left in the field by a hunter who didn't want to be penalized.

Stacy agrees that a penalty is likely to lead to dead goats being left in the field.

Steve Bethune comments that currently our management practice is to close a particular drainage once a nanny has been taken (referred to as "one and done"). This uses hunter peer pressure and has drastically reduced Nanny harvest. We have gone from 20 nannies/yr to 4 nannies per year. But there are a few hunters that prefer nannies for better meat quality.

Steve Ramp asks if the proposed approach has been effective elsewhere in the state.

Steve Bethune responds that Kenai has a 5 year penalty for female harvest. It has not been shown to be effective, but most of that area is managed under drawing hunts, so losing the opportunity to hunt for five years is not a meaningful penalty since you aren't likely to get drawn again anyway.

Woody said that this past season he shot a goat but it fell off a cliff and he wasn't able to recover it. He punched his tag and reported the kill to ADFG. He asks how that would be handled under the proposal since the sex of the goat wouldn't be provably known.

Steve Bethune responded that he would have to make up some policy, but it likely would be considered a nanny and the penalty would apply.

Kent asks about how climate change affects long term prospects for goats as the ice and snow cover are reduced.



Steve Bethune says that at this time there is still suitable habitat that goats have not colonized, so habitat availability doesn't appear to be a limiting factor at this time.

Proposal 32 as amended to apply to GMU 4 fails 0-14.

Minutes Recorded By: Stacey Wayne
Minutes Approved By: Heather Bauscher
Date: 1/6/2023

DRAFT



Upper Lynn Canal AC
12/7/2022
By zoom

- I. Call to Order: 5:35 pm by Tim McDonough
- II. Roll Call
Members Present: Adam Smith, Lee Nash, Rafe McGuire, Ayana Young, Mark Sogge, Kip Kermoian, Derek Pointsette, Jessica Platcha, Tim McDonough

Members Absent (Excused): Darren Belisle

Members Absent (Unexcused): Luke Rauscher, Marvin Willard Jr., Sam Nelson

Number Needed for Quorum on AC:

List of User Groups Present:

- III. Fish and Game Staff Present: Carl Koch
- IV. Guests Present: Max Graham (CVN)
- V. Approval of Agenda
- VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
- VII. Reports
 - a. Chair's report
 - b. ADF&G
 - c. Others
- VIII. Public Comment
- IX. Old Business
- X. New Business
- XI. Select representative(s) for board meeting



XII. Set next meeting date

XIII. Other

Adjourn

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
<p><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></p>			
1	Require certified hunter safety education to hunt in Units 1 - 5		
	1 support w/ amend.	8 oppose	support vote w/ amendment was to add wording that would not require places in remote areas with limited access to hunter safety education. The oppose votes were concerned about that issue as well as enforcement being a problem.
2	Require hunter orientation for hunting goat in Southeast Region units		
	9 support w/ amend.	0 oppose	amend to include use of F&G online information/quiz already in use in 1D for goat hunting
3	Remove the requirement for residents to seal black bear skulls harvested in Units 1 - 4		
	0	9 oppose	oppose-loss of data collection from sealed skulls is detrimental to management of the resource



4			Change the resident bag limit for brown bear in Unit 1 to one bear every two years
	0 support	9 oppose	until population estimate numbers indicate a healthy 1D population & returned to pre 2020 #s it is unwise to increase take
5	Change the waterfowl season in Units 1 - 4 by creating a split season		
	9 support	0 oppose	it is good for hunters opportunity and avoids being out at moose hunting time
6	Lengthen river otter trapping seasons in Units 1 - 4 to align with Unit 5		
	0 support	9 oppose	this results in early overlap with duck hunting and the bd. was uncomfortable with the extended time without knowledge of how the population of otter might be affected
7	Extend marten trapping seasons to align with wolverine seasons in portions of Units 1 - 4 and 5		
	no action		after discussion with support and opposition given, the board decided no action was appropriate due to not enough information being available to answer questions about impact to the resource by extending the season on both ends
8	Extend the marten trapping season in Units 1 and 2		
	6 support	3 abstentions	support votes were comfortable that the extended season on just the tail end would not affect kits and the increased take wouldn't hurt the population. 3 abstentions due to feeling they didn't have enough information about the lengthened season
9	Extend the wolverine trapping season to March 15 in Units 1 - 5		
	0 support	9 oppose	late season trapping could affect denning and young wolverine survival.



10	Decrease the bag limit to four deer in Unit 4, Remainder		
no action			Please note all no actions taken on proposals 10 - 29 and 36 -54 were made due to the board feeling the issues were out of our area and we didn't feel it appropriate to comment on them
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			
17	Establish a fall drawing permit hunt for elk on Zarembo Island in Unit 3		
no action			
18	Establish a fall, drawing permit hunt for elk on Zarembo, Bushy, Shrubby and Kashevarof Islands in Unit 3		
no action			
19	Change the hunt structure for elk on Etolin Island in Unit 3		
no action			
20	Split Etolin Island in Unit 3 into two hunt areas for elk		
no action			
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		
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		
no action			
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		
	0 support	9 oppose	goat populations are fragile in N. Lynn Canal and would be further stressed with a longer season. It appeared the proposal was directed at getting more hunting time for just one method -bow hunting - at the exclusion of guns
31	Lengthen the resident, registration goat hunt in Unit 1C, the Southern end of the Chilkat Range		
	0 support	9 oppose	goat pop. concerns in N. Lynn Canal due to longer season. Also the resident only part did not sit well with some members



32	Restrict hunters who take nanny goat in Unit 1D from hunting goat the following regulatory year in Unit 1D		
	9 support	0 oppose	certain areas in 1D goat pop. are struggling. This will help with that concern. Heightened awareness of shooting only billies due to the penalty will improve the herd size meaning more opportunity in the future
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		
	0 support	9 oppose	population trends are unclear after a huge take a few years ago. Until data is available showing a healthy pop. it is unwise to increase bag limits. Also some of the board disagreed with the resident only portion of the proposal
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		
	0 support	9 oppose	See proposal 33 - same reasons
35	Extend the bear baiting season for Unit 1D		
	2 support	7 oppose	opposition-June 30 takes it into early summer and conflicts with recreational users. Also it makes it more difficult to shorten in the future if that was a desire. support- cuts down on confusion of split season hunting
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	
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	

Adjournment:

Summary of Recommendations
Recorded By: Tim McDonough
Approved By: Mark Sogge
Date: 1/6/2022



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			



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
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



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
			<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&G finds the October hunt is too close to the elk bugle season.</p> <p>During the discussion Frank Robbins, ADF&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



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
			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		



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
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			



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
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			



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
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			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support/ Support as amended/ Oppose/No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (pros & cons), Voting Notes, Amendments
<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>			
87	Define eel stick.		
No Action			
153	Define escape mechanisms for collapsible 'slinky' groundfish pots.		
No Action			
82	Modify the dates sinking of gillnets is allowed in the Yukon Area from October 1 to April 30.		
No Action			
154	Allow the use of purse seine drums.		
No Action			
155	Allow a person using a spear or speargun to take fish while swimming at the water's surface.		
No Action			
156	Prohibit the use of felt soled wading footwear while personal use fishing in freshwater.		
No Action			
157	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			
158	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			
159	Close commercial fishing for a given species within one-fourth of a mile of any area closed to sport fishing for that species.		



Alaska Board of Fisheries: Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues Proposals			
March 10-13, 2023 Anchorage, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support/Support as amended/ Oppose/No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (pros & cons), Voting Notes, Amendments
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.
160	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.
161	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			
162	Allow the Kenai River Special Management Area -DNR decal to serve as proof of ADF&G sport fishing guide vessel registration.		
No Action			
163	Prohibit guiding in personal use finfish fisheries.		
No Action			
164	Establish registration and reporting requirements for personal use guides and transporters.		
165	Prohibit compensation for guide services in subsistence fisheries.		
No Action			
166	Establish a statewide bag limit for personal use finfish fisheries.		
No Action			



Alaska Board of Fisheries: Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues Proposals			
March 10-13, 2023 Anchorage, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support/Support as amended/ Oppose/No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (pros & cons), Voting Notes, Amendments
167	Require inseason reporting of subsistence and personal use salmon harvest within 5 days of harvest.		
No Action			
168	Extend emergency order authority to allow restrictions of sport fisheries in contaminated waters.		
No Action			
169	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