

STATE OF ALASKA

FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Kotzebue Advisory Committee

**Kotzebue AC Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2024
Selawik National Wildlife Refuge**

- I. **Call to Order:** 6:00 p.m. by Chair Lance Kramer

- II. **Roll Call: Members Present** – Lance Kramer (Chair), Karmen Monigold (Vice Chair), Alex Whiting (Secretary), Hans Hansen, Michael Kramer
Members Absent: Cyrus Harris (excused), Eugene Smith (excused), Aucha Kameroff (excused), Thomas baker (excused)
Quorum established: 5 – Number needed for quorum on AC: 5

- III. **ADF&G Staff Present:** Alex Hansen, Christie Osburne, Kristy Tibbles, Kathleen Sherman, Tony Gorn

- IV. **Guests Present:** Annie Carlson NPS WEAR, Kristina Nelson SNWR, Desiree Hagen, Mark Keller, Ray McPadden NPS WEAR (called in after start).

- VII. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve agenda with proposals to review 1-5, 36-42 and 209. Motion carried unanimously.

- VIII. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** None

- IX. **Reports:**
 - a. **Chair's Report:** Chair Kramer discussed fall caribou hunting/migration, the upcoming BOG meeting 26-29, 2024, and grizzly bear abundance in Region.
 - b. **ADF&G Reports:** ADF&G Area Biologist Christie Osburne discussed recent population, survey and harvest information for moose, muskox, sheep and grizzly bear. Alex Hansen provided an update on caribou census, recruitment and possible conservation strategies. Also,

discussed was the 907 caribou harvest reporting requirements and recent enforcement actions for same.

- c. **Others:** Ray McPadden discussed education and outreach efforts on caribou, and air traffic reduction in WEAR due to closures for hunting in WEAR for non-qualified subsistence users.

X. **Public Comment:** None

XI. **Old Business:** None

XII. **New Business:**

- a. Board of Game Proposals – 1-5, 36-42 and 209.

XIII. **Select representative(s) for board meeting:** Lance Kramer, Hans Hansen, Alex Whiting

XIV. **Set next meeting date:** Chair will work with ADF&G to determine date.

XV. **Other:** Karmen Monigold discussed BLM d1 lands and Ambler Road, encouraged members to review and comment on these issues.

XVI. **Adjourn:** 8:53

Alaska Board of Game Western Arctic/Western Region Meeting Proposals January 26-29, 2024 Kotzebue, 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	Open an archery-only registration permit hunt in Units 23 and 26 for resident hunters when it is determined sheep hunting can be allowed in those areas.		
	0	5	Would in effect shut out local residents who do not use bow and arrow to hunt sheep - which is almost (if not) all.
2	Reduce the bag limit for taking caribou in Units 21D Remainder, 22, 23, 24B Remainder, 24C, 24D and 26A to four caribou per year, only one of which may be a cow. Support		
	5	0	Support for Unit 23, which was the original Kotzebue AC proposal. While cow conservation is important, concerns about enforcement actions for cows harvested by mistake (easily confused by many for young bulls). Brief discussion about increasing bull harvest number, but consensus could not be reached on number.
3	Close nonresident caribou hunting in Units 21D Remainder, 22, 23, 24B Remainder, 24C, 24D, and 26A.		
	5	0	While annual non-resident harvest is low (150-200), this amount of animals could still fill lots of freezers in the Region and AC prefers this outcome in time of caribou decline and cuts to local bag limits.
4	Align caribou seasons in Unit 26A and Unit 23 and reduce the bag limit.		
	0	5	Concern over more liberal cow harvest (3) of WACH animals, compared to supported proposals of 1.
5	Reduce the bag limit for caribou for RC907 resident hunters in Units 23 and 26A and change the nonresident hunt to a registration permit with additional restrictions. oppose		
	0	5	Already addressed same issue in other proposals.
6	Close the Mulchatna caribou herd to hunting for five to ten years in Unit 18.		
			No Action
7	Lengthen the resident only registration moose hunt RM617 in Unit 18 by two weeks to end October 15.		
			No Action
8	Extend season dates for moose hunting in hunt RM617 in Unit 18.		
			No Action
9	Liberalize the bag limit for moose in Unit 18.		

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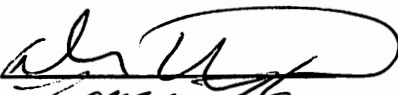
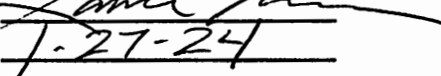
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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			No Action
10			Liberalize the moose bag limit in Unit 18 Kuskokwim hunt area.
			No Action
11			Reauthorize the resident antlerless moose season in Unit 18.
			No Action
12			Establish a minimum caliber requirement for hunting moose in Unit 18.
			No Action
13			Increase the bag and possession limits for ptarmigan in Unit 18.
			No Action
14			Open a hunt for muskox in a portion of Unit 18, with permits available to residents only, made available in communities closest to the herd.
			No Action
15			Allow the subsistence take of muskox in a portion of Unit 18.
			No Action
16			Lengthen the wolf trapping season in Unit 18 by one month to end on April 30.
			No Action
17			Increase the brown bear bag limit in Unit 18.
			No Action
18			Open the caribou season in a portion of Unit 22A.
			No Action
19			Change the trophy destruction requirements for muskox taken in Unit 22 subsistence hunts.
			No Action
20			Change the bag limit for Tier II muskox hunts in Unit 22 to one muskox every two years.
			No Action
21			Establish season dates for the harvest of cow muskox in the TX095 and TX096 Tier II hunts in Unit 22C, beginning August 1st and ending October 31st.
			No Action
22			Establish a minimum caliber for moose hunting in Unit 22A and a portion of Unit 22B.
			No Action
23			Revisit the Amount Reasonably Necessary for subsistence uses for moose in Unit 22.
			No Action
24			Modify the winter season for moose in Unit 22A.
			No Action

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25			Close the nonresident moose hunting season in Unit 22C.
			No Action
26			Lengthen the nonresident moose hunting season in Unit 22E by two weeks, to open on August 15.
			No Action
27			Align the resident seasons for brown bear in Unit 22D and 22E with those in Unit 22B.
28			Change the Unit 22D and 22E nonresident brown bear drawing permit hunt to a general season hunt.
			No Action
29			Increase the number of brown bear drawing permits available in Unit 22B for DB685 to 40 permits or change DB685 to a registration permit.
			No Action
30			Extend the trapping season to year-round for muskrat in Unit 26A.
			No Action
31			Liberalize the moose bag limit in a portion of Unit 26A and expand the hunt area.
			No Action
32			Change the boundaries of the Anaktuvuk Pass Controlled Use Area and allow the City of Anaktuvuk Pass, the Nunamiut Corporation, and the Naqsrarmiut tribe to set the dates the CUA is in effect.
			No Action
33			Reduce the Unit 26A sheep bag limit for residents to one ram with full-curl horn or larger every four regulatory years.
			No Action
34			Open an archery-only registration permit hunt in portions of Unit 26A for residents only when it is determined sheep hunting can be allowed in those area.
			No Action
35			Change the Unit 26A and Unit 26B muskox hunt area boundaries to match federal hunt boundaries and expand the state hunt areas.
			No Action
36			Reduce the caribou bag limit for residents in Unit 23 from five caribou per day to four caribou total, only one of which may be a cow.
	5	0	Support original proposed bag by Kotzebue AC to conserve caribou.

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
37	Reduce the caribou bag limit for residents in Unit 23 from five caribou per day to four caribou total, only one of which may be a cow.		
	5	0	Support original proposed bag by Kotzebue AC to conserve caribou.
38	Close all nonresident caribou hunting in Unit 23.		
	5	0	While annual non-resident harvest is low (150-200), this amount of animals could still fill lots of freezers in the Region and AC prefers this outcome in time of caribou decline and cuts to local bag limits.
39	Lengthen the brown bear hunting season in Unit 23 for residents to no closed season.		
	5	0	No conservation concern with brown bears in Unit 23, need to encourage more bears to be taken to help moose and caribou populations, this proposal would allow for more harvest opportunities.
40	Lengthen the brown/grizzly bear hunting season in Unit 23 for residents to year-round.		
	5	0	See comments proposal 39.
41	Lengthen the brown/grizzly bear hunting season in Unit 23 for residents to year.		
	5	0	See comments proposal 39 and 40.
42	Consolidate the nonresident brown bear registration permits into a single, unit-wide fall registration permit and a single, unit-wide spring registration permit.		
190	5	0	Support to make it easier to harvest grizzly bears, which is needed to support prey populations.
209	Establish a target hunt for musk ox in Unit 23		
	5	0	Support the suggested Department alternative as amended for Tier II Sisualik hunt. June to October up to 4 permits issued. Need to provide non-DLP opportunity to take troublesome bulls around traditional camping site. Ongoing safety issues for last 15 years.

Minutes Recorded By: 
 Minutes Approved By: 
 Date: 1-27-24