

Advisory Committee Comment Index
Alaska Board of Game
Southcentral Region Meeting
March 15-19, 2013

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Central Peninsula Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2013

Meeting began at 7:11 pm at the Ninilchik School.

Members Present: David Martin, Jeff Berger, Doug Blossom, Steve Vanek, Gary Dieman, John McCombs, Mike Schuster, Aaron Berger,

Members Absent Excused: Max Fjelstad (moved), Teague Vanek, Greg Encelewski, Robert Clucas

Public Present: Norbert Miller, Joe Simpson, Tiffany Stonecipher, Dave Blossom

*Attn: Misses Kristy
BOG - Southeast
AC comments*

Agency Staff Present: Jeff Sellinger, Jason Herreman, and Sherry Wright of ADF&G and Trent Chwlahowski (Trooper)

Minutes of the January 24, 2012 meeting were approved as read.

Statewide stocking program information was presented and opportunity for comment has been given. A new trial use of rearing pens in a lake on Kodiak that would allow for much cheaper program for hatchery salmon. This might be something that could be used on the Kenai.

RECEIVED

Regional planning team Cook Inlet Aquaculture, ADF&G going over management plans pertaining to Cook Inlet drainage is meeting tomorrow.

FEB 20 2013

John McCombs gave a report on the Upper Cook Inlet Task Force meeting that occurred yesterday in Kenai. They had a draft proposal, but there was some discussion about some of the details of it. The problem wasn't that fish didn't show up, they just didn't get counted. Sounds like SF got plenty of time to testify and others perhaps didn't as much as may have been helpful. 11,000 fish is adequate escapement. Next meeting of the Task Force will be February 14th, 2014. Saltwater charter guides have been left out of the process, due to the selection of a fairly inexperienced participant representing them. The EO closure for the saltwater fishery did not state Deep Creek or Ninilchik, but they were still closed down due to Kenai River king salmon.

**BOARDS
ANCHORAGE**

UCI and LCI BOF meetings are both scheduled for Anchorage. Letters to legislators and the Governor regarding the lack of a Board of Fisheries meeting on the Kenai Peninsula since 1998 will be stressed.

Motion to table the motion to accept the nominees was approved. 7-1

Motion to increase number of members from 10 to 11 regular three year seat to the committee was approved. 8-0

Elections were held with the following members elected for three year seats – Doug Blossom, Teague Vanek, Norbert Miller, and Tiffany Stonecipher

One year alternates were elected as follows: Greg Encelewski and Aaron Berger
Motion to retain the current slate of officers was approved. David Martin, Chair; Gary Deiman, Vice Chair; and Steve Vanek, Secretary.



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Advisory Committee approved for David Martin or his designee to attend the Board of Game and the Board of Fisheries meetings as their representative.

Central Peninsula AC discussed and agreed that they would like to continue to be part of the Federal Subsistence Board process. They would also like to be briefed on issues as they occur.

David addressed the AC on the DOT's current work being done on the roads around Ninilchik and he has been trying to get them to channel the funds to plant a different type of foliage that won't further attract moose to the roadways. David would like a letter sent to the governor's office urging this action to occur and work with ADF&G. A tentative MOU for interagency workings is also in the works. Continued clear cutting is ongoing. The worst thing they can do is clear cut – which creates moose browse and will contribute to road hazards and moose vehicle collision. They need to maintain what they have cut. This further affects the sound / wind barriers of those affected.

Jeff Sellinger brought information on the wildlife resources on the Kenai Peninsula. Tom McDonough is in charge of the moose study that is going on in the Kenai Peninsula.

Board of Game Kenai Peninsula proposal comments

Kenai Peninsula Area – Units 7 & 15

PROPOSAL NO. 143

ACTION: 1-9 Opposed

DESCRIPTION: Modify bag limit for moose to 50" or greater, 3 brow tines in Units 7 and 15.

DISCUSSION: There were many reasons the committee agreed to the 50 inch 4 brow tine and agreement that it should be at least 5 years before changes were made to that. Harvesting a bunch more bulls is not the answer to growing the moose herd. This proposal would put the population back to what it was a few years ago. Would prefer to see the season closed completely than going backward. A lot of Kenai Peninsula is federal land and they have 3 brow tine regulations. Not many moose were harvested under the federal permit. Sealing of horns helps slow down illegal harvest. The current regulations have been in place for two years. Last moose census was 2010. Census occur about once every five years, if they get the right conditions (snow cover and light). Just because the bull cow ratio has improved, the actual moose population continues to decline overall. Until the overall populations increase. The next proposal asks that the board keep the current regulations. The studies are still ongoing and we are lacking much in numbers and it is premature to start liberalizing the moose harvest. IM would also be jeopardized if moose harvests are liberalized. While the news is encouraging about bull / cow ratios, we just don't believe we're there yet. Some committee members felt a moratorium on the moose is warranted for a year or two to protect the trophy moose and allow recruitment into the population.

PROPOSAL NO. 144

ACTION: 8-2 Support

DESCRIPTION: Retain the current moose harvest regulations for Units 7 and 15 through 2014.

DISCUSSION: There was discussion of changing the season to September 1 – 20 to reduce some harvest and the horn configuration. Concern of not having seasons with the state and the



Central Peninsula Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2013

feds aligned. Providing opportunity for people to take their kids hunting prior to school starting and perhaps getting some bear harvest makes this worth keeping. Genetics and nutrition are what produce antler mass. The minority opinion was that the season should be shut down.

PROPOSAL NO. 145

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Enhance moose habitat and modify hunting seasons and bag limits for moose on the Kenai Peninsula.

DISCUSSION: The committee took no action based on their action on Proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 146

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Modify seasons and bag limits for general season moose hunts in Units 7 and 15 on the Kenai Peninsula.

DISCUSSION: The committee took no action based on their action on Proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 147

ACTION: Opposed 0 - 10

DESCRIPTION: Suspend aerial taking of wolves in Unit 15A and modify the population and harvest objectives for moose.

DISCUSSION: The committee would like to see predator management begin before it is removed and would like to see the option kept as a management tool. They understand some people are against predator control.

PROPOSAL NO. 148

ACTION: Opposed 0 - 10

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in a portion of Unit 15C.

DISCUSSION: This reauthorizes the Homer antlerless hunt. If we are having IM we need to allow for population recruitment. Moose in that area move back and forth from the area. We need better count information.

PROPOSAL NO. 149

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Allow the harvest of up to 100 antlerless moose in Unit 15C.

DISCUSSION: No action based on discussion on Prop 148.

PROPOSAL NO. 150

ACTION: Opposed 2-9

DESCRIPTION: Allow the use of motorized land vehicles during certain hours in the Lower Kenai Controlled Use area.

DISCUSSION: Prefer status quo. Some would like the easier access.

PROPOSAL NO. 151

ACTION: Support 10 - 0

DESCRIPTION: Re-institute closure of Palmer Creek/Lower Resurrection Creek areas in Unit 7 to moose hunting.

DISCUSSION: This seems to have created a can of worms. The committee wants to support the local people who live there.

PROPOSAL NO. 152

ACTION: Support 10-0

DESCRIPTION: Remove the reference to brown bear drawing hunts on the Kenai Peninsula.

DISCUSSION: This was considered housekeeping to clarify language.



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PROPOSAL NO. 153

ACTION: Support 10-0

DESCRIPTION: Modify the registration season dates and the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 15A and 15C.

AMENDMENTS: Amended for all of Unit 7 and Unit 15, one bear every year for a registration hunt with season dates of Sept 1 – May 31. 10-0 Support

DISCUSSION: This past season shows that bears are not that easy to harvest. Bears with cubs are protected already. Amendment on the date change is because it's highly likely to be a male bear that comes out late fall / early spring. Also sends the message we need intensive management on the refuge. Not that many people like to bear hunt, so those that do should be able to harvest annually. We would hope the refuge counts from the DNA study are available prior to this BOG meeting because it is believed the numbers are substantially higher than previous estimates.

PROPOSAL NO. 154

ACTION: Support 10 - 0

DESCRIPTION: Allow brown bear baiting in Unit 15 intensive management areas.

AMENDMENTS: Orientation requirement to watch "Judging Bear" video. 10-0 Support

DISCUSSION: There is no known conflict and this has been effective in coastal areas. Bears are smart and many will still elude those that are trying to harvest them. Hopefully, by the time the BOG meets they will have the counts from the DNA study. This hasn't been tried and we don't know what the actual harvest will be. Would like to give it a try and be able to be more selective on harvesting the male bears. Brown bear chase the black bear off baiting stations. This allows a hunter who is hunting bear to make a better decision on the gender of the animal. The black bear will probably appreciate it.

PROPOSAL NO. 155

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Allow for the incidental harvesting of brown bears over black bear bait sites in Units 15A and 15C.

DISCUSSION: The committee took no action based on their action on Prop 154.

PROPOSAL NO. 156

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Open a brown bear registration hunt in Units 7 and 15; and allow the incidental take of brown bear at black bear bait sites.

DISCUSSION: The committee took no action based on their action on Prop 154.

PROPOSAL NO. 157

ACTION: Support 10 - 0

DESCRIPTION: Modify the black bear salvage requirement for Units 7 and 15.

AMENDMENTS: Adding to require salvage of an adequate size patch of hair that establishes evidence of sex and the skull for sealing purposes. Support 10 - 0

DISCUSSION: There is no shortage of bears. Some people hunt bear for the meat, but don't want to pack out the hide. Data is needed for management purposes. The hide will be taken by nature. It is intended by this committee that meat salvage requirement remain the same.

PROPOSAL NO. 158

ACTION: Support - 10 - 0

DESCRIPTION: Increase the bag limit for black bear in Units 15A and 15C.

DISCUSSION: Most people are not going to take more, but if there are some that would like to harvest that many, there appears to be adequate black bear to support that harvest.



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PROPOSAL NO. 159 **ACTION: Support 10 - 0**
DESCRIPTION: Open wolf, coyote and lynx hunting in Skilak Loop.
DISCUSSION: This will increase hunting opportunity and used to be open.

PROPOSAL NO. 160 **ACTION: Support 10 - 0**
DESCRIPTION: Open a no closed hunting season for wolf in Units 7 and 15.
DISCUSSION: This would help with the intensive management objective.

PROPOSAL NO. 161 **ACTION: Support as amended 10 - 0**
DESCRIPTION: Lengthen the spring season with a decreased bag limit for ptarmigan on the Kenai Peninsula.
AMENDMENT: Remove extended season and make five per day / 10 in possession bag limit with same current season. Support 10 - 0
DISCUSSION: The ptarmigan are more susceptible to harvest in the spring. Prefer status quo. The ptarmigan population is not very robust.

Next meeting will be in February 11th to finish preparing comments on BOG Southcentral region proposals and address Board of Fisheries Statewide and supplemental proposals.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 pm.



Cooper Landing Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

11/9/2012

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NOV 13 2012

BOARDS
ANCHORAGE

Members Present:

George Heim, Gerald Neis, Robert Gibson, James Givens, Ed Holsten, Billy Coulliette, Kyle Kolodziejski, John Pearson

Call to order 7:00pm

Jeff Selinger, ADFG presentation 15A +C Wildlife Harvest and Survey Data

Steve Miller, KNWR presentation on refuge camping- proposed changes 100 yards from river, 3 night maximum, ¼ mile from road

Att: Frances on time AC comments to BOG meetings

Hunting Proposals

*BOG
Central SW
Southcentral
Region
BOG*

- **126** All in favor, the possibility of diseases spread to wild stock from domestic
- **143** Amend: Sept 1 to Sept 20 3 brow tines 50 inch Allow cow hunt if resource can unanimous as amended
- **No action on 144, 145, 146 based on 143**
- **147** All in favor good for community, ethically
- **151** All in favor housekeeping
- **153** 2 opposed too hard to have a split hunt, 6 in favor more hunting opportunity people may prefer a spring brown bear over a fall for meat salvage
- **157** all opposed don't believe in wasting meat
- **158** 1 in favor, too many black bears should be allowed more, 7 opposed current regs allow for enough hunting opportunity
- **161** all in favor our ptarmigan population can sustain
- **165** amended to 7 days all in favor Alaskans should prioritize on our resource
- **No action on 166 based on 165**
- **173** all opposed no snaring of bears, you can't distinguish what you are going to get brown/black
- **No action on 174, 175 based on 173**
- **175** 2 opposed coyotes do a lot of good controlling rabbit and small game, 6 favor

Meeting adjourned 11:20pm



*Att: Nison / ...
BOG So with central
AC COMMENTS*

Copper River/Prince William Sound Fish & Game Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2012

Meeting began at 7 pm at the PWS Aquaculture Association Corporate offices on First Street in Cordova.

Members Present: Tom Carpenter, Troy Tirrell, Vic Jones, John Renner, Ardy Hanson, John Greenwood, Bill Webber, Mark King, John Bocci, Dave O'Brien

Members Absent Excused: Torie Baker, Michael Collins, Jason Fode, John Wiese

Members Absent Unexcused: Brad Sapp, Daniel Nichols

Agency Staff Present: Milo Burcham (Forest Service), Tim Joyce (City of Cordova), Dave Crowley (ADF&G Cordova), Sherry Wright (ADF&G Anchorage)

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Public Present: Christian Johnson, Bill Myers, Glenn Ijioka

NOV 19 2012

OLD BUSINESS

**BOARDS
ANCHORAGE**

Last year, BOG proposal passed dealing with Tier I Unit 13 caribou – Tom wanted people to be aware of the limitation of even applying for any drawing harvest in Unit 6 if you put in for that hunt in Unit 13. The new permit handout is more clear about it this year.

NEW BUSINESS

Elections were held with the following results:

Nominees: John Wiese, Tom Carpenter, John Greenwood, Dave O'Brien, Chris Johnson, Dan Nichols, Brad Sapp

Members elected: John Wiese, Tom Carpenter, John Greenwood, Dave O'Brien, Chris Johnson

Alternates elected: Dan Nichols, Brad Sapp

Officers elected: Tom Carpenter – Chair Game; John Renner – Chair Fish; Jason Fode - Secretary

Update on deer harvest was provided by Dave Crowley. Concern of low deer numbers and conservation measures locals discussed to address those. Heavy snow from last year has had an impact on the local populations of deer. Bill Webber moved for an emergency closure on Unit 6 state deer hunting season effective December 7. 2nd by John Renner. One of the committee members had been at a processor who had commented there had been a lot less deer from PWS coming through recently. Couple active outfitters out of Whittier that is doing overnight operations. The department also has EO authority to protect the resource. December 7th date allows opportunity for people to make other arrangements and if there is a heavy snowfall prior, the committee can meet again to deal with the issue. Motion carried.



Copper River/Prince William Sound Fish & Game Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2012

Discussion continued to consider if they committee also wanted to see a closure on the federal subsistence hunt to conserve the population. Ducks would be an alternative source of food, if the deer season is shortened or closed. The advisory committee recommended the same December 7th season ending for the federal season. The district ranger in Seward can close the moose season in case of conservation concerns. Requested of the advisory committee's consideration of support for the district ranger to have authority to make those type of closures for conservation concerns. The committee would prefer if the district ranger has delegated authority, that it would also require them to have communications with the local people prior to implementation of any closure actions.

Fall Moose harvest – Dave Crowley gave information on the bull tag harvest as a total of 6 out of 7. In the federal side there were 21 bull tags issued with 10 harvested so far; and 40 cow permits – 35 harvested and the season is over.

Southcentral Region Board of Game proposals Cordova Area – Unit 6

The area biologist had concerns of the winter overharvest of moose but could use emergency opening authority to take some of these moose. He requested support of the advisory committee for this concept. Last year there was concern expressed about people out with snowmachines, etc. There have been about 60 moose harvested and a need to take about 100. A later season open registration hunt was discussed in order to harvest additional moose. Concern of the ability of prosecuting an orderly hunt, or allowing the surplus to build and have more animals available next year were expressed. The possibility of utilizing those moose by Federal subsistence hunters was discussed. Shoot a bear get a moose tag, shoot a wolf get a sheep tag – earn your tag permits! Late November is a possibility as a time frame for a registration hunt to allow for some additional opportunity to harvest moose. Concern of waiting until there is deeper snow and having people out running those moose after the rut with snowmachines. The Forest Service also could shut down their management areas if they don't agree with the state's idea. There is the non-motorized area south of the road around the Alaganok area. John Renner moved to support emergency opening of antlerless hunt with the time to be determined in 2012. 2nd by Bill Webber. Approximately 25 – 30 additional moose would be taken and allow approx. 2 weeks. Motion failed 5 – 6.

Prop 127 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6A.

The biologist reported that he doesn't anticipate utilizing the antlerless moose season in Unit 6A and 6B. The committee took no action.

Prop 128 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6B. The committee took no action.

Prop 129 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6C. Motion to support approved unanimously.

Prop 130 Modify the bag limit for hunting black bear in Unit 6D. Motion to support failed unanimously. Unit 7 has a similar proposal for goats and there is a noticeable decline in the black bear population in the Sound. This would be difficult to administer.



Copper River/Prince William Sound Fish & Game Advisory Committee
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Intensive Management on Salmon – request by Tom Payton was brought forward with a directive to the committee to keep an eye on it.

Migratory Bird – Call for proposals from the Flyaway Waterfowl Council to include new communities regarding spring hunting. Cordova is not one of the communities included. The shorebird festival is an established event that brings a lot of people to Cordova and is the primary reason they have not sought this. Winter harvest of sea ducks happens already and the season could begin November 1 and extend it into the spring. They used to take a few scoters on the way home from deer hunting, but now it's illegal. The closure are a pretty short time frame. Concern of going over the limit of dusky's if they added a spring harvest was expressed. There was no support of putting in a proposal for this.

BOF PWS regulatory meeting - Notice to the committee that the BOF has listed Fairbanks as an alternative meeting site for the upcoming PWS meeting and requested the advisory committee send a letter to the Board of Fisheries reminding them of the statute and specifically press that the meeting be held in a community in Prince Williams Sound, if not in Cordova.

AC Questionnaire discussion – Sherry asked that committee members think about what their greatest training need is and let her know. There will be another version of the questionnaire forthcoming so you can wait till that comes out if you'd like to respond.

Draft Joint Board proposal discussion – The draft was provided for committee review and they had no changes noted. They will comment when the Joint Board proposal book comes out.

Subsistence applications are available at the Forest Service office – due by January 15th.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.



**Copper River/ Prince William Sound Advisory Committee
PO BOX 1663
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**Committee Action: failed 0-12
amended staff comments.**

Proposal 129 with

Proposal: Reauthorize antlerless moose season GMU 6C

Issue: Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually.

What will happen if nothing is done: ADF&G will lose a management tool, local subsistence could be disrupted.

Will the quality of the resource harvested or products produced be improved: Yes

Who is likely to benefit: Species, subsistence users, sport hunters.

Who is likely to suffer:

Other solutions considered: Population objectives for GMU 6C is 400. This was established in 1995, with a board approved management plan developed by the area staff and advisory committee. This plan was well thought out, and took many meetings to complete. The basis for the plan using all the available information, which suggested at the time that the habitat on the west delta was good enough that the herd could range from 400-1200 animals. The lower herd carrying capacity was chosen because of concern that during a severe winter, 400 would be easier to manage. Well ADFG latest estimates conducted in 2012 put the herd at about 700, with the latest bull cow numbers at 23 bulls-100 cows in 2011. In 2012, the USFS did a sample estimate on the west delta and found that due to large bull harvests in 2008,2009, that the bull to cow ratio in dropped to about 10-100, far below the preferred range of 20/25-100. The concerns the advisory committee has are valid and feel that opposing the amended language the state has put forth is not warranted at this time. The winter of 2012 was one of the worst the north gulf coast has ever seen, and with west delta estimates of 700 moose, there was really very low mortality due to the winter. There is an ongoing carrying capacity study being conducted over a two year period that will include a browse damage study. This study, the first since the early 90's, is extremely important as the delta is an ever changing environment, completely transformed since the 1964 earthquake. This



study will help managers a better understanding of what the true carrying capacity is in 2013. This committee feels the 400 animals currently used is to low, and that if the current population estimate of 700 is correct, we feel the habitat is suitable to handle maintaining the higher numbers, last winter was a true test of that. In the two years 2008,2009 where there was a much higher bull harvest, we feel the average size of the bulls have decreased along with the bull to cow ratio falling well below the optimal levels of 25-100. Finally, this is a dual management area, with 75 percent of the moose on the west delta being harvested under the federal system and 25 under state. It is also in federal regulation that 100 percent of the antlerless tags be harvested by federal regulation. By authorizing this amended language into regulation ,we feel that with split management of west delta moose, the 75-25 split in allocation will not be achieved, ultimately putting residents of this state in the middle of a federal vs state legal debate, which is what we are trying to avoid. We suggest holding off on new regulation until we have the results from the ongoing carrying capacity/browse study.

**Copper River/ Prince William Sound Advisory Committee
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99574
(907)424.3101**



Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committee Position Statement on proposals restricting Non-Resident Hunting Opportunity

Due to the large number of proposals (109-117, 162-170) that are being submitted to the Board of Game restricting the opportunities for non-resident hunters, the DAC would like to issue this statement of our collective remarks on these proposals.

The Delta Advisory Committee, after researching and reading information on the contribution that non-resident hunters make to our state, the actual numbers of animals harvested compared to residents and the revenue generated by this small number of hunters, we do not see any reason to try and further restrict non-resident hunting opportunities in Alaska. There is no evident biological reasoning to restrict the season lengths, give resident hunters earlier access or place quotas on the number of non-resident hunters.

Our AC recognizes the level of scientific surveying and sampling we have now come to expect in order to provide the information needed to make sound biological decisions regarding management of our game species. This research activity is expensive and paid for mostly by nonresident hunters. Nonresident tag sales have been in decline since 2000 and passing these proposals, very likely, will cause further decline in nonresident hunter participation and, consequently, in our ability to properly manage our game resources.

The vote of the DAC on this letter is 9 in favor and 1 abstention

Delta Advisory Committee



Delta Advisory Committee vote on Proposals Jan 16th, 2013

Proposal# 47, Motion and 2nd 9 apposed 1 abstain, No reason for a guide to be required for this hunt.

Proposal #62 Reauthorize Antlerless moose hunt in unit 13
10 in favor unanimous

Proposal #64, Motion and 2nd, 10 in favor with stipulation that hunt be once in a lifetime consistent with other youth hunts

Proposal #69 Motion and 2nd, 10 opposed, Harvest quotas need to be based on biological data not personal wants

Proposal #71 Motion and 2nd, 10 opposed, Lacks rationale for support

Proposal #74-78, 80-83, Motion and 2nd, 10 in favor, Not opposed to brown bear baiting if the Department deems it necessary to support ungulate populations

Proposal #79, Motion and 2nd, 10 opposed, No need to change current regulations

Proposal #84-85, Motion and 2nd, 8 opposed 2 in favor, DAC does not support state funded predator control on private land

Proposal #86 Motion and 2nd, 10 opposed, Buffer zones do not keep animals contained and no biological reason to implement them

Proposal #87 Motion and 2nd, 10 opposed, No motorized vehicles should be allowed at all.

Proposal #88 Motion and 2nd, 10 in Favor

Proposal #89 Motion and 2nd, 10 opposed, No special interests seasons need to be added here.

Proposal #92, Motion and 2nd, 8 in favor, 1 opposed and 1 abstain,

Proposal #109, 110,111,112,113,114,115,116,117, Motion and 2nd, 9 in favor of the DAC position statement on non-resident hunting (refer to page 1) which **opposes these proposals**, 1 abstain



Proposal #108, Motion and 2nd, 10 opposed, No need to take management tools away from the Department

Proposal #118, Motion and 2nd, 8 opposed 2 abstain, no reason to add regulation.

Proposal #119, Motion and 2nd, 8 in favor 2 abstain

Proposal #121, Motion and 2nd, 10 opposed, No biological reason to limit wolf harvest

Proposal #123, Motion and 2nd, 10 in favor

Proposal #124, Motion and 2nd, 10 in favor

Proposal #125, Motion and 2nd, 10 in favor

Proposal #126, Motion and 2nd, 10 in favor

Proposal #162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, Motion and 2nd, 10 in favor
Refer to DAC position statement on limiting non-resident hunters

Proposal #171, Motion and 2nd, 9 in favor, 1 abstain, Refer to DAC position statement on limiting non-resident hunters

Proposal #173&174, Motion and 2nd, 10 opposed, Let the Department decide if the control methods need to be changed.

Proposal #175, Motion and 2nd, 7 in favor, 2 opposed and 1 abstain



Delta Advisory Committee vote on Statewide Game Proposals 2013

Proposal #177, Motion and 2nd, 6 in favor, 4 abstain

Proposal #180, Motion and 2nd, 10 in favor



Fairbanks AC Comments on Southcentral Region Proposals

Regional and Multiple Units

Proposal #162 Action: Oppose

Description: Open resident sheep seasons seven days before nonresident seasons for the Southcentral Region Units

Discussion: The Fairbanks AC vote on this proposal was 3 For, 7 Against, and one Abstaining.

Those testifying against this proposal indicated that during BOG hearings last year there was testimony from Joe Want and Wayne Heimer that the sheep population is not in danger—that there are plenty of sheep for both residents and non-residents, and that based on the research those two have done, they do not support a resident preference. They also, pointed out that 70% of the revenue for the Department of Fish and Game comes from non-resident tags, through Pittman-Robertson funds.

Those testifying for the proposal indicated that Alaska is the only Western State that does not give a clear preference to the Resident hunters for this State's big game resources. They felt that the non-residents would still be allowed to hunt under this proposal (just 7 days later), thus ensuring no loss in revenue to the State and/or big game guides. They also testified that the earlier start date would ensure a higher quality hunt for resident hunters.

Proposal #163 Action: TNA due to action on #162

Description: Open resident sheep seasons seven days earlier than nonresident seasons for the Southcentral Region.

Discussion: Fairbanks AC vote was unanimous.

Proposal #164 Action: TNA due to action on #162

Description: Open resident sheep hunting seasons five days before nonresident seasons for Southcentral Region Units.

Discussion: Fairbanks AC vote was unanimous.



Proposal #165

Action: TNA due to action on #166

Description: Open resident hunting seasons seven to ten days before nonresident seasons for Southcentral Region Units.

Discussion: Fairbanks AC vote was unanimous.

Proposal #166

Action: Oppose

Description: Open resident hunting seasons seven days before nonresident seasons for Southcentral Region Units.

Discussion: The Fairbanks AC vote was 3 For, 7 Against, and 1 Abstaining.

Those testifying against this proposal pointed out that due to subsistence, Tier I and Tier II hunts, the residents of Alaska already get many earlier start dates than non-residents, especially for species like deer, moose and caribou. They felt that this proposal was just too “broad brushed”. Additionally, they felt that there would be a significant loss in revenue to the State due to the loss of Pittman-Robertson funds, generated from the purchase of big game tags by non-residents.

Those testifying for this proposal felt that all Alaska game resources belong to Alaskans first, and therefore Alaskans should get a priority for those resources, as every other Western State does for its game resources. They pointed out that Pittman-Roberson funds would have to made up in higher tag fees for everyone, just like every other Western State does.

Proposal #167

Action: TNA due to action on #166

Description: Open resident hunting seasons 10 days before nonresident seasons; allocate 90 percent harvest to residents; remove guide requirements, and increase tag and permit fees for Southeast Region.

Discussion: The Fairbanks AC vote was unanimous.

Proposal #168

Action: TNA due to action on #169

Description: Limit drawing permits to 10% for nonresidents in Southcentral Region Units.

Discussion: The Fairbanks AC vote was unanimous.



Proposal #169

Action: Oppose

Description: Allocate 90% of drawing permits to residents for Southcentral Region hunts and exclude nonresidents in hunts with less than ten permits.

Discussion: The Fairbanks AC voted 4 For, and 7 Against this proposal.

Those testifying in opposition to the proposal felt that, if passed, this proposal would have a large impact on guides, guided hunts, and the resultant large reduction in the income generated by non-resident tag fees and the associated matching Pittman-Robertson funds. There was some testimony that a large percentage of residents, who do draw tags, do not hunt and/or use those tags, which is why the Department must offer a large number drawing tags for a particular hunt, to assure the take of a small number of target species. They felt that that was not the case with non-resident hunters—that, if drawn for an Alaska hunt, nearly 100% of them actually hunt that species. Additionally, there was considerable testimony from both sides in this issue, that Alaska needs a Preference Point System, as most Western States have and that would solve many of these issues.

Those testifying for this proposal felt that the Alaska game resources belong to Alaskans first and therefore Alaskans should have a priority over non-residents for that resource. They also felt that if this, or a similar proposal, was implemented, it would produce a higher quality hunt for both residents and non-residents.

Proposal #170

Action: TNA due to action on#169

Description: Limit Dall sheep drawing permits to 10% for nonresidents for the Southcentral Region.

Discussion: The Fairbanks AC vote was unanimous.

Proposal #171

Action: Oppose

Description: Develop a permit allocation formula for second degree of kindred hunters in Units 14C and 15.

Discussion: The Fairbanks AC vote was unanimous in opposition.

As they freely admit in their proposal discussion, this is just an attempt by the guide industry, on behalf of their non-resident hunters, to garner more drawing tags, and thus income, for their personal business enterprises. This is at the expense of the second degree of kindred relatives of Alaska residents.



Proposal #175 Action: Support

Description: Open a no closed hunting season and no bag limit for Southcentral Region Units, for coyote.

Discussion: The Fairbanks AC vote was unanimous in support.

We feel that it makes no difference whether a predator species is taken in the summer or winter, as far as the impact on the prey species—the result is reduced predation, and more caribou, moose, etc. for the residents of Alaska.

Proposal #177 Action: Support

Description: Convert the winter limited registration permit hunt for the Fortymile Caribou Herd to a winter “hot spot” permit hunt.

Discussion: The Fairbanks AC vote on this proposal was unanimous in support.

We feel that this is a good solution to the problem of overcrowding on this hunt, and allows some Alaskans the opportunity to take a caribou under optimal conditions.

Proposal #178 Action: Support

Description: Authorize a predator control program in a small portion of Unit 1A.

Discussion: The Fairbanks AC vote on this proposal was unanimous in support.

We feel that the development of a predator control plan is a good first step in allowing more predators to be taken in this unit and thus provide more game to be taken by Alaskans, instead of predators.

Proposal #179 Action: Support

Description: Authorize a predator control program in a portion of Unit 3.

Discussion: The Fairbanks AC vote on this proposal was unanimous in support.

We feel that the development of a predator control plan for this unit is a good first step in allowing more predators to be taken in this unit and thus provide more game to be taken by Alaskans, instead of predators.



Fairbanks AC Comments on Southcentral Trapping Proposals

Proposal #172

Action: Oppose

Description: Prohibit the taking of wolves March through November in the Southcentral Region.

Discussion: The Fairbanks AC vote on this proposal was unanimous.

We are confident that the current seasons for the taking of wolves in the Southcentral Region are being managed on a sustained yield basis.

Proposal #173

Action: Oppose

Description: Prohibit snaring of bears in the Southcentral Region.

Discussion: The Fairbanks AC vote on this proposal was unanimous.

The proposer asks to restrict the act of snaring bears in all of this region, when current regulation already does not allow the take of bears with the use of a snare in most of the region. We support the Board's actions on the snaring of bears in Unit 16, as the actions taken with the conservation of the resource in mind, as well as the safety of the public.

Proposal #174

Action: Oppose

Description: Prohibit snaring of bears in the Southcentral Region

Discussion: The Fairbanks AC vote on this proposal was unanimous.

See comments for Proposal #173.

Proposal #180

Action: Support

Description: Clarify the regulation concerning the incidental take of moose, deer, or caribou using traps or snares.

Discussion: The Fairbanks AC vote on this proposal was unanimous.

Although supported by all, there was some discussion that although the moose, caribou, or deer managed to escape the trap or snare, a prudent trapper should still reconsider the placement of those devices if they caught those animals in the first place.



Homer Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2013

Meeting began at 6:00 pm

Members Present: Trina Fellows, Marvin Peters, Thomas Hagberg, Lee Martin, George Matz, Michael Craig, Dave Lyon, Skip Avril, Pete Wedin, Gus Van Dyke, Tom Young, Joey Allred, Gary Sinnhuber

Members Absent Excused: Tabor Ashment (moved), James Meesis

*Ann Nissen/Kristy
BOG Southcentral
AC Comments*

Public Present: Dennis Wade, Beaver Nelson,

Agency Staff Present: Trent Chwialhowski (Trooper), Jason Herreman , Jeff Sellinger, Sherry Wright ADF&G

Elections were held with the following results: 3 year seats – Dave Lyon, Pete Wedin, Dennis Wade, Ty Gates, David Bayes

Officer elections were held with Dave Lyon elected as Chair, Tom Young remains Vice Chair and George Matz, Secretary.

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Jason Herreman provided a report on the wildlife on the Kenai Peninsula.

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Kenai Peninsula Area – Units 7 & 15

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PROPOSAL NO. 143 **ACTION: Support as amended 11-3**
DESCRIPTION: Modify bag limit for moose to 50" or greater, 3 brow tines in Units 7 and 15.
AMENDMENTS: Add "spike" or 50" or greater, 3 brow tines 7-5-2 Support
 Season dates of Sept 1 – 20th 14-0 Support
DISCUSSION: Historically, harvest of older moose was closely monitored, so that the older moose had the opportunity to teach the younger moose their traditions. Concern of since they cut off spike fork there seem to be a larger number of smaller moose available. One member prefers 3 brow tine and not go back to spike fork for another year. The season date should make it easier to identify a spike. There's been comments about August being too warm. Committee believes the sealing requirement should also be retained.

PROPOSAL NO. 147 **ACTION: Support 13 – 0 - 1**
DESCRIPTION: Suspend aerial taking of wolves in Unit 15A and modify the population and harvest objectives for moose.
DISCUSSION: Haven't seen a moose back in the refuge in several years. Should the aerial wolf management occur, it is believed it would be very expensive with very little actual benefit. We need to take a look at the numbers.

PROPOSAL NO. 148 **ACTION: Support as amended 13-1-0**
DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in a portion of Unit 15C.
AMENDMENTS: Amended so that the bull section of this proposal complies with the amendments made by the AC in Prop 143. Modify the dates Sept 1 – 20. 11 – 2 – 1 Support
DISCUSSION: Harvesting some cows protects some of the bull population and allows for hunting opportunity.



Homer Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2013

PROPOSAL NO. 149

ACTION: Support as amended

DESCRIPTION: Allow the harvest of up to 100 antlerless moose in Unit 15C.

AMENDMENTS: Would like to consider these moose for a hot spot hunt similar to what is occurring in the Mat Valley, with opportunity for other options, like winter starvation, road kill areas, as approved by the AC. 13-0-1 Support

DISCUSSION: Concern of "slaughter alley" – a lot of moose were hit by vehicles. Would prefer to hunt them, but they come down from the hills later. The committee liked the idea of a "hot spot" additional hunting

PROPOSAL NO. 150

ACTION: Opposed 0-14

DESCRIPTION: Allow the use of motorized land vehicles during certain hours in the Lower Kenai Controlled Use area.

DISCUSSION: Concern of taking some actions to protect the moose populations, then another action that could open up more harvest. This would not be limited to only senior citizens and concern of many others taking advantage of this. There were other senior citizens present and they did not agree with this proposal. It is an opportunity to bring younger hunters along to assist, if needed.

PROPOSAL NO. 153

ACTION: Support as amended 14-0

DESCRIPTION: Modify the registration season dates and the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 15A and 15C.

AMENDMENTS: Spring season dates April 1 – May 20, modify Fall season dates to Sept 15 – November 30 for both registration (map provided by ADF&G) and allow the rest of the area for drawing permit hunt in the remainder of Unit 7 and 15 with a bag limit of one bear every four years. 14-0 Support

DISCUSSION: The department discussed their plans to have a working group later this month made up of Peninsula AC representatives, and other stakeholder groups in order to try and get consensus to move forward on brown bear management on the Kenai Peninsula in order to reduce the number of brown bears around places where people live. A suggestion was made that anyone desiring to hunt brown bear be required to watch the video "Judging Bears". There would be a limit on the number of females harvested.

PROPOSAL NO. 154

ACTION: Opposed 0-13-1

DESCRIPTION: Allow brown bear baiting in Unit 15 intensive management areas.

DISCUSSION: Don't agree with brown bear baiting. A lot of bear baiters use archery as their method and don't like the idea of someone missing badly.

PROPOSAL NO. 155

ACTION: Opposed 0-14

DESCRIPTION: Allow for the incidental harvesting of brown bears over black bear bait sites in Units 15A and 15C.

DISCUSSION: Same discussion as Prop 154.

PROPOSAL NO. 156

ACTION: Opposed 0-14

DESCRIPTION: Open a brown bear registration hunt in Units 7 and 15; and allow the incidental take of brown bear at black bear bait sites.

DISCUSSION: Same discussion as Prop 154.



Homer Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2013

PROPOSAL NO. 160

ACTION: Opposed 0-14

DESCRIPTION: Open a no closed hunting season for wolf in Units 7 and 15.

DISCUSSION: There is no point in killing a fur bearer when the fur is no good. It is disrespectful to the animal. If an animal is a problem, you can harvest as a DLP.

Federal Subsistence MOU Discussion

The Homer Fish & Game Advisory Committee would like to continue being included in the process.

Public Comment

Beaver Nelson brought the committee attention to the Cattlemen's Association built a fence at the head of Kachemak Bay to keep the cows from going up the Valley. It creates a total barrier in the winter when the cows are not even the area which is prime moose habitat. The moose would normally go over the fence, unless they are being pushed by a predator, then they get cut up pretty bad. ADF&G Habitat Division (and DNR may be able to help. The AC will draft a letter to address this issue.

In Colorado they have "take down" fences that allow people to drop the fence so wildlife can pass through the lands that are not being used for livestock.

The AC discussed a letter received from Dave Martin (Central Peninsula Fish & Game Advisory Committee) asking Gov. Parnell about the funding to cut back brush 75 feet. They are trying to protect moose from road collision, but in fact are creating moose habitat.

Next meeting will be held February 12th at 6 pm at the NERRS building to take up BOF proposals. Meeting adjourned at 9:24 pm.



Comments of the Homer F&G advisory committee for the Alaska Board of Game meeting, March 15-19 2013

Att: Aisa/Kathy
BCG SC Region
AC Comments

proposal 143

Modify moose bag limit for moose to 50" or greater or 3 brow tines in units 7 and 15
The Homer AC supports this proposal with the following amendments, that spike bulls be added to the harvest, and the season dates be moved to september 1st through the 20th.

Support as amended 11-3

With moose population within IM goals in unit 15c and our bull:cow ratio having rebounded from 9:100 to 22:100 in just two years of antler restriction we believe that we can now take advantage of greater harvest opportunity. Moving the season up until sept 1st will continue to have some negative affect on effort, thus somewhat reducing harvest while at the same time adding spike bulls back into the take will add to the chance of a hunter finding a legal bull. A later start date will also give animals a chance to shed more velvet, making the judging of horn configuration somewhat easier. Spike bulls, when allowed under the previous spike/fork restrictions, averaged 13% of the total , though as a whole spike /forks were over 65% of the harvest in units 7 and 15. As few spikes ever enter the 50"/3 brow tine cohort, returning them to the harvest will have little impact on "trophy" size moose while allowing additional opportunity for alaskans to put meat in the freezer..

We also strongly encourage the board to retain the antler sealing requirement for moose in units 7 and 15, as there is no doubt that this rule has done more to protect 45" moose from being "ground checked" than any other regulation.

Proposal 147

To suspend aerial taking of wolves and modify population and harvest objectives for GMU 15A

Support 13-0-1

This is a very reasonable and well thought out proposal. The IM goals in place for 15A are based on nearly antiquated data and reflect a time when the habitat available was much more productive. Reducing the IM objective would allow managers to concentrate on attainable goals instead of futilely striving towards a mandated yet unattainable number of moose.

As to the suspension of aerial wolf control, 15A is a very poor candidate for effective aerial predator control. The state land on which shooting could be done is not only

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limited, but also fragmented. There are less than 100 square miles available, and very little of it is in contiguous blocks of any size. A similar plan instituted in the McGrath area was found to be ineffective in significantly reducing wolf numbers until the area was expanded to more than 1000 square miles. In 2009 the control area was expanded to approximately 4,484 square miles in an effort to reach objectives.

The expense of aerial wolf control is extremely high in relation to its potential effectiveness in 15A. To have any hope of shooting wolves in the small areas where it would be allowed a spotter plane would need to be in the air constantly to report on the whereabouts of wolf packs, with a helicopter crew on standby ready to deploy at a moments notice if the wolves were spotted in a target area. A plane and chopper would likely cost several thousand dollars a day, whether or not any control actions were undertaken.

Another real issue that needs to be addressed is that the moose population in 15A is at or above carrying capacity. Any program that results in an across the board increase in moose numbers will overburden the available browse, thus weakening the health of the population. Similar population growth in areas of poor habitat have prompted the department to propose either sex any animal hunts, and the public has a high resistance to the concept of cow and calf hunts, even when biologically necessary.

It makes more sense to reduce IM goals and strive for a healthy moose population than to increase numbers and require culling simply to maintain an anachronistic status quo.

Proposal 148

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in a portion of unit 15C
Support 13-1

We support the reauthorization of the antlerless moose hunt on the homer bench. Since the inception of this hunt 18 years ago it has been very popular among hunters despite some initial controversy. With an average harvest of 23 cows annually this hunt has had no apparent negative affect on our moose numbers, as is evidenced by continued population within IM goals.

Many young hunters have had a homer cow as their first moose, and the simple fact that this hunt puts meat in the freezer for Alaskan families is reason to retain it.

Proposal 149

Allow the harvest of up to 100 antlerless moose in unit 15C
Support as amended 13-0-1

We support the idea of harvesting additional moose in unit 15C, and realize that should the moose population exceed carrying capacity population control hunts will be called for.

Homer AC

12/2/04



The Homer AC would like to see this proposal amended to direct any additional harvest towards "hot spot" hunts along the highway in areas of high moose collisions, or perhaps youth or weapons restricted hunts near the road system.

Proposal 150

Allow use of motorized vehicles during certain hours in the Lower Kenai controlled use area.

Opposed unanimously

We oppose any loosening of the current restrictions on ATV use during moose season. The current regulations are already difficult to enforce, as hunters with a bear tag need only claim to be bear hunting in order to circumvent the letter, if not the intent, of the law. The claim that the closure constitutes some sort of "age discrimination" is just silly. We can't do what we did when we were younger, and when we are older we won't be able to do what we do now. It's not "discrimination", because we are all getting old.

Proposal 153

Modify the registration season and bag limit for brown bears in units 15A and 15C
Supported as amended by unanimous vote

We support the amendments put forth in the departmental A&Rs as follows:
Spring season dates April 1- May 20, modify fall season dates to Sept 15- November 30 for both registration (per F&G map) and allow the remainder of units 7 and 15 to be open for drawing permit with a bag limit of one bear every 4 regulatory years.

The Homer AC does not consider the current healthy brown bear population on the Kenai Peninsula as something that needs "to be dealt with". Rather, we see good numbers of brown bears leading to multiple opportunities for utilization by varied user groups.

The department's intent to open a registration hunt in areas of high human/bear conflict is long overdue, and will serve to eliminate habitual problem bears, prevent them from passing on bad habits, reduce bear numbers in discrete locations, and provide brown bear hunting near the road system where it is easily accessible.

Keeping the area around Cooper Landing closed, in conjunction with a permit system for refuge lands, would help provide bear viewing opportunity along the river corridor. Bear viewing businesses based out of Kenai and Cooper Landing would be much more affordable than flying across the inlet. Many visitors to the Kenai specifically hope to see bears, yet the \$700 or more price tag to fly across the inlet is simply too much. Bear viewing is a cash cow, and that should be considered when management decisions are discussed.

The Kenai National Wildlife Refuge has good numbers of bears, as evidenced by their recent study. Establishing a permit hunt, or even a well regulated registration hunt intended to provide a long-term conservatively managed brown bear harvest, is

Homer AC

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obviously a goal of the department. However, the fact that the refuge has management mandates that must be followed cannot be ignored. It is our feeling that any state hunt that refuge managers consider "predator control" is going to result in the closure of the refuge to brown bear hunting.

We urge you not to let Kenai Peninsula brown bear management become an inter-agency turf war.

We have a good healthy brown bear population right now. If we manage them with restraint and good science we will be able to provide jobs for hunting guides and bear viewing guides, pumping money into our economy, yet at the same time control bears in our communities and provide ample opportunity for residents to harvest significant numbers of bears in predictable annual seasons.

Proposal 154 (opposed 0-13-1) and proposals 155 and 156 (unanimously opposed)

These three proposals all deal with brown bear baiting, 154 addresses brown bear baiting specifically, and 155 & 156 with allowing brown bears to be taken incidentally over black bear bait stations.

Most bear baiting in unit 15 takes place in the Chugach and the Swan lakes area of the KNWR. Brown bear baiting is not viewed favorably by many hunters for a variety of reasons, and has only been allowed in Alaska as a control measure. If passed on the Kenai, baiting would very likely be disallowed on the refuge, and due to enforcement issues could potentially threaten the future of black bear baiting on refuge lands as well.

Proposal 160

Open a no closed hunting season for wolf in units 7 & 15.

Opposed unanimously

There is no point in killing a furbearer when the hide is worthless. The practice is disrespectful to the animal and constitutes wanton waste. Any animal that is posing a threat to stock or pets can already be taken in defense of life and property, so we see no reason for this proposal.

Homer AC

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Kenai/Soldotna Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of January 30, 2013

Members Present: Mike Crawford, Bob Ermold, Steve Meyer, Dyer Van Devere, Andrew Carmichael, John Joseph, Chris Brandt, Tom Corr, Bill Tappan, Michelle Maher, Laurie Speakman, Mike Hamrick, Monte Roberts

Members Absent Excused: Pegge Erkeneff, Dick Dykema, Rik Bucy, Christina Shadura, Paul Shadura

Public Present: 14 members of the public present

Professional individuals present: Ted Spraker, Board of Game

Jeff Sellinger ADF&G and Gino del Frate of ADF&G

Andy Loranger, Steve Miller and John Morton of USF&W

Meeting called to order by Chairman Crawford at 6:35 PM.

Chairman Crawford announced the agenda, which would begin with minutes from the 01-16-13 election meeting, then a presentation by USF&W, reference the brown bear count, which will be followed by game proposals.

Bill Tappan motioned to approve minutes from 1-16-2013 meeting, Chris Brant second, all in favor.

Dr. John Morton, a biologist with the USF&W service gave a power point presentation on the 2010, Kenai Peninsula brown bear count effort. Dr. Morton gave a thorough description of the efforts made and explained the limited time and geographical constraints to the project. In short, the results of the survey indicate there are between 504 and 772 brown bears habituating the Kenai Peninsula. Dr. Morton, when asked, stated that he was confident those estimates are on the low side. The cost to the public for this survey was in the neighborhood of \$600,000 - \$700,000.

When asked how this would affect the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge (KNWR), Refuge manager Andy Loranger responded that "there is no magic number." In spite of numerous comments from the attending public, Mr. Loranger was staunchly non-committal except that the Refuge was about conservation for all species in a natural way and for the utilization of all users. It seems there is no longer any credence given to the fact that the KNWR originated as the Kenai National Moose Range and was targeted as such for the proliferation of moose on the Kenai and the target goal to maintain that proliferation.

Richard Link, a member of the public and long time resident of the Kenai pointed out what has been repeated by others at AC meetings. For twenty-five years he never saw a brown bear on the Kenai, this past year he had nine on his property alone. His requests for the KNWR to support a reduction in bear numbers fell on deaf ears.

*Att: Nissa/Kristy
BOG SouthCentral
AC Comments*

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Roland Braden, another long time resident of the Kenai, who many years ago had his face chewed mostly off by a brown bear also pled for management to take a more proactive approach to reducing brown bear numbers.

In reality, the announcement of numbers via this study only confirmed what long time local hunters have been saying all along; there is a hell of a lot more bears than anyone alive today can remember. It was also very clear by the posture of the public present that they are very weary of having federal intervention of game management. ADF&G continues to be hamstrung in efforts to try and manage game populations on refuge lands and it is clear the Alaska public, the people who reside here, feel it is time to change that. Alaska has mandated the management of game species to maximize the harvest of natural resources for consumption by the public. At present this goal is not attainable with the continued federal intervention in game population management.

At present it seems that the KNWR management is striving to make the KNWR the Kenai National Bear Viewing Refuge. Which means the current dynamics of the salmon fishery would be drastically changed in the future to safely accommodate such an endeavor. The strict and limited access to other bear viewing areas comes to mind as does the manipulation of nearby productive salmon streams whose production has been curtailed in order to keep bears in the "viewing area." The places where a bear viewing such as exists in the Katmai area are successful because of strict controls on human intervention. If this was attempted on the Kenai it would in turn result in a closure of sport and subsistence fisheries to accommodate such an endeavor. These areas are overrun with fisherman, hikers, families enjoying a day along the river and this is in no way compatible with an overpopulation of brown bears. Brown Bears and people do not mix well, which is what has brought us to the issues we are facing on the Kenai now.

The opinion of the public and the mandate in Alaska is not to manage wildlife as a tourist resource, it is to manage for a sustainable harvest by the residents of the state. Continuing to interfere with managing for utilization of renewable natural resources is not what the caring residents of Alaska are professing.

In order to stay on track, proposals for brown bear hunting on the Kenai were addressed next. (Board of Game Proposals)

Bob Ermold **motioned #153** forward, Andrew Carmichael second.

Proposal #153 sought to modify the registration dates and bag limit for the registration hunt for brown bears in Unit 15A & 15C. The hunts would open on April 1st and close on May 31st, and reopen on September 1st and close on November 30th. It also proposed one bear every regulatory year in intensive management areas and retain one bear every four years in non-intensive management areas. This proposal was from local long time hunter Brian Blossom with the intent to harvest surplus brown bears and promote growth of the moose population.

Jeff Sellinger stated that ADF&G was taking an amend and adopt stance, which would retain the one bear every four years and would close the registration hunt in the KNWR



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and the majority of federally owned lands in Unit 7 in favor of a limited drawing hunt for those areas. The area ADF&G would be promoting consisted primarily of public lands near the populated areas of the Kenai.

This proposal prompted a significant amount of discussion, particularly regarding the change to drawing permits on federal land that would minimize the harvest in areas that the study confirmed had prolific brown bear populations and were in areas that traditionally harbored viable moose populations. The ADF&G amendment would not include an immediate cap on reproduction age sows.

The committee recognized some of the benefits to the ADF&G amendment but was not comfortable with minimizing the take on federal lands to appease the KNWR. The most significant brown bear populations on the Kenai seem to occur on federal lands and a drawing hunt, as it has been in the past, would result in an insignificant harvest of brown bears where they are the most prolific.

The AC committee recognizes that the taking of brown bear on the Kenai has historically been by opportunity. The terrain does not lend itself to spot and stalk hunting and the areas where bears are prolific and could be taken in this way are off limits due to restrictions on the KNWR and the Kenai River Special Management Area (KRSMA). This is why the drawing permit system has been a dismal failure on the Kenai. Reflecting back to the days when there was a regular open harvest season in the spring and the fall in Units 7 & 15 it was recognized that bears were taken primarily by hunters with a tag when the opportunity presented itself. There were few bears taken back then but there was also enough taken to minimize the impact to populated areas while maintaining a viable population of brown bears on the Kenai.

As a result, Bob Ermold **motioned to amend the proposal** to say "Open a registration brown bear hunt beginning September 1st to run until June 15th. The bag limit shall be one bear every regulatory year. The proposed amendment was seconded by Bill Tappan. The **amendment was supported by 8 members, opposed by 2 and abstained by 1.**

The opposition opposed because of the June 15th closure and would rather have it close on May 31st. One abstention was not convinced for sure.

The question was called on the proposal as amended and was supported by 10 and opposed by one. The opposing vote felt that the KNWR would further restrict methods and means on the refuge to make harvest impossible.

Mike Crawford **motioned proposal #154** forward, Dyer VanDevere second.

Proposal #154, by Dave Blossom, a long term area hunter, seeks to allow the taking of brown bears over bait in the intensive management sections of Units 15A and 15C.

There was much discussion on this proposal including input by Jeff Sellinger who stated under the ADF&G proposed amendment to #153 that brown bear baiting may have some merit.



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Several committee members were 100% opposed to brown bear baiting, believing that while there is an overabundance of brown bears on the Kenai, they are still a trophy animal and bating them did not set right.

Others questioned the numbers that might be taken and would prompt another closure to registration hunting, thus minimizing the opportunity for others to hunt brown bear.

Other opinions considered the ability for hunters to identify brown bear sows and boars and would allow a more selective harvest. Some considered that in other areas where this has been done the meat of the bear would have to be salvaged. As the discussion evolved there were many more questions than there were answers. A fear voiced by some was we would be trying to take too much without giving the open registration hunts a legitimate chance to successfully reduce brown bear numbers.

Opinions favoring brown bear baiting spoke to the lack of harvest of black bears by those baiting due to brown bear intervention. Over the past several years many black bear baiters have closed their bait stations due to being over run by brown bears.

One consideration is the black bear bait stations are located primarily on the KNWR and it is supposed that there would be no chance that brown bear baiting would be allowed when considering the very grudging attitude the KNWR has toward black bear bait stations.

After a rather lengthy discussion it was evident that no real legitimate action could be taken and Steve Meyer **motioned to take no action on proposal # 154 and to include proposals 155 and 156 as they also had to do with brown bear baiting. Unanimous consent to take no action by the committee.**

Bob Ermold **motioned forward proposal #152** forward, Bill Tappan second. This proposal was a housekeeping proposal that removes Units 7 & 15 from 5 AAC 92.061: Special provisions for brown bear drawing permit hunts. **By unanimous consent the committee supported proposal # 152.**

Chairman Crawford announced the next two meetings will be held February 6th and February 20th. The meeting on the 6th will address additional game proposals and the meeting on the 20th will address board of fish issues.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



Kenai/Soldotna Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2013

Members Present: Mike Crawford, Steve Meyer, Paul Shadura, John Joseph, Dick Dykema, Bill Tappan, Laurie Speakman, Mike Hamrick, Monte Roberts

Members Absent Excused: Bob Ermold, Dyer Van Devere, Michelle Maher, Andrew Carmichael, Pegge Erkeneff, Rik Bucy, Christina Shadura, Chris Brandt, Tom Corr,

Public Present: 1 member of the public, Brian Blossom

Professional individuals present: Jeff Sellinger ADF&G

Paul McConnell F&WP

Meeting called to order by Chairman Crawford at 6:35 PM.

Chairman Crawford called for announcements, none forthcoming

*Attn: Nissa/Kristy
BOG Southcentral
AC Comments*

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Game Proposals

Chairman Crawford offered the floor to Mr. Blossom as he was the author of proposal number 143, which he explained at an earlier meeting he had changed his mind on. Mr. Blossom proposed returning to the 50" or three brow tine rule to provide more opportunity for harvest. Since his proposal was submitted Mr. Blossom has changed his mind and believes another term of 50" or 4 brow tines will produce a significant number of mature bulls that will provide excellent breeding stock and will provide for a much better harvest of actual full-size animals in the near future. He does not believe the bull cow ratio, given the recent winter mortality and the lack of good survey information is where it needs to be.

Jeff Sellinger spoke to this proposal and gave to the ADF&G amend and adopt position on it.

The amended issues would be to change the general moose hunting season to September 1-September 20, in Units 7 & 15. The archery only seasons in units 15A and 15B would run from August 22-August 29.

The amendment would allow the taking of moose with one spike antler on one side and resume allowing the taking of moose with 50" antler spread or 3 brow tines on at least one side.

Jeff cited the count numbers that indicate the bull-cow management ratio has been met in unit 15A (20-100) and Unit 15 C (15-100). Jeff stated the department believes there are surplus moose to be harvested and thus the amendments.

A lengthy discussion regarding road killed moose and various suggestions on ways to combat this followed. It is abundantly clear that moose are being killed by vehicular accidents because of the browse afforded them along roadways and in habituated areas.



Kenai/Soldotna Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2013

Without hard data for winter predator kills it is difficult to say for sure but it seems highly likely that road kills are surpassing every other facet of mortality. But there is no doubt, between brown bear, black bear, and wolf kills and vehicle kills, a very significant portion of the harvestable surplus is not going to individuals who want to fill their freezer. Of course portions of road killed moose are going to feed needy families but often times these moose are damaged severely and the salvageable meat is not nearly as much as in a hunter killed moose. The damage done to personal vehicles also plays a significant role in the conversation.

The "hot spot" registration hunt in the Mat-Su Valley was brought up as an option. It is a bit early in the game to know for sure how this will work out but it seems to have some merit. One argument against the taking of moose in these areas that are routinely the site of moose/ vehicle highway collisions was that the taking of moose in these areas would simply invite other moose in. Which if true also happens when moose are taken by vehicle and the point would be to take them before they are semi destroyed in a collision and cause the thousands of dollars in damage not to mention injuries to the human population. There were no pat answers but it is all too obvious that this is a problem that has long remained unaddressed. The committee moved forward without taking any action on this proposal due the proposal submitted by the committee in the spring of 2012.

Bill Tappan **motioned proposal #144** to the floor, John Joseph second.

This proposal as drafted by the Kenai/Soldotna Advisory Committee in 2012, seeks to retain the present moose harvest regulations; that is, one bull with an antler spread of 50" or 4 brow tines on at least one side.

The committee supported this proposal in the spring of 2012, based on a severe winter that took a significant population of Kenai moose in addition to the adult moose taken by wolves. At this point the committee feels it is in the best interests of all concerned to maintain a conservative harvest of bull moose. The management goals for bull to cow ratios vary around the state from 15/100 to 25/100. The committee knows from other ungulate populations that healthy herds and strong reproduction comes with ratios approaching 30/100. Considering the climate that generally opposes the taking of cows, a more prolific bull population that is allowed to grow to full size adult animals is a desired condition.

With two years of not taking spike/fork bulls comments from the public express delight at routinely seeing legitimate bull moose for perhaps the first time since the 70s. We have weathered the storm of two years without harvesting baby moose, it seems that another two years will bring us to a point where we can have an open hunt for 50" or 3 brow tine bulls and give the average hunter a fair chance of success. Spike/fork bulls are roughly a bit over half grown; why would we even consider taking undersize animals when just a bit more patience will allow a prolific harvest of full grown animals. To put it in another context; would a rancher sell beef cattle before they are full grown?



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Proposal #144 was supported by a majority vote of 8, with 1 opposing based on the concern for missed opportunity.

Monte Roberts **motioned forward proposal #147**, Bill Tappan seconded.

This proposal seeks to suspend aerial wolf control in Unit 15A and to reduce the management objective numbers in Unit 15A.

The author of the proposal suggests that the available habitat in Unit 15A will not support the current IM management objective and thus there would be no viable reason to aerial hunt wolves as a reduction in their numbers will have no affect on moose populations.

ADF&G has taken a "no recommendation" stance on this proposal. Jeff Sellinger spoke to the rump fat statistics as well as malleable muscle tissue studies that have become a respected source of indicating overall health in moose populations. There seems to be no question that moose are suffering from a lack of browse in Unit 15A. Without a significant habitat producing incident (a major fire) the IM management objective is considered impossible to reach.

Paul Shadura **motioned to amend the proposal** to eliminate the part dealing with aerial wolf hunting and leave the modification to IM objectives. Bill Tappan called for the question. **The amendment was supported in 6 support, 2 opposed, 1 abstaining vote.**

Much discussion followed. ADF&G has taken a no recommendation approach and believes that the current habitat available will not support the I/M numbers. The current population estimate for 15A is 1.3 moose per square mile of habitable terrain and suggest that I/M numbers of 1950-2600 are a more realistic figure for the current level of available habitat. ADF&G also contends that without a major habitat event (wildfire or habitat manipulation) in 15A, there will be no increase in moose populations.

The AC understands the habitat issue however there are things that are not being realistically looked at. The KNWR insists on a "natural" development of ungulate populations on the refuge (the bulk of habitable land in 15A) and yet they will not allow a wildfire to take its course, sighting smoke issues and structure damage to dwellings on the fringes of the Refuge. The majority of the AC contends that management cannot squash natural order incidents such as wildfire and squash predator control at the same time and have any credibility in the game management arena. If manipulation is going to take place (suppressing wildfires) the other manipulation such as predator control and other habitat manipulation needs to be implemented. Contrary to what seems to be the common believe of the KNWR, there is virtually no "natural" world left. If it is being manipulated then it isn't natural any longer and the refuge is being manipulated to provide a viewing area for tourists. This goes against the wishes of the people of Alaska and the state constitution. The AC is staffed with many individuals who have been on the Kenai for many years and remember the Kenai National Moose Range. The Kenai was a preeminent chunk of ground that became famous for its big moose and the numbers of moose it supported. The citizens of the state never expected that to change.



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One issue regarding moose populations and habitat that seems not to have been considered is the "killing grounds" that have been created. The Skilak Loop closed area was intended to provide wildlife viewing by restricting hunting and manipulating habitat. Small sections of this area have been crushed and other areas were burned in a natural fire some years back. There is habitat on the loop available to moose. And there are virtually no moose. No "study" has been done on the why, but anecdotally, from hunters who actually are out in these areas because they care about what is going on, have observed some things. No hunting equals a free rein for predators in an easily concentrated area. Essentially a smorgasbord for these small areas was created when moose concentrate where food is and they are picked off by wolves and bears. But this is not isolated to the Skilak Loop. The fire that started and burned small acreage off of Mystery Creek Road is currently resplendent with moose browse and there are very few moose. Again, a small area that becomes a killing ground. A hike through the burned area in Russian River valley reveals the same issues.

When there was plenty of habitat available, moose in town or other populated areas were a treat, not rare but not an everyday occurrence. Now they are an everyday occurrence and they have become nuisance moose and are in some cases endangering the human population. They are living near towns and subdivisions for the new growth browse these areas provide and the relative safety from predators.

One need only take a snowshoeing trip through the backcountry of unit 15A in the winter to understand there are virtually no moose left out there. Unchecked predator populations and lack of a significant habitat event will guarantee a continued decline in the 15A moose population.

After a very lengthy discussion, this **proposal as amended was opposed in a 5 opposed, 4 supported vote.**

Those supporting believe that the current I/M number is not attainable and believe it would eliminate pressures to continue to try and meet it. Precisely why those opposing it oppose it, they believe there is no reason to agree that this number cannot be attained and if it is not strived for we will soon be faced with no surplus moose for harvest.

Bill Tappan **motioned proposal 148** forward, Paul Shadura second.

Proposal 148 re-authorizes the antlerless moose season in a portion of Unit 15C.

Jeff reported that ADF&G has an adopt status on this hunt. In the last ten years 50 permits have been issued and an average of 23 moose have been taken. There seems to be no discernible effect on the 15C moose population.

Bill Tappan called for the question, **8 supported, 1 abstained** sighting that no cow hunt was acceptable.



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Monte Roberts motioned **proposal 149 forward**, Bill Tappan second. This proposal is essentially a duplicate of 148 and for that reason **the committee voted to take no action**.

Monte Roberts **motioned proposal 150** forward, Bill Tappan second.

This proposal seeks to modify the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area and allow additional access by motor vehicle.

ADF&G takes a no recommendation stance. The local advisory committees have opposed this change because it helps to minimize conflict between ATV/non-ATV users.

Unanimous consent to oppose 150.

Steve Meyer **motioned proposal 151** forward, Monte Roberts second.

This proposal calls for re-instatement of the Palmer Creek Road/Resurrection Creek Closed Area (RCCA).

ADF&G has no recommendation and considers this an allocation issue with no biological data that supports the closure.

This proposal is made by Hope residents that claim they are being endangered by moose hunters hunting in close proximity to dwellings in Hope and they site conflicts by user groups, particularly guided bird viewing, runners, hikers, mushroom hunters and berry pickers in the Palmer Creek Road area.

This proposal appears to be an attempt to reduce hunting opportunities on Palmer Creek Road, which is the Chugach National Forest by residents of Hope that do not want hunters in the area. The Chugach National Forest supports hunting in this area. This area has no relationship to homes in Hope. The Palmer Creek valley is very large and there are no conditions that one could describe as "overcrowding or conflicting" at the present time. Members of the AC who frequent this area know that the claims of conflict are simply not a factor. There are other user groups that frequent the area, more in the summer before moose season opens. In early August when ptarmigan season opens hunters are well beyond the end of the road before encountering ptarmigan. The citizens of Hope who are concerned for individuals shooting near their property should engage that particular problem by ordinance, not by a backdoor attempt through the Board of Game that would restrict many from utilizing public resources.

The committee opposed proposal 151 by unanimous consent.

Monte Robert **motioned proposal 161** forward, Bill Tappan second.

This proposal seeks to extend ptarmigan hunting in Unit 7/15 to the end of April and a reduction in bag limit from ten birds a day to five birds a day from March 1 to April 30. This proposal was submitted by the Kenai/Soldotna advisory committee.



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ADF&G takes a do not adopt stance on this proposal and they cite the reasoning as hunters may affect breeding season for ptarmigan and that there are only five birds per day taken by most hunters which suggests number of ptarmigan may be on the decrease.

The AC and in particular the author of this proposal discussed this at length and ultimately decided to oppose the proposal. With that there are issues that need to be addressed by the Board of Game. There is virtually no data available for upland birds in south central Alaska. And yet the limit for ptarmigan and grouse has remained at ten per day for as long as anyone can remember. The season opens August 10th and this is said to allow sheep, caribou and goat hunters to take ptarmigan for camp meat. From August 10th until September 1st the young birds are half grown, have minimal flight capabilities and are of course not so bright when confronted by someone willing to do them harm. Given the reluctance by ADF&G to reduce a bag limit briefly and extend a season briefly, one must question the validity of the current season and bag limits.

The original intent of this proposal was to allow upland hunters who hunt with dogs on foot to have some time to hunt after December. Given the distances one must climb to hunt ptarmigan on the Kenai and the snow conditions from December to mid-March, it is very difficult for the foot hunter. By mid-March and sometimes early March the snow has settled and provides a surface the dogs can negotiate without exhaustion in short order. The additional issue faced by foot hunters in the winter is daylight. There is not enough daylight to allow for a climb and a return and have any real time to hunt.

The suggestion that bird hunters on the Kenai typically do not take more than five birds is an interesting one. The author of this proposal has been hunting the Kenai Mountains for ptarmigan for many years. He has also been sending samples of wings and heads of ptarmigan to the biologist in Palmer for bird research. At no time has anyone ever asked how many birds he takes on a typical day of hunting. Those who live here and who frequent the Kenai Mountains on snowmachine also know that ptarmigan are located in the high country and are shot with mostly .22 pistols. A flock will fly a short distance and the hunter will ride to that area and shoot some more until the flock is shot out or the limit is taken. It seems either these folks have not been contacted or have chosen to "fudge" the numbers taken.

Upland hunters with dogs typically do not take more than five birds per day no matter how good the hunting may be. There are not that many areas where the foot hunter has the time to conduct a hunt in a day and these individuals want to maintain healthy populations of birds in these areas so hunting is always available.

Another issue to consider in ptarmigan management, if there is to be such a thing, is the dynamics of the species involved. The Kenai Peninsula has the unique quality of supporting populations of Rock, Willow and Whitetail ptarmigan. Rock ptarmigan are very reclusive and inhabit areas in the winter months that are virtually inaccessible by hunters. Most are taken incidentally to other hunting. Willow ptarmigan are the predominant species taken by casual hunters and snowmachine hunters. They move down in elevation in the winter and are located in alder patches and willow scrub below



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tree line. And they are cyclic. Much like grouse, Willow ptarmigan cycle up and cycle down; in up years they seem to be everywhere, in down years, good luck finding them. This past fall they were, along with Spruce grouse, in a down cycle. This virtually always coincides with an up cycle of hares. As hare populations grow, so do populations of birds of prey and predators such as coyotes, lynx and mink. All will take Spruce grouse or ptarmigan eggs or chicks and the down cycle is always obvious to those out in the country who pay attention.

Whitetail ptarmigan are seemingly immune to the cycle their cousins are subject to. These resilient and smallest of the ptarmigan species avoid the cycle and it seems this is by virtue of where they live. They are the highest dwelling ptarmigan and even in winter do not inhabit areas below tree line. Their summers are spent in high elevations amongst the rock outcrops and seemingly barren ground where one would expect to find sheep. Their camouflage is as good as any species in the wild.

Whitetails are rarely hunted specifically on the Kenai. Access to where they live is strictly a foot pursuit and a full day is typically required to get into their environment and have a few hours of hunting before the hunter and the dogs are spent.

The individual who initially brought this proposal to the Kenai/Soldotna AC, where it was subsequently adopted; strongly believes there would be absolutely no effect on ptarmigan populations if it were adopted. But, that same individual would also never consider adopting a proposal that would harm a species. The ADF&G take on this proposal brings up many more questions than it answers and it seems here is a significant need for a "big picture" review of upland bird harvest on the Kenai.

This proposal was opposed in an 8 to 1 vote. The sole opposing vote believes this is an opportunity for harvest that should not be ignored.

Proposal 160 motioned forward by Bill Tappan.

This proposal seeks to open a "no closed season" for wolves on the Kenai Peninsula.

This proposal was put forward by the Kenai/Soldotna AC and intends to allow every possible opportunity for hunters to harvest wolves on the Kenai. There is aerial wolf hunting on the horizon, there is no question the wolves on the Kenai have become over-abundant and have significantly impacted ungulate population in units 7&15. To consider closing the wolf season seems completely at cross purpose to the mission at hand.

Proposal supported in an 8-1 vote. The sole opposing vote would like more current data on the wolf population.

Monte Roberts **motioned proposal 157** forward, Bill Tappen seconded.



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This proposal seeks to change the black bear salvage requirements in units 7&15 to say "either the hide and skull or the meat must be salvaged."

AF&G takes a "no recommendation" stance on this proposal.

Discussion of this proposal favored retaining some form of sealing requirement and sample retention for future studies regarding black bear populations. There is little enough data available on bears and it does not appear overly intrusive to request this of hunters.

Proposal opposed in a unanimous vote.

Next meeting on February 20, 2013, 6:30 PM, Cook Inlet Aquaculture.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



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*Att: Nissa/Kristy
BOG Southcentral 2013
AC Comments*

Kenai Peninsula Area – Units 7 & 15

PROPOSAL NO. 143

ACTION: N/A

DESCRIPTION: Modify bag limit for moose to 50" or greater, 3 brow tines in Units 7 and 15.

AMENDMENTS: N/A

Note: This proposal was not formally brought to the floor, the following discussion resulted in the committee moving on to proposal #144.

DISCUSSION: Chairman Crawford offered the floor to Mr. Blossom as he was the author of proposal number 143, which he explained at an earlier meeting he had changed his mind on. Mr. Blossom proposed returning to the 50" or three brow tine rule to provide more opportunity for harvest. Since his proposal was submitted Mr. Blossom has changed his mind and believes another term of 50" or 4 brow tines will produce a significant number of mature bulls that will provide excellent breeding stock and will provide for a much better harvest of actual full-size animals in the near future. He does not believe the bull cow ratio, given the recent winter mortality and the lack of good survey information is where it needs to be.

Jeff Sellinger spoke to this proposal and gave to the ADF&G amend and adopt position on it.

The amended issues would be to change the general moose hunting season to September 1-September 20, in Units 7 & 15. The archery only seasons in units 15A and 15B would run from August 22-August 29.

The amendment would allow the taking of moose with one spike antler on one side and resume allowing the taking of moose with 50" antler spread or 3 brow tines on at least one side.

Jeff cited the count numbers that indicate the bull-cow management ratio has been met in unit 15A (20-100) and Unit 15 C (15-100). Jeff stated the department believes there are surplus moose to be harvested and thus the amendments.

A lengthy discussion regarding road killed moose and various suggestions on ways to combat this followed. It is abundantly clear that moose are being killed by vehicular accidents because of the browse afforded them along roadways and in habituated areas. Without hard data for winter predator kills it is difficult to say for sure but it seems highly likely that road kills are surpassing every other facet of mortality. But there is no doubt, between brown bear, black bear, and wolf kills and vehicle kills, a very significant portion of the harvestable surplus is not going to individuals who want to fill their freezer. Of course portions of road killed moose are going to feed needy families but often times these moose are damaged severely and the salvageable meat it not nearly as much as in a hunter killed moose. The damage done to personal vehicles also plays a significant role in the conversation.

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The "hot spot" registration hunt in the Mat-Su Valley was brought up as an option. It is a bit early in the game to know for sure how this will work out but it seems to have some merit. One argument against the taking of moose in these areas that are routinely the site of moose/ vehicle highway collisions was that the taking of moose in these areas would simply invite other moose in. Which if true also happens when moose are taken by vehicle and the point would be to take them before they are semi destroyed in a collision and cause the thousands of dollars in damage not to mention injuries to the human population. There were no pat answers but it is all too obvious that this is a problem that has long remained unaddressed. The committee moved forward without taking any action on this proposal due the proposal submitted by the committee in the spring of 2012.

PROPOSAL NO. 144

ACTION: Support

DESCRIPTION: Retain the current moose harvest regulations for Units 7 and 15 through 2014.
AMENDMENTS:

DISCUSSION: This proposal as drafted by the Kenai/Soldotna Advisory Committee in 2012, seeks to retain the present moose harvest regulations; that is, one bull with an antler spread of 50" or 4 brow tines on at least one side.

The committee supported this proposal in the spring of 2012, based on a severe winter that took a significant population of Kenai moose in addition to the adult moose taken by wolves. At this point the committee feels it is in the best interests of all concerned to maintain a conservative harvest of bull moose. The management goals for bull to cow ratios vary around the state from 15/100 to 25/100. The committee knows from other ungulate populations that healthy herds and strong reproduction comes with ratios approaching 30/100. Considering the climate that generally opposes the taking of cows, a more prolific bull population that is allowed to grow to full size adult animals is a desired condition.

With two years of not taking spike/fork bulls comments from the public express delight at routinely seeing legitimate bull moose for perhaps the first time since the 70s. We have weathered the storm of two years without harvesting baby moose, it seems that another two years will bring us to a point where we can have an open hunt for 50" or 3 brow tine bulls and give the average hunter a fair chance of success. Spike/fork bulls are roughly a bit over half grown; why would we even consider taking undersize animals when just a bit more patience will allow a prolific harvest of full grown animals. To put it in another context; would a rancher sell beef cattle before they are full grown?

Proposal #144 was supported by a majority vote of 8, with 1 opposing based on the concern for missed opportunity.



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PROPOSAL NO. 147

ACTION: Oppose

DESCRIPTION: Suspend aerial taking of wolves in Unit 15A and modify the population and harvest objectives for moose.

AMENDMENTS: “ to eliminate the part dealing with aerial wolf hunting and leave the modification to IM objectives.” Bill Tappan called for the question. The amendment was supported in 6 support, 2 opposed, 1 abstaining vote.

DISCUSSION: This proposal seeks to suspend aerial wolf control in Unit 15A and to reduce the management objective numbers in Unit 15A.

The author of the proposal suggests that the available habitat in Unit 15A will not support the current IM management objective and thus there would be no viable reason to aerial hunt wolves as a reduction in their numbers will have no affect on moose populations.

ADF&G has taken a “no recommendation” stance on this proposal. Jeff Sellinger spoke to the rump fat statistics as well as malleable muscle tissue studies that have become a respected source of indicating overall health in moose populations. There seems to be no question that moose are suffering from a lack of browse in Unit 15A. Without a significant habitat producing incident (a major fire) the IM management objective is considered impossible to reach.

Paul Shadura motioned to amend the proposal to eliminate the part dealing with aerial wolf hunting and leave the modification to IM objectives. Bill Tappan called for the question. The amendment was supported in 6 support, 2 opposed, 1 abstaining vote.

Much discussion followed. ADF&G has taken a no recommendation approach and believes that the current habitat available will not support the I/M numbers. The current population estimate for 15A is 1.3 moose per square mile of habitable terrain and suggest that I/M numbers of 1950-2600 are a more realistic figure for the current level of available habitat. ADF&G also contends that without a major habitat event (wildfire or habitat manipulation) in 15A, there will be no increase in moose populations.

The AC understands the habitat issue however there are things that are not being realistically looked at. The KNWR insists on a “natural” development of ungulate populations on the refuge (the bulk of habitable land in 15A) and yet they will not allow a wildfire to take its course, sighting smoke issues and structure damage to dwellings on the fringes of the Refuge. The majority of the AC contends that management cannot squash natural order incidents such as wildfire and squash predator control at the same time and have any credibility in the game management arena. If manipulation is going to take place (suppressing wildfires) the other manipulation such as predator control and other habitat manipulation needs to be implemented. Contrary to what seems to be the common believe of the KNWR, there is virtually no “natural” world left. If it is being manipulated then it isn’t natural any longer and the refuge is being manipulated to provide a viewing area for tourists. This goes against the wishes of the people of



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Alaska and the state constitution. The AC is staffed with many individuals who have been on the Kenai for many years and remember the Kenai National Moose Range. The Kenai was a preeminent chunk of ground that became famous for its big moose and the numbers of moose it supported. The citizens of the state never expected that to change.

One issue regarding moose populations and habitat that seems not to have been considered is the "killing grounds" that have been created. The Skilak Loop closed area was intended to provide wildlife viewing by restricting hunting and manipulating habitat. Small sections of this area have been crushed and other areas were burned in a natural fire some years back. There is habitat on the loop available to moose. And there are virtually no moose. No "study" has been done on the why, but anecdotally, from hunters who actually are out in these areas because they care about what is going on, have observed some things. No hunting equals a free rein for predators in an easily concentrated area. Essentially a smorgasbord for these small areas was created when moose concentrate where food is and they are picked off by wolves and bears. But this is not isolated to the Skilak Loop. The fire that started and burned small acreage off of Mystery Creek Road is currently resplendent with moose browse and there are very few moose. Again, a small area that becomes a killing ground. A hike through the burned area in Russian River valley reveals the same issues.

When there was plenty of habitat available, moose in town or other populated areas were a treat, not rare but not an everyday occurrence. Now they are an everyday occurrence and they have become nuisance moose and are in some cases endangering the human population. They are living near towns and subdivisions for the new growth browse these areas provide and the relative safety from predators.

One need only take a snowshoeing trip through the backcountry of unit 15A in the winter to understand there are virtually no moose left out there. Unchecked predator populations and lack of a significant habitat event will guarantee a continued decline in the 15A moose population.

After a very lengthy discussion, this proposal as amended was opposed in a 5 opposed, 4 supported vote.

Those supporting believe that the current I/M number is not attainable and believe it would eliminate pressures to continue to try and meet it. Precisely why those opposing it oppose it, they believe there is no reason to agree that this number cannot be attained and if it is not strived for we will soon be faced with no surplus moose for harvest.



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PROPOSAL NO. 148

ACTION: Support

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in a portion of Unit 15C.

AMENDMENTS: N/A

DISCUSSION: Jeff reported that ADF&G has an adopt status on this hunt. In the last ten years 50 permits have been issued and an average of 23 moose have been taken. There seems to be no discernible effect on the 15C moose population.

Bill Tappan called for the question, 8 supported, 1 abstained sighting that no cow hunt was acceptable.

PROPOSAL NO. 149

ACTION: Take no action

DESCRIPTION: Allow the harvest of up to 100 antlerless moose in Unit 15C.

AMENDMENTS: N/A

DISCUSSION: This proposal essentially duplicates #148 and therefore no reason to take action.

PROPOSAL NO. 150

ACTION: Opposed

DESCRIPTION: Allow the use of motorized land vehicles during certain hours in the Lower Kenai Controlled Use area.

AMENDMENTS:

DISCUSSION: ADF&G takes a no recommendation stance. The local advisory committees have opposed this change because it helps to minimize conflict between ATV/non-ATV users. Unanimous apposition.

PROPOSAL NO. 151

ACTION: Oppose

DESCRIPTION: Re-institute closure of Palmer Creek/Lower Resurrection Creek areas in Unit 7 to moose hunting.

AMENDMENTS: N/A

DISCUSSION: ADF&G has no recommendation and considers this an allocation issue with no biological data that supports the closure.

This proposal is made by Hope residents that claim they are being endangered by moose hunters hunting in close proximity to dwellings in Hope and they site conflicts by user groups, particularly guided bird viewing, runners, hikers, mushroom hunters and berry pickers in the Palmer Creek Road area.

This proposal appears to be an attempt to reduce hunting opportunities on Palmer Creek Road, which is the Chugach National Forest, by residents of Hope that do not want hunters in the area. The Chugach National Forest supports hunting in this area. This area has no relationship to homes in Hope. The Palmer Creek valley is very large and there are no conditions that one could



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describe as “overcrowding or conflicting” at the present time. Members of the AC who frequent this area know that the claims of conflict are simply not a factor. There are other user groups that frequent the area, more in the summer before moose season opens. In early August when ptarmigan season opens hunters are well beyond the end of the road before encountering ptarmigan. The citizens of Hope who are concerned for individuals shooting near their property should engage that particular problem by ordinance, not by a backdoor attempt through the Board of Game that would restrict many from utilizing public resources.

The committee opposed proposal 151 by unanimous consent.

PROPOSAL NO. 152

ACTION: Support

DESCRIPTION: Remove the reference to brown bear drawing hunts on the Kenai Peninsula.

AMENDMENTS:

DISCUSSION: This proposal was a housekeeping proposal that removes Units 7 & 15 from 5 AAC 92.061: Special provisions for brown bear drawing permit hunts. By unanimous consent the committee supported proposal # 152.

PROPOSAL NO. 153

ACTION: Support

DESCRIPTION: Modify the registration season dates and the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 15A and 15C.

AMENDMENTS: Amended to say, “Open a registration brown bear hunt beginning September 1st to run until June 15th. The bag limit shall be one bear every regulatory year.

DISCUSSION: Proposal #153 sought to modify the registration dates and bag limit for the registration hunt for brown bears in Unit 15A & 15C. The hunts would open on April 1st and close on May 31st, and reopen on September 1st and close on November 30th. It also proposed one bear every regulatory year in intensive management areas and retain one bear every four years in non-intensive management areas. This proposal was from local long time hunter Brian Blossom with the intent to harvest surplus brown bears and promote growth of the moose population.

Jeff Sellinger stated that ADF&G was taking an amend and adopt stance, which would retain the one bear every four years and would close the registration hunt in the KNWR and the majority of federally owned lands in Unit 7 in favor of a limited drawing hunt for those areas. The area ADF&G would be promoting consisted primarily of public lands near the populated areas of the Kenai.

This proposal prompted a significant amount of discussion, particularly regarding the change to drawing permits on federal land that would minimize the harvest in areas that the study confirmed had prolific brown bear populations and were in areas that traditionally harbored



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viable moose populations. The ADF&G amendment would not include an immediate cap on reproduction age sows.

The committee recognized some of the benefits to the ADF&G amendment but was not comfortable with minimizing the take on federal lands to appease the KNWR. The most significant brown bear populations on the Kenai seem to occur on federal lands and a drawing hunt, as it has been in the past, would result in an insignificant harvest of brown bears where they are the most prolific.

The AC committee recognizes that the taking of brown bear on the Kenai has historically been by opportunity. The terrain does not lend itself to spot and stalk hunting and the areas where bears are prolific and could be taken in this way are off limits due to restrictions on the KNWR and the Kenai River Special Management Area (KRSMA). This is why the drawing permit system has been a dismal failure on the Kenai. Reflecting back to the days when there was a regular open harvest season in the spring and the fall in Units 7 & 15 it was recognized that bears were taken primarily by hunters with a tag when the opportunity presented itself. There were few bears taken back then but there was also enough taken to minimize the impact to populated areas while maintaining a viable population of brown bears on the Kenai.

As a result, Bob Ermold motioned to amend the proposal to say "Open a registration brown bear hunt beginning September 1st to run until June 15th". The bag limit shall be one bear every regulatory year. The proposed amendment was seconded by Bill Tappan. The amendment was supported by 8 members, opposed by 2 and abstained by 1.

The opposition opposed because of the June 15th closure and would rather have it close on May 31st. One abstention was not convinced for sure.

The question was called on the proposal as amended and was supported by 10 and opposed by one. The opposing vote felt that the KNWR would further restrict methods and means on the refuge to make harvest impossible.

PROPOSAL NO. 154

ACTION: Take no action

DESCRIPTION: Allow brown bear baiting in Unit 15 intensive management areas.

AMENDMENTS: N/A

DISCUSSION: Proposal #154, by Dave Blossom, a long term area hunter, seeks to allow the taking of brown bears over bait in the intensive management sections of Units 15A and 15C.

There was much discussion on this proposal including input by Jeff Sellinger who stated under the ADF&G proposed amendment to #153 that brown bear baiting may have some merit.



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Several committee members were 100% opposed to brown bear baiting, believing that while there is an overabundance of brown bears on the Kenai, they are still a trophy animal and baiting them did not set right.

Others questioned the numbers that might be taken and would prompt another closure to registration hunting, thus minimizing the opportunity for others to hunt brown bear.

Other opinions considered the ability for hunters to identify brown bear sows and boars and would allow a more selective harvest. Some considered that in other areas where this has been done the meat of the bear would have to be salvaged. As the discussion evolved there were many more questions than there were answers. A fear voiced by some was we would be trying to take too much without giving the open registration hunts a legitimate chance to successfully reduce brown bear numbers.

Opinions favoring brown bear baiting spoke to the lack of harvest of black bears by those baiting due to brown bear intervention. Over the past several years many black bear baiters have closed their bait stations due to being overrun by brown bears.

One consideration is the black bear bait stations are located primarily on the KNWR and it is supposed that there would be no chance that brown bear baiting would be allowed when considering the very grudging attitude the KNWR has toward black bear bait stations.

After a rather lengthy discussion it was evident that no real legitimate action could be taken and Steve Meyer motioned to take no action on proposal # 154 and to include proposals 155 and 156 as they also had to do with brown bear baiting. Unanimous consent to take no action by the committee.

PROPOSAL NO. 155

ACTION: Take no action

DESCRIPTION: Allow for the incidental harvesting of brown bears over black bear bait sites in Units 15A and 15C.

AMENDMENTS:

DISCUSSION: See comments for proposal #154.

PROPOSAL NO. 156

ACTION: Take no action

DESCRIPTION: Open a brown bear registration hunt in Units 7 and 15; and allow the incidental take of brown bear at black bear bait sites.

AMENDMENTS:

DISCUSSION: See comments for proposal #154.



**BOARD OF GAME
SOUTHCENTRAL REGION MEETING
Kenai/Soldotna AC Recommendations
March 15 - 19, 2013**

PROPOSAL NO. 157

ACTION: Oppose

DESCRIPTION: Modify the black bear salvage requirement for Units 7 and 15.

AMENDMENTS:

DISCUSSION: AF&G takes a "no recommendation" stance on this proposal.

Discussion of this proposal favored retaining some form of sealing requirement and sample retention for future studies regarding black bear populations. There is little enough data available on bears and it does not appear overly intrusive to request this of hunters.

PROPOSAL NO. 159

ACTION: Support

DESCRIPTION: Open wolf, coyote and lynx hunting in Skilak Loop.

AMENDMENTS: N/A

DISCUSSION: Seeking to allow predator hunting in the Skilak Lake Loop Special Management Area from November 10-March 31st, this proposal would implement a management strategy that has been and will continue to be ignored by USF&W. The Skilak Loop area was created with the primary focus on wildlife viewing. Presumably there would be legions of animals available for the summer tourists to view and photograph. Eventually a minimal amount of small game hunting for brief period in the late fall and archery hunting for small game was allowed. There has been habitat manipulation (for the benefit of wildlife viewing) that seems to have served a single purpose. That is to draw moose into these very small areas and allow predators easy targets. There are few moose to be seen on Skilak Loop and for that matter, much of anything else except the black and brown bears that come into the area in the spring hoping for a moose calf to kill. The period this proposal calls to open will have no interference with viewing.

An ongoing concern with this committee and with the resident public is the callus way the KNWR ignores the desires of Alaska residents in favor of visiting tourists. There are millions of acres of federal parks in Alaska. Some 2/3 of the nation's federal parks are in Alaska and that should be enough. Repeatedly, Alaska residents have shown that a primary reason for living in Alaska is the ability to harvest surplus fish and wildlife populations for consumption. This is a time honored tradition and a solidly represented part of Alaska culture. The state constitution recognizes and honors the wishes of the residents. The constant efforts to thwart the Alaskan lifestyle by the KNWR is insulting and has grown very tiresome for Alaska residents.



**BOARD OF GAME
SOUTHCENTRAL REGION MEETING
Kenai/Soldotna AC Recommendations
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PROPOSAL NO. 160

ACTION: Support

DESCRIPTION: Open a no closed hunting season for wolf in Units 7 and 15.

AMENDMENTS:

DISCUSSION: This proposal was put forward by the Kenai/Soldotna AC and intends to allow every possible opportunity for hunters to harvest wolves on the Kenai. There is aerial wolf hunting on the horizon, there is no question the wolves on the Kenai have become over-abundant and have significantly impacted ungulate population in units 7&15. To consider closing the wolf season seems completely at cross purpose to the mission at hand.

Proposal supported in an 8-1 vote. The sole opposing vote would like more current data on the wolf population.

PROPOSAL NO. 161

ACTION: Oppose

DESCRIPTION: Lengthen the spring season with a decreased bag limit for ptarmigan on the Kenai Peninsula.

AMENDMENTS: N/A

DISCUSSION: ADF&G takes a do not adopt stance on this proposal and they cite the reasoning as hunters may affect breeding season for ptarmigan and that there are only five birds per day taken by most hunters which suggests number of ptarmigan may be on the decrease.

The AC and in particular the author of this proposal discussed this at length and ultimately decided to oppose the proposal. With that there are issues that need to be addressed by the Board of Game. There is virtually no data available for upland birds in south central Alaska. And yet the limit for ptarmigan and grouse has remained at ten per day for as long as anyone can remember. The season opens August 10th and this is said to allow sheep, caribou and goat hunters to take ptarmigan for camp meat. From August 10th until September 1st the young birds are half grown, have minimal flight capabilities and are of course not so bright when confronted by someone willing to do them harm. Given the reluctance by ADF&G to reduce a bag limit briefly and extend a season briefly, one must question the validity of the current season and bag limits.

The original intent of this proposal was to allow upland hunters who hunt with dogs on foot to have some time to hunt after December. Given the distances one must climb to hunt ptarmigan on the Kenai and the snow conditions from December to mid-March, it is very difficult for the foot hunter. By mid-March and sometimes early March the snow has settled and provides a surface the dogs can negotiate without exhaustion in short order. The additional issue faced by foot hunters in the winter is daylight. There is not enough daylight to allow for a climb and a return and have any real time to hunt.



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The suggestion that bird hunters on the Kenai typically do not take more than five birds is an interesting one. The author of this proposal has been hunting the Kenai Mountains for ptarmigan for many years. He has also been sending samples of wings and heads of ptarmigan to the biologist in Palmer for bird research. At no time has anyone ever asked how many birds he takes on a typical day of hunting. Those who live here and who frequent the Kenai Mountains on snowmachine also know that ptarmigan are located in the high country and are shot with mostly .22 pistols. A flock will fly a short distance and the hunter will ride to that area and shoot some more until the flock is shot out or the limit is taken. It seems either these folks have not been contacted or have chosen to "fudge" the numbers taken.

Upland hunters with dogs typically do not take more than five birds per day no matter how good the hunting may be. There are not that many areas where the foot hunter has the time to conduct a hunt in a day and these individuals want to maintain healthy populations of birds in these areas so hunting is always available.

Another issue to consider in ptarmigan management, if there is to be such a thing, is the dynamics of the species involved. The Kenai Peninsula has the unique quality of supporting populations of Rock, Willow and Whitetail ptarmigan. Rock ptarmigan are very reclusive and inhabit areas in the winter months that are virtually inaccessible by hunters. Most are taken incidentally to other hunting. Willow ptarmigan are the predominant species taken by casual hunters and snowmachine hunters. They move down in elevation in the winter and are located in alder patches and willow scrub below tree line. And they are cyclic. Much like grouse, Willow ptarmigan cycle up and cycle down; in up years they seem to be everywhere, in down years, good luck finding them. This past fall they were, along with Spruce grouse, in a down cycle. This virtually always coincides with an up cycle of hares. As hare populations grow, so do populations of birds of prey and predators such as coyotes, lynx and mink. All will take Spruce grouse or ptarmigan eggs or chicks and the down cycle is always obvious to those out in the country who pay attention.

Whitetail ptarmigan are seemingly immune to the cycle their cousins are subject to. These resilient and smallest of the ptarmigan species avoid the cycle and it seems this is by virtue of where they live. They are the highest dwelling ptarmigan and even in winter do not inhabit areas below tree line. Their summers are spent in high elevations amongst the rock outcrops and seemingly barren ground where one would expect to find sheep. Their camouflage is as good as any species in the wild.

Whitetails are rarely hunted specifically on the Kenai. Access to where they live is strictly a foot pursuit and a full day is typically required to get into their environment and have a few hours of hunting before the hunter and the dogs are spent.

The individual who initially brought this proposal to the Kenai/Soldotna AC, where it was subsequently adopted; strongly believes there would be absolutely no effect on ptarmigan populations if it were adopted. But, that same individual would also never consider adopting a



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proposal that would harm a species. The ADF&G take on this proposal brings up many more questions than it answers and it seems here is a significant need for a "big picture" review of upland bird harvest on the Kenai.

This proposal was opposed in an 8 to 1 vote. The sole opposing vote believes this is an opportunity for harvest that should not be ignored.



Kodiak Fish & Game Advisory Committee February 5th 2013—KNWRVC

*Att: Nissa/Kristy
SC Region BOG 2013
AC Comments*

Paul Chervenak Chairman

(Minutes represent a paraphrased summary of the KAC, department staff and public comments and are not a verbatim transcript of the meeting. Tapes of the meeting are available for public review by contacting the committee secretary)

Call to order: 6:00pm February 5th 2013 at the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center.

Roll call: Quorum achieved with 12 members present. Oliver Holm, Paul Chervenak, Don Fox, Pat Holmes(for Rick Berns), Curt Waters, Davey Jones (for Rolan Ruoss) Wallace Fields (for Kip Thomet) Sam Rohrer (for Pete Hannah) Dick Rohrer (for Harvey Goodell) Herman Squartsoff, Andy Finke and Jason Bunch .

Members Absent Excused: Rolan Ruoss, Ron Kavanaugh, Harvey Goodell, Peter Hannah, Tuck Bonney, Kip Thomet & Rick Berns.

Members Absent: Julie kavanaugh, Lou Dochtermann, Alicia Reft & Dale Reft.

Agency Staff: Paul Fussey(trooper), Larry Van Daele & Sherry Wright(ADF&G), Kurt Rees & Kent Sundseth(USFWS).

Approve agenda: Approve unanimously.

Approve minutes of our previous meeting of February 27th & 28th 2012: Approved unanimously.

Correspondence: Letter from the USFWS containing their comments on proposals 140-141 & 142.

RECEIVED

Chair Announcements:

FEB 25 2013

Old Business:

**BOARDS
ANCHORAGE**

New Business:

- 1) **Elections:** Results were Rolan Ruoss-Transporter/Sportfish Charter, Julie Kavanaugh-Concerned Citizen, Ron Kavanaugh-Small Boat Crab/Herring/Salmon Seiner, Peter Hannah-South End Gillnet, Andre Finke-Kodiak Subsistence, Ronnie Lind-Karluk/Larsen Bay, Dale Reft-Karluk/Larsen Bay alt, Rick Berns-Old Harbor/Ahkiok alt, Don Fox and Jason Bunch alternates.
- 2) **Officers Elected:** Chair Paul Chervenak, vice chair Julie Kavanaugh and secretary Don Fox.
- 3) **Pat Holmes:** Pat brought information on the Kodiak/Aleutian RAC and discussed some proposals: depletion of Harlequin Ducks around Larsen Bay, allowance for elders to take a few Emperor Geese and discussion of the need to submit proposals for the upcoming BOF cycle especially one regarding crab subsistence pots.
- 4) **Game proposals:** Larry Van Daele provided committee members with handouts with information on the departments positions on the South Central Region BOG proposals and also provided the power point that he would be providing the BOG.



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Larry also announced that the ADF&G personnel would be moving to the new building starting February 15th.

Proposal #140

Action: 2-10 Oppose

Description: Reduce the bag limit for deer and modify season dates.

USFWS comments: The proposal would not substantially influence recovery of the Sitka black-tail deer population and unnecessarily reduce hunter harvest opportunity. While this proposal could facilitate modest herd recovery in areas that receive relatively high hunting pressure, the effect would be negligible over most of the unit 8 area. In the area surrounding the city of Kodiak, current harvest regulations, which limit harvest to bucks during rifle season, provide sufficient protection to promote herd recovery. With few exceptions, winter weather is the primary factor regulating deer populations of the Kodiak Archipelago.

Staff comments: No recommendation.

There was a unit wide die off of 50% in the deer population after the winter of 2011/2012. The current regulations were put into effect to address a similar die off in 1998/99 when coupled with a series of mild winters the result was a rebound of deer populations within 4-5 years. Weather is the primary regulating factor behind decreases and increases in deer populations. In the fall of 2012 members of the advisory committee voted 14-0 to oppose any in-season-Emergency Order to reduce deer season or bag limits.

Committee comments: KAC agrees with and would like to reference USFWS and staff comments. The advisory committee has consistently recommended that the primary goal be to manage for meat production (subsistence) and the secondary goal trophy production. Any lowering of the bag limit would seriously affect the subsistence needs of Kodiak residents. Many residents hunt in December and the federal season in January when the deer have started shedding their antlers differentiating between bucks and does when the deer have no antlers is virtually impossible if a bucks only regulation is implemented. Committee members felt that its better to have meat in the freezer than dead deer on the beach. KAC members also agreed with committee chair Mr. Chervenak that non-resident and off island resident hunting pressure is self regulating when populations are down there is less effort so that fewer hunters come to Kodiak. Non Kodiak hunters usually target bucks. The winter this year has been mild and the deer population is doing well as observed by several committee members. If it continues to be mild and we have another mild winter next year the population should rebound dramatically. One added benefit of lower deer populations is that overgrazed vegetation has a chance to recover before the dramatic die offs in the late 1990's offs there was notable habitat degradation.

Minority opinion: Mr. Holmes and Mr. Squartsoff both felt that something should be done to increase the deer population now.

Proposal #141

Action: 12-0 Support

Description: Extend the season and increase the bag limit in Unit 8 for goats.

USFWS comments: The Refuge supports proposal #141. As written, the proposal could increase



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Proposal # 141(continued)

hunting opportunity for introduced mountain goats on Kodiak Refuge lands where additional harvest would be beneficial. Increased harvest would prevent the population from exceeding habitat capacity and damaging alpine habitat. Without increased harvest, the population would likely exceed habitat capacity and decline substantially. Such a decline would curtail hunting opportunity. In cooperation with ADF&G, the Refuge has monitored the population and documented its exponential increase. Additional harvest is needed to check and maintain the population within ADF&G prescribed management goals.

Staff comments: Department recommends adoption of season extension but no recommendation on bag limit increase. The department is concerned about the increase in population in this area as the population cannot be sustained at these higher levels. Current harvest has flat lined while the goat population continues to grow. Lengthening the season would increase both sport hunter and subsistence opportunity.

Committee comments: This proposal was developed with joint representation of the Kodiak Advisory Committee, the Kodiak/Aleutian Federal Regional Advisory Committee, USFWS, the ADF&G and other local residents. The KAC agrees and supports the USFWS and department comments and would like to reference them. The committee had concerns about bear hunter conflicts if a hunter killed two goats or left a goat down in camp while pursuing another animal. Since a hunter would have to remove the 1st goat taken from the field presumably by plane or marine vessel our fears were alleviated. Committee members also felt that the extended season would benefit both sport and subsistence hunters. It would provide a source of food for villagers when nothing else is available in late winter. The goats would be pushed down lower where they could be accessed by boat or skiff. The proposal also would encourage more hunter activity since it separates the RG480 bag limit from goats taken elsewhere in the state thus providing incentive for hunters to participate in the hunt. KAC members also felt that if any problems arose the department has EO authority or it could be addressed in the next BOG cycle.

Proposal #142

Action: 12-0 Support

Description: In Unit 8 a wounded goat counts as the bag limit.

USFWS comments: The proposal would promote ethical hunting practices of mountain goats in Game Management Unit 8. While the Refuge promotes increased harvest of mountain goats on Refuge lands, it is important this take occurs without significant wounding and loss of animals that are not recovered. Sport hunting is an important priority public use of Kodiak Refuge, and we support reasonable regulations that promote ethical hunting practices.

Staff comments: If you wound and don't retrieve it its counted in your bag limit.

Implementation of the regulation would encourage a widely accepted ethical practice and be consistent with the regulations passed for Unit 8 brown bears(2007) and elk (2011). Each year an undetermined number of goats are shot and wounded and not recovered but are not reported in the harvest.

Committee comments: Agree with and support USFWS and department comments and would like to reference them. Wounding means that if the animal is touched by a projectile(bullet or



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arrow), Committee members felt this proposal pursues a commonly held ethical practice and relies on the hunters ethics but also would be difficult to enforce. KAC members hoped it would rein in sniper hunters and shooting goats in marginal conditions. Several big game guides who served on the KAC were recently in Anchorage and discussed this proposal with several hunters who stated that they could support the proposal if the words “**mortally wounded**” were inserted. The proposal as written uses the word “**wounded**” meaning touched by a projectile. After discussion committee members decided that at times it was difficult to determine if a animal was mortally wounded so decided to support proposal #142 as written.

Proposals #162-163-164-165-168-169-170

Action: 0-12 Oppose

Description: These proposals all seek in a variety of ways to allocate between residents and non-residents. They have primarily been written for ungulate populations. According to statistics provided by the department non-resident sheep tag purchases have declined 26.3%, for moose 50.9%, 70% for caribou and a 14% increase for goats. Blanket proposals (162-170) are not deemed appropriate by the KAC in regard to quotas, starting times, allocation of hunts with non-resident and resident seasons. There is no conservation basis in any of the proposals. The makers of the proposals do not take into account the importance of the funds the department receives from non-resident hunting opportunity to the departments operating budget. The advisory committee feels strongly that all proposals should be **species and are specific** using a management area approach. Using proposal #168 as an example which limits non-residents to 10% of permits. This proposal would affect elk, bear and goat hunts. Non-resident goat and bear hunters are required to have a guide. There are many areas on the island with just a few permits this would preclude non-residents from these hunts thus severely affecting our local guide industry. These guided hunts are important to Kodiaks economy especially to some of the village guides. The advisory committee rejected similar statewide proposals that the BOG considered at their January 2012 meeting in Anchorage. The members of the advisory committee also discussed at length starting residents ahead of non –resident hunters and KAC members felt it would greatly increase the number of resident hunters by freeing guides up to hunt when they can't take clients. The committee had 4 guides sitting in on the committee and one transporter who acknowledged this would probably happen..

5)KAC member to BOG meeting: Don Fox was selected to represent the advisory committee at the BOG meeting March 15th-19th in Kenai/Soldotna.

**ADJOURN
9:05pm**



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JAN 24 2013

BOARDS
ANCHORAGE

Matanuska Valley Fish & Game Advisory Committee Minutes
Jan. 16, 2012 at MTA Building in Palmer
7 p.m.

Members present:

Tony Jones, Dan Montgomery, Max Sager, Gerrit Dykstra, Israel Payton, Dave Young, Mike Buirge, Stephen Bartelli, Jeff Tuttle, Bill Folsom, Stephen Darilek, Mel Grove

Members absent:

Jehnifer Ehmann (excused) Andy Couch (excused), Keith Westfall (excused), Eric Beckman, (excused), Dane Crowley (excused)

ADF&G Staff game biologists present: Lem Butler

Other guests: AK State Trooper Lanier, BOG Member Pete Probasco, Jim Breun, Earl Bragg

Public Comments: No Comments

Motion to put MOU on agenda, no second
Discussion about it, write a letter, meet about it in the future.

Motion to Approve Minutes from last meeting - Minutes approved with no objection.

Motion to approve agenda, approved

Central/SW Region BOG

Proposals 115-139

Motion to group 115-117 as one. Passed 12-0-0
115-117 Vote Failed 0-11-1

Discussion- Bartelli-what is dept. comments, what is the hunter allocation? ADFG Lem-Varies 10-20 % to Non-Res. Most area open to all hunters.

118 Vote Failed 4-8-0

Discussion- Bartelli- Gives guiding industry favor, over non-res who have 2nd kin in Alaska.
Dan Montgomery- Some 2nd of kin draw on hunts and don't go hunting, permit goes to waste that could have gone to the guide industry.

119 Vote Passed 7-5-0

Discussion- Mike Buirge - coyotes would be wasted if you kill in the summer, hide no good. ADFG Lem- not a lot of coyotes around, would not benefit sheep population. Jeff Tuttle- not a big population in the area. Dan Montgomery- Seen big packs of coyotes, thinks they kill sheep.

120 Vote Failed 0-12-0

121 Vote Failed 0-12-0

Motion to amend wording of Fees to Fee exemption Motion passed 12-0-0

122 Vote Passed 12-0-0

P182



Discussion – Bartelli- Why do you have to get register for a hunt only at certain ADFG offices and not at all. ADFG Lem-Local influence seems to dictate this.

123 Vote Passed 11-0-1

124 Vote Passed 12-0-0

125 Vote Failed 0-11-1

Discussion- David Young- would be good for kids so they won't miss school. Mel Grove- Season was open to all on Aug 10th but caribou where near hwy. and there was too much harvest and the hunt would get closed very soon. Kids could kill all the quota of caribou.

126 Vote Passed 12-0-0

Discussion- Dan Montgomery- we need to protect wild sheep from disease from domestic animals.

Motion group 127-129 , Vote Passed 12-0-0

Motion, to take no action on 127-129 , Motion Retracted

127-129 Vote Passed 9-0-3

Southcentral Region BOG

130 Vote Failed 1-9-2

Discussion- Mel Grove, knows proposer , reason for this proposal is because area might go draw hunt only, would rather see open hunt with this restriction. Bartelli – people can't tell the difference between sow and boar. Jeff Tuttle- People will lie about where they shot a bear. ADFG Lem- No recommendation, sow harvest is in the recommended quota. Hunt would go to registration before draw hunt.

Motion group 131-135 as one. Passed 12-0-0

Vote 131-135 Passed 12-0-0

136 Vote 0-11-1

Discussion Dan Montgomery – ADFG already has the power to modify hunts

137 Vote Passed 9-0-3

138 Vote Failed 2-5-5

139 Vote Passed 12-0-0

Discussion on when to have next meeting- No meeting scheduled

Motion to adjourn- Passed 8:30pm

** Dan Montgomery has been voted to be the Mat Valley Fish and Game Representative for the BOG meeting February 8-15th **

p282



Matanuska Valley Fish & Game Advisory Committee Minutes February 27, 2013 at MTA building in Palmer

Members present: Tony Jones, Dan Montgomery, Max Sager, Jennifer Ehmann, Keith Westfall, Israel Payton, Mel Grove, Dave Young, Mike Buirge, Jeff Tuttle, Andy Couch, Stephen Darilek, Eric Beckman

Members absent: Stephen Bartelli - excused Bill Folsom - excused, Jeff Tuttle - excused; Gerrit Dykstra, Dane Crowley - excused

Agency Staff: Trooper John Cyr

Public present: Neil Dewitt; William Patersin Jr; Patrick O'Connor

*Att: Frances/Monica
Nissa/Kristy
AC Comments*

Minutes from last meeting taken by Israel approved without objection.

Motion to accept Agenda: Correspondence will be added as the first item -- to occur each meeting.

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January 24 proposal 66 withdrawn after e-mail

FEB 28 2013

Voted by e-mail to have Dan Montgomery represent AC at BOG in Kenai.

**BOARDS
ANCHORAGE**

House Bill 110 -- would require barbless hooks while a catch and release fishery was in effect.

Board of Game comment deadline March 1. Board of Fisheries statewide meeting comment deadline March 5.

GMU 6D new moose hunt proposal amendment.

Al Barrette's emergency petition that dealt with incidental take in trapping.

Andy Couch made a motion for a letter to oppose HB110. 2nd by Dan. House Bill 110. Dan Montgomery said it looked like a very difficult item to undo if it went into statute. Stephen mentioned that this legislation bypassed the BOF, and the standard public process. Motion to oppose passed 13-0-0. Tom Vania with ADF&G mentioned that BOF has considered proposals to consider barbless hooks. There are some studies looking at mortality of catch & release fisheries from Washington & Oregon. According to Vania the difference in mortality between barbless and barbed hooks is small and has not even been measured in Alaska. BOF issue -- not legislative.

*BOF
Statewide
AC Comment*

Andy Couch made a motion to approve fisheries **proposal 249**. 2nd by Dan. Tom Vania mentioned that ADF&G would like more flexibility in the date (July 21 or EARLIER) on when the first projection might be made and restrictions might start if there was a shortage of king salmon. It was pointed out that if no restrictions occurred before July 21 then it only increased the likelihood of a closure or restriction in late July. Andy Couch made an **amendment to maintain the bottom end of the new SEG at 15,000 king salmon rather than to create a lower OEG of 13,000**. 2nd by Dan. AC would like to maintain opportunity for Eastside set



Matanuska Valley Fish & Game Advisory Committee Minutes February 27, 2013 at MTA building in Palmer

netting in late July as a priority item and would like to slow the fishery down early if needed to accomplish that goal. Amendment passed 13-0-0. **Amended motion passed 12-0-1.**

Tom Vania mentioned that ADF&G comments for the statewide BOF meeting should be online soon.

BOF Fisheries Representation on March 19 - 24. No one can make the entire meeting so we have several members listed: Jehnifer Ehmann, Israel Payton, Andy Couch, and Eric Beckman were all approved with Jehnifer as the primary. Approved 12 -0-0.

Game Proposals 140 - 175.

BOG Southcentral Region

Jehnifer asked if AC members would like to take up all of the game proposals.

Proposal 143: One member wanted to see the regulation go back to 3 brow tine legal and cited the ADF&G proposal that suggests several items including leaving regulations the same or changing. There is no timely ADF&G comments or data to look at Motion failed 2-5-4.

Proposal 144 7-2-3 motion passed.

Proposal 146 8-1-3. Proposal does not ask for anything specific. Committee members are in favor of following ADF&G data in making moose decisions. We do not have that data -- yet.

Israel Payton motion to use past action #162 - 175 as they are proposals we've already voted on. 165 would be the exception. Since we've already voted on such proposals we want to use the past action. 2nd by Dan. Motion passed 13-0-0.

- 162 0-13-0 opposed
- 163 0-13-0 opposed
- 164 0-13-0 opposed
- 165 0-12-0 opposed.
- 166 0-12-1 opposed
- 167 0-13-0 opposed
- 168 0-11-1 opposed
- 169 0-11-1 opposed
- 170 0-11-1 opposed
- 172 0-12 -0 opposed

171 when previously voted on it was 4-8 opposed by our AC. Dan made an **amendment that an allotment be set up on a 50 / 50 basis between 2nd degree kindred and guide needed hunters.** APHA pulled support from this proposal at a different BOG meeting when none of the Advisory Committees supported this coming into that meeting. Dan mentioned on the Kenai Peninsula there may not even be a guide participating in some of the drawing hunts. We do not have numbers to look at as far as what participation is guided nonresident and what is 2nd degree of kindred. The mix would likely be different in different parts of the state. Amendment failed 2-7-3. **Proposal 171 as written failed 1 -9-2.**



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February 27, 2013 at MTA building in Palmer

173 0-13-0 opposed
174 0-13-0 opposed
175 7- 5 -0 passed

BOG representation in Kenai will be Dan Montgomery. Approved 12-0-0.

Mel made a motion for the AC to write a letter of support for the MOU -- with specific points to be added. Predator control should be an issue in federal management on federal land that seeks provides subsistence opportunity. 2nd by Dan. Motion approved 12-0-0.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) -- Dan's comment is that subsistence should only kick in when there is a time of shortage -- and that in some instances there is an abundance in some areas.

Dan talked about some of the decisions made at the Board of Game meeting and provided a handout for specific proposals.

Board Comments:

Dan wondering about proposals members might want covered specifically at Kenai.

Mel participated in the 40 - mile caribou discussion. Still attempting to grow the herd. May be starting to see some signs of nutritional stress at about 50,000 animals. Most everyone was against the drawing youth hunt that was approved by the Board of Game. Youth can only harvest one caribou in a lifetime from this hunt. Bag limit against youth and the adult with the youth. Telephone call in harvest report during the winter did not work as too many phone calls. Canadians do not hunt the 40 - mile herd at this time -- choosing to put their allocation into growing the herd. Mel will e-mail some of this information to members.

Andy mentioned that BOF proposals are due on April 10.

Jehnifer wanted to know if AC would like to meet again on April 3 to have wrap up meeting on what happens at BOG meeting and BOF meeting and also on submitting some fish proposals for through the AC. Dan also mentioned the opportunity to put in statewide game proposals. No one was opposed to the AC meeting on April 3.

Pending Jehnifer getting approval -- the next meeting will be April 3 at MTA building in Palmer starting at 7 p.m.

Meeting Dissolved.

Minutes taken by Andy Couch



Seldovia Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of
December 19, 2012

*Att: Alissa Rusty
BOG Southcentral
AC comments*

Meeting began at 7 pm at the Seldovia Multi-Purpose room.

Members Present: Mary Klinger, Robert Purpura, Kelly Brennan, Alvin Swick, Buck Brown,
Layla Pedersen, Dave Chartier, Keith Gain

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Members Absent Excused: Michael Ophein, Bryan Chartier, Walt Sonen

JAN 4 2013

Members Absent Unexcused: Allison Miller, Matt Gallien

**BOARDS
ANCHORAGE**

Public Present: Tim Dillon

Agency Staff Present: Jason Herreman, Wildlife biologist ADF&G, Sherry Wright, Boards
Support ADF&G

Elections were held with the following results: Bryan Chartier, Dave Chartier, Robert Purpura
and Walt Sonen were elected for three year seats; Matt Gallien and Layla Pedersen were elected
for one year alternate seats.

Officer elections were held with the following results: Buck moved to retain the current slate of
officers. Kelly 2nd. Motion approved. Officers are: Robert Purpura, Chair; Keith Gain, Vice
Chair and Mary Klinger, Secretary

Motion to support the state participation in the Federal Subsistence program made by Kelly
Brennan. 2nd by Alvin Swick. Motion approved. 7 – 1 – 0. The state has a historical problem
with participation in the federal program and has done all they can to comply with the rural
priority within its Constitutional mandate. It is important for the local advisory committee
positions to be heard by the federal government.

Warren Brown drafted a letter for the Seldovia AC to review and submit to the NPFMC meeting
regarding the king salmon bycatch issues. The letter asked the North Pacific Fisheries
Management Council to put this issue on their April meeting agenda in Anchorage, and to reduce
the king salmon bycatch hard cap in the Pollock trawl fleet, set a hard cap in the non-pollock
trawl fleet, retain and report all king salmon by-catch, to increase the genetic sampling of both
Pollock and non-pollock fleet, develop salmon excluder as soon as possible and require the
Pollock fleet to use them with 100% observer coverage. 25,000 king salmon bycatch is too large
considering the current problems in that fishery. Non-pollock fleet continues to catch kings
without any accountability. There is a need to keep pressure on the NPFMC so that they will take
action. Keith Gain moved to support sending the letter from the Seldovia AC. 2nd by Kelly
Brennen. Motion carried unanimous.

Jason Herreman provided an area management overview for GMU 7 & 15 with an oral report
and a written wildlife harvest and survey data.

There was some discussion about the impact of the bow hunting on the moose populations and a
request that the newer bow hunt is factored in.



Southcentral Region Board of Game proposal comments

Kenai Peninsula Area – Units 7 & 15

PROPOSAL NO. 143 **ACTION: No action**
DESCRIPTION: Modify bag limit for moose to 50" or greater, 3 brow tines in Units 7 and 15.
DISCUSSION: There were few moose shot with the 4 brow tines. Don't like spike fork, but getting 3 brow tines regulations back seems reasonable to allow for some harvest.

PROPOSAL NO. 146 **ACTION: Support as amended 6-1-1**
DESCRIPTION: Modify seasons and bag limits for general season moose hunts in Units 7 and 15 on the Kenai Peninsula.
AMENDMENTS: Added to remove the early bow hunting in Unit 15 in order to allow the population an opportunity to rebuild.
DISCUSSION: Sees that the bow hunt is a major problem with the moose population. The committee endorses the department policies on the management of moose on the Kenai Peninsula. The proposal is written very broadly and the committee expressed concerns of the Board of Game completely modifying the proposals with their discussion, regardless of how the local advisory committees comment. There is some concern of eliminating the spike fork portion of the bag limit after only few seasons of trying that as a management tool. Getting away from the fork and having the season longer is desired by others and a later season would allow for that.

PROPOSAL NO. 147 **ACTION: Opposed**
DESCRIPTION: Suspend aerial taking of wolves in Unit 15A and modify the population and harvest objectives for moose.
DISCUSSION: Don't want to see any suspension of aerial wolf hunting. The department hasn't done this.

PROPOSAL NO. 148 **ACTION: Support**
DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in a portion of Unit 15C.
DISCUSSION: This is an annual reauthorization that the committee supports.

PROPOSAL NO. 153 **ACTION: Support as amended**
DESCRIPTION: Modify the registration season dates and the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 15A and 15C.
AMENDMENTS: The committee would like to see the state and federal governments work together toward reducing brown bears.
DISCUSSION: Removal of brown bears that are preying on moose is warranted and desired.

PROPOSAL NO. 154 **ACTION: No action**
DESCRIPTION: Allow brown bear baiting in Unit 15 intensive management areas.
DISCUSSION: This adds weight to the concept of removing bears. The concern of most bears being harvested over bait and eliminating other methods of harvest was deemed a bigger concern.

PROPOSAL NO. 158 **ACTION: Opposed**



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DESCRIPTION: Increase the bag limit for black bear in Units 15A and 15C.

DISCUSSION: There are quite a few spring bear hunters and a three bag limit is deemed sufficient.

PROPOSAL NO. 161

ACTION: Opposed

DESCRIPTION: Lengthen the spring season with a decreased bag limit for ptarmigan on the Kenai Peninsula.

DISCUSSION: This would interfere with their nesting season.

Robert Purpura was approved to represent the Seldovia AC at the BOG Southcentral region meeting in Kenai.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.



Seward Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of January 17, 2013

*Alta Franca/Monica BOF sub
Rissa/Kristy BOG Southcentral
1-25-13*

DRAFT VERSION

Meeting began at 7 pm at the City of Seward Council Chambers

Members Present: Jim McCracken, Robin Collman, Ezra Campbell, Jeannette Hanneman, Jim Herbert, Arne Hatch, Jim Hubbard, Bob White, Matt Hall, Trent Foldager

Members Absent Excused: Mark Clemens, Diane Dubuc, and John Flood

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Members Absent Unexcused: Chris Bolton, WC Casey

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Public Present: Tom Prochazka, Matt Grey, Sara Ossom, Carol Griswold

**BOARDS
ANCHORAGE**

Agency Staff Present: Jason Herreman, Jeff Selinger, Dan Bosch, Sherry Wright of ADF&G

Minutes of previous meeting November 10, 2012 were approved. The most recent two meetings [12/6/2012 and 1/7/2013] failed to have a quorum.

Correspondence - None

Election of committee members: Mark Clemens, Matt Hall, Bob White, John Flood. To serve three year terms. There were no nominations by the public from the floor.

Election of officers: Jim McCracken, Chair; Dianne Dubuc, V-Chair; Jim Herbert, Secretary. To serve two year terms.

Members and those in the audience introduced themselves and gave their backgrounds and affiliations.

Old Business: Herbert informed the members that the Joint Boards received our proposal to reduce the membership of the Seward Area F&GAC to 11 with 2 alternates in order to facilitate getting a quorum at our meetings. We wish to continue with undesignated seats to best represent the greater geographic area. This proposal will be considered at the Joint Board meeting in October 2013.

New Business: With the input of F&G representatives the AC discussed relevant proposals that will be discussed at upcoming Board meetings. Due to a lack of quorum at the past two sessions, we had to do both BOF and BOG proposals this evening.

Comments on Statewide BOF proposals

Statewide Allocation, Management Plans, and Policies

PROPOSAL 215

Action: 7 – 0 – 3 Support

Description: Address allocations by percentages.

Discussion: Local fishermen are aced out of the fishery. Net pen releases have not been generally successful. A huge sport fishery has developed on Salmon Creek. As long as the aquaculture is controlling the entire harvest, it's unlikely others will be able to



Seward Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of January 17, 2013

harvest those fish. Local hatchery representative stated that it is not their plan to harvest 100% of this fishery permanently. They have changed the brood stock from the LCI lakes.

Grouse Lake used to have a good natural stock of salmon, now there are none. Spring Creek is another area local fisherman can access without a boat. Member states Bear Lake has no natural runs anymore either.

Introduction of brood stock in Port Graham (pink salmon) with an undisclosed run target. They will also do red salmon there. The first return would be 2016. Discussion included an economic escapement goal of 1.5 million dollars in revenue generation. Aquaculture loans will be needed to fund the new hatcheries. Tutka fishery is primarily pinks, but some sockeye salmon are also done there.

If red salmon fishery was reduced in Resurrection Bay and CI Aquaculture didn't get 100%, what would happen? If they only got 50% could they continue operations? Local hatchery representative didn't know the answer to that question – said it would have to go back to the drawing board. When Resurrection Bay did not meet their goal in the past they have also harvested some salmon from Kachemak Bay.

In general we agree with the intent of this proposal, but it is not well written. We spent quite a bit of time on this issue at previous meetings.

PROPOSAL 217

Action 2-3-5 Oppose

Description: Mandate statewide priority for management of king salmon.

Discussion: King salmon must be managed for abundance. Chinook should be managed as a priority. Requested to raise the lower end of escapement goals 2% per year for the next 15 years to fix the problem we've had for the last 25 years. This has been a poorly managed resource for some time. Low returns both in shore and in wild stocks. Managing on a statewide basis with one formula doesn't make sense to one of the AC members – he disagreed with that. There are also international problems with our salmon stocks and not sure what is being done to address that. Enforcement has too much area to effectively patrol for illegal fishing.

The committee has given input to the statewide King Salmon management team and believes the carrying capacity of the North Pacific and other scientific data are important for meaningful action on the issue. Politics unfortunately has much influence in the process.

PROPOSAL 226

Action 8 – 0 – 2 Support

Description: Update regulations to accurately reflect changes to the statewide *Sport Shark Fishery Management Plan* which allowed for an increase bag and possession limit of spiny dogfish shark and no annual limit requirement.

Discussion: This would be more of a housekeeping proposal. There is an abundance of spiny dogfish in Resurrection Bay and the adjacent Gulf waters. One of the local charter operators said you could also talk to a commercial fisherman and they catch thousands of these fish. He said you could probably make it a limitless bag limit.



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PROPOSAL 228

Action 10 – 0 – 0 Support

Description: Prohibit the practice of “high grading” by anglers.

Discussion: This is a good proposal because we see this often on the charter boats – you’re allowed two halibut and people want you to keep the fish alive to allow them an opportunity to get a bigger fish. This will make it clear for charter operators, who can point out the regulation to customers. The resource should come first.

PROPOSAL 229

Action 9 – 0 – 1 Support

Description: Specify harvest record reporting requirements for additional sport fishing licenses and harvest records.

Amendment: Non-residents must send in their license as a final report for that license, or issue a harvest ticket and include a harvest reporting requirement.

Discussion: This sounds reasonable. The other issue is those who have two licenses and have allowed someone else to proxy fish for them. A person can create any number of regulations, but compliance and enforcement need to be able to be accomplished. There will be an increase in bureaucracy associated with the paperwork and the final result may not be as desired. If ADF&G and Public Safety have submitted this, we feel we should support it.

PROPOSAL 234

Action: 8-1-0 Support

Description: Ban use of <1 oz. lead weights in fresh and salt waters of Alaska in sport fisheries.

Discussion: Proponent spoke that lead is a toxic poison and environmental damage is the reason this proposal was submitted. After reading how much a small amount of lead affects the human body and particularly in taking youth fishing who would be handling the weights, and then often, putting their hands in or near their mouths – it’s just not worth the risks. Lead weights are scattered all over the banks of the Kenai River, exposing all living things in or near that water system the lead poison. Other states are also proposing the elimination of lead. This goes on track with the ban of lead paint in houses, lead shots, etc.

PROPOSAL 235

Action No action

Description: Establish mandatory reporting system for sport fisheries statewide.

Discussion: This is more detailed and from a commercial fishing standpoint, we do this all the time and have forever. It would be nice to have a better handle on what is actually being harvested in the sport fishery. Some members have expressed concern on the size of our government, and the question was raised of who would actually do this. One of the charter operators also spoke about the daily reporting requirements – they are not that hard to do. At the end of the season, they compile the information. The data they gather is what is important. Daily reporting would be much more accurate

Comments on Southcentral Region BOG proposals

Jeff Selinger gave an update on the Kenai Peninsula moose population and research project.

Kenai Peninsula Area – Units 7 & 15



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Proposal 132

ACTION 5-3-2 Support

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Unit 7 – 20 mile and 14C

DISCUSSION: Survey's are done annually out of the Anchorage office. There are issuing 20 permits. This is one of the antlerless moose hunts that the Seward AC has authority to re-authorize. We understand the value of leaving this tool in the F&G toolbox.

PROPOSAL NO. 143

ACTION 1-8-1 Opposed

DESCRIPTION: Modify bag limit for moose to 50" or greater, 3 brow tines in Units 7 and 15.

DISCUSSION: Opposed to regulatory changes that would allow removing the larger bulls and lower the number of breeding bulls available. Question if anyone has seen a moose in this area in the last week. Two people saw moose. One member not see any moose, didn't even see any moose tracks (on the drive from Anchorage). The moose population has collapsed in this area. A three prong approach would help, which includes regulations, reducing predators [allowing for calf recruitment] and enhancing the habitat. Bull moose in this area are mostly 2 brow tines, even when they are 50 inch. There is nothing in the Tustamena area anymore and concern of the subsistence harvest in that area taking sub-legal animals was expressed. Enforcement is another issue.

PROPOSAL NO. 144

ACTION 9-0-1 Support

DESCRIPTION: Retain the current moose harvest regulations for Units 7 and 15 through 2014.

DISCUSSION: This asks the board to extend the current regulations two more years in order to allow the population to recover. GMU & generally has poor moose habitat except for along river bottoms. We agree with a conservative approach.

PROPOSAL NO. 147

ACTION 1-7-2 Oppose

DESCRIPTION: Suspend aerial taking of wolves in Unit 15A and modify the population and harvest objectives for moose.

DISCUSSION: Although the program passed by the Board of Game, this has not occurred because the department wanted to get some hard data prior to executing their plan. There were 23 documented wolf packs on the Kenai Peninsula [not sure if this is currently accurate]. One member's opinion that they harvest a moose / caribou every 4 days and have a huge effect on the populations.

PROPOSAL NO. 151

ACTION 9-0-1 Support

DESCRIPTION: Re-institute closure of Palmer Creek/Lower Resurrection Creek areas in Unit 7 to moose hunting.

DISCUSSION: The committee wants to support the Hope Village Council in their efforts to mitigate disruption local lives. We do not understand why the BOG saw fit to lift a longstanding closure of this hunt.

PROPOSAL NO. 152

ACTION 8-0-2 Support

DESCRIPTION: Remove the reference to brown bear drawing hunts on the Kenai Peninsula.

DISCUSSION: This is a housekeeping proposal. This will allow them to keep the registration hunt.

PROPOSAL NO. 153

ACTION 7-0-3 Support



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DESCRIPTION: Modify the registration season dates and the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 15A and 15C.

AMENDMENTS: Add Unit 7 to this proposal. 7-0-3

DISCUSSION: Would like to see more opportunity to harvest brown bears. The difficulty in Unit 7 is that habitat is a real challenge. They are not easy to find or easy to get in a situation where you can hunt them. One member believes that brown bears outnumber moose in Unit 7 at a ratio of four to one. There is no spring registration hunt on brown bear in Unit 7.

F&G stated the Russian River is the location of the largest brown bear population. They will propose a scheme where they will try to shift the hunting pressure to settled areas closer to where bears interact with people.

PROPOSAL NO. 157

ACTION 0-8-2 Oppose

DESCRIPTION: Modify the black bear salvage requirement for Units 7 and 15.

DISCUSSION: This seems like it would be problematic. Leaving the hide and skull in the woods would not allow for the data gathering and leaving the meat is wanton waste.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

Advisory Committee approved Dianne Dubuc to attend the BOF Statewide meeting and Jim McCracken or his designee for the Southcentral BOG meeting.

Herbert spoke about enhancing fish habitat by adding brush to First Lake pond. He spoke to Ginny Litchfield in Habitat Division who told him the trees would have to be naturally occurring species and a permit would be required. He asked the AC if they would support this activity of enhancing fish habitat. There were no objections to the idea. He will also continue to talk with Seward Parks and Recreation.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Carol Griswold spoke to the AC about Sheffler Creek system and salmon. Some still call it the Fish Ditch where it is located near Harbor Lights condos. The elementary school adopted this creek to study the salmon cycles. Local conservation organizations have received grant funding for enhancement projects. A new pedestrian bridge was installed so people can observe the fish. Two observation platforms were installed over the lower stretch. She asked for the AC input regarding the 2012 Sports Fishing Regulation Booklet which talks about Kid Fishing Day. Where they are trying to re-grow the vegetation in that area, the kids are not supposed to stand or in the creek bed itself because salmon are actively spawning. She asked that they work together to protect the fish in the Sheffler Creek area and states it is not good stewardship for the kids to be walking through the area where the eggs have been deposited or disrupt spawning. The weir at the outlet of First Lake is worthless and allows non-native fish in an anadromous lake potentially killing off the naturally occurring stocks. She advocates for the portable yellow pool that ADF&G used to have to allow harvest of rainbow fingerlings during Kid's Fishing Day. She asked for the AC input on how to go about changing the Youth Only Fishing to protect the Sheffler Creek fish and habitat.

It would require a regulatory change. Sherry will help Carol with the proposal process.



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Matt Gray, Resurrection Bay Conservation Alliance, came to address the AC about watershed issues. He also spoke about Sheffler Creek restoration and how it flows into the Bay. Above Nash Road and Salmon Creek Road 150 acres were bought out to protect habitat. Money had been set aside for habitat protection many years ago and this was the source of funding for this project. The flood board was also able to do flood mitigation in that area. There was a huge debris jam in the creek near the outlet to Bear Lake. They received grant funding and volunteer support to clear the debris. The river dropped almost 2 feet as a result. If they can maintain an active channel in Salmon Creek it will be beneficial for flood mitigation and habitat.

On the game side, they have also sold 650 bear resistance garbage cans and made some recommendations to the city on a new 10 year garbage collection method. People will be able to lease these containers through AK Waste.

Web site for more information on the work they are doing is: www.rbca-alaska.org

Sherry Wright: Jennifer Yuhas is the state's liaison with the Federal Subsistence Board and the Regional Advisory Council system. They are looking for input from the advisory committees on the Memorandum of Understanding. Do you want to continue to be included in the federal subsistence process? There is currently a place on the agenda for advisory committee comment, and mostly no comments are provided. Please let Jennifer know if you'd like to continue to be part of that process.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY AC MEMBERS:

Collman was not sure if the creek from First Lake was an anadromous stream as he couldn't find it in the atlas. He is not concerned about the few kids that may get in the Sheffler Creek system. He has seen hundreds of people in the Russian River area and knows that there are many spawning fish in that system as well. He would like to see the scientific data to support what was presented before the AC and possibly establish a baseline. He caught a large rainbow by the shore of the bay and wondered if it might be a steelhead instead of an escaped rainbow from First Lake. He further volunteered to attend the Kid's Fishing Days event and speak to people he observes acting illegally. He encourages others to help him.

Hanneman: Gathering of scientists in Anchorage next week for the Marine Science Symposium. Issues to include salmon, forage fish, trawling, by catch, etc. Free at the Hotel Captain Cook Tuesday – Thursday this coming week. Jeannette will report back to the AC what she learns from attending. This is an annual meeting.

Hatch asked if the request from Griswold was to do away with the Kid's Fishing Days for the six days they hold that event? She responded there was there is no enforcement, trampling banks, stepping on the fish. Concern related to the lack of the stewardship that is being taught to kids.

Hubbard is going to the IPHC meeting next week and will report back to the AC on halibut decisions.

White believes that the revegetation project that occurred at Sheffler Creek is a joke. He thinks ocean waves take that out every year undermining the bank. He has yet to see



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anybody on the platforms that have been installed. He believes the habitat and the lake are fine. Rainbows that are put in First Lake are sterile and live on fry and smolt production itself. The stocked fish get right out of First Lake as it is devoid of feed and nutrients to sustain a population year-round. They end up in the Lagoon where there is a better food supply. He believes a parcel of the land purchased by the flood board was the most useful. DOT was completely unaware of where the water came from during recent floods.

McCracken said Sheffler Creek runs through the horse pasture and believes pollution from it has been reduced. He stated that in the past he was associated with a RV park located near the Fish Ditch. Jim was there every day and notes it is tidally influenced. High tide comes up and poisons grasses not resistant to salt water. Kids in the creek – high flow volume fish creeks are not affected by kids walking in them. For opportunity kids to get off the couch, get out, and have an opportunity to go fishing in a 'non-combat' area. If there is an enforcement problem, he suggests making a call to enforcement personnel. The AC worked to get rainbow trout for the Kid's Program. He says there are habitat improvements in the Stewart Subdivision adjacent to Sheffler Creek. He suggests stocking species other than salmon in the Lagoon so we could enhance the native stock of salmon by ADF&G. He expressed concerns about woody debris behind his place of business associated with the wetlands and flooding.

Thanks expressed to Sherry Wright for attending and creating the initial draft minutes and biologists Bosch, Selinger, and Herreman for traveling the long distances to work with us.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday March 28, 2013 after the two spring Board meetings. We will prepare comments on Joint Board proposals and hear reports from those who attended the board and other meetings. Preparation for Kid's Fishing Day should also be an agenda item.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 pm



**BOARD OF GAME
SOUTHCENTRAL REGION MEETING
Anchorage AC Recommendations
March 15 - 19, 2013**

On February 26, 2013 the Anchorage Advisory Committee (AAC), with 11 members present, reviewed Proposal 127- 180. The ACC votes are recorded on each proposal below.

*Attn: Nissa/Kirsty
BOG Southcentral
AC comments*

Cordova Area – Unit 6

PROPOSAL NO. 127 ACTION: T.N.A.
DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6A.
DISCUSSION: The local A.C., and the Department both agreed it wouldn't be needed in the near future.

PROPOSAL NO. 128 ACTION: T.N.A.
DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6B.
DISCUSSION: The local A.C., and the Department both agreed it wouldn't be needed in the near future.

PROPOSAL NO. 129 ACTION: 7- SUPPORT 3- OPPOSED 1- ABSTAINED
DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6C.
DISCUSSION: We supported the Department, those that Opposed this felt that Cow hunts aren't necessary, and object to killing the Moose Factories.

PROPOSAL NO. 130 ACTION: 11- SUPPORT 0- OPPOSED
DESCRIPTION: Modify the bag limit for hunting black bear in Unit 6D.
DISCUSSION: Felt it would be too difficult to determine Sow/Boar difference. The board has made changes in the last few years, with shorter seasons and in methods of take.

Anchorage Area – Unit 14C

PROPOSAL NO. 131 ACTION: 7- SUPPORT 3- OPPOSED 1- ABSTAINED
DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize existing antlerless hunt for Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER).
DISCUSSION: We supported the Department, those that Opposed this, felt that Cow hunts aren't necessary, and object to killing the Moose Factories.

PROPOSAL NO. 132 ACTION: 7- SUPPORT 3- OPPOSED 1- ABSTAINED
DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer hunt area in Units 7 and 14C.
DISCUSSION: We supported the Department, those that Opposed this, felt that Cow hunts aren't necessary, and object to killing the Moose Factories.

PROPOSAL NO. 133 ACTION: 7- SUPPORT 3- OPPOSED 1- ABSTAINED
DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in the Anchorage Management Area in Unit 14C.
DISCUSSION: We supported the Department, those that Opposed this, felt that Cow hunts aren't necessary, and object to killing the Moose Factories.

PROPOSAL NO. 134 ACTION: 7- SUPPORT 3- OPPOSED 1- ABSTAINED
DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Birchwood Management Area and the remainder of Unit 14C.

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**BOARD OF GAME
SOUTHCENTRAL REGION MEETING
Anchorage AC Recommendations
March 15 - 19, 2013**

DISCUSSION: We supported the Department, those that Opposed this, felt that Cow hunts aren't necessary, and object to killing the Moose Factories.

PROPOSAL NO. 135 ACTION: 7- SUPPORT 3- OPPOSED 1- ABSTAINED

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize the antlerless portion of the any-moose drawing permit in the upper Ship Creek drainage in Unit 14C.

DISCUSSION: We supported the Department, those that Opposed this, felt that Cow hunts aren't necessary, and object to killing the Moose Factories.

PROPOSAL NO. 136 ACTION: 11- SUPPORT 0- OPPOSED

DESCRIPTION: Reduce the permit allocation and modify the bag limit for Unit 14C Dall sheep.

DISCUSSION: We like the Full Curl rule, and the Department already has the authority/discretion to set the number of Tags available.

PROPOSAL NO. 137 ACTION: T.N.A.

DESCRIPTION: Issue more tags for Chugach Park Dall Sheep drawing (DS123).

DISCUSSION: See comments for #139

PROPOSAL NO. 138 ACTION: T.N.A.

DESCRIPTION: Create a new drawing hunt in Chugach State Park closed areas for Dall Sheep.

DISCUSSION: See comments for #139

PROPOSAL NO. 139 ACTION: 7- SUPPORT 4- OPPOSED

DESCRIPTION: Re-open the "Ram Valley" area of the Eagle River Drainage Sheep drawing tag (DS123).

AMENDMENTS: We support the Departments Amended Recommendations, with a MINIMUM of 2 Tags for Residents ONLY.

DISCUSSION: After a lengthy discussion on this, the AC supported the Departments Amendments to the Proposal, the adding of Ram Valley, and both Falls, and Rainbow Creek Drainage's. The Committee fully supports the Alaska Resident Amended portion to this, 11-support, 0-opposed. Those that Opposed this proposal thought that tying the Department to a two tag minimum was a bad idea. The others felt that with the expanded DS123 area, that there was enough room for 2+1 hunters/possible Governor's tag minimum, in the newly expanded area over the course of the Sheep season without conflict. The Department has always had the discretionary authority to issue more tags for DS123, but has never issued more than a single Resident tag, along with the Governor's tag.

Kodiak Area - Unit 8

PROPOSAL NO. 140 ACTION: 0- SUPPORT 11- OPPOSED

DESCRIPTION: Reduce the bag limit for deer in Unit 8 and modify the season dates.

DISCUSSION: Hard winters come along from time to time. This is nothing new to the area, and we have all seen this before. The Deer population has always been able to rebound.



**BOARD OF GAME
SOUTHCENTRAL REGION MEETING
Anchorage AC Recommendations
March 15 - 19, 2013**

PROPOSAL NO. 141 ACTION: 11-SUPPORT 0- OPPOSED

DESCRIPTION: Extend the season and increase the bag limit for goat in Unit 8.

AMENDMENTS: Supporting the longer season only. August 20 through March 20.

DISCUSSION: We AMENDED this portion of the Proposal, supporting the longer season. However we DON'T support the two goat limit. We don't think it would accomplish much in the way of increasing the harvest with the one goat per-hunt requirement.

PROPOSAL NO. 142 ACTION: 0-SUPPORT 11- OPPOSED

DESCRIPTION: In Unit 8, a wounded goat counts as the bag limit.

DISCUSSION: We talked about this, and felt that we didn't need another law to tell us something we already practice. Hunters go to great lengths to recover wounded or lost game.

Kenai Peninsula Area – Units 7 & 15

PROPOSAL NO. 143 ACTION: 0-SUPPORT 11- OPPOSED

DESCRIPTION: Modify bag limit for moose to 50" or greater, 3 brow tines in Units 7 and 15.

AMENDMENTS:

DISCUSSION: We think the Board should keep the current Reg's in place. The current Reg's seem to be working. Bull to Cow numbers are not out of balance, and Bull numbers are increasing. Changing the reg's year end and year out always leads to confusion in the field, and bad decisions.

PROPOSAL NO. 144 ACTION: 11-SUPPORT 0- OPPOSED

DESCRIPTION: Retain the current moose harvest regulations for Units 7 and 15 through 2014.

DISCUSSION: See PROPOSAL #143 comments. This is also a proposal by the Kenai/Soldotna AC, and we support their proposal.

PROPOSAL NO. 145 ACTION: 0-SUPPORT, 11-OPPOSED

DESCRIPTION: Enhance moose habitat and modify hunting seasons and bag limits for moose on the Kenai Peninsula.

DISCUSSION: The author of this proposal is asking for things that are currently in place, or in the planning stages. We would like to see a prescribed burn in 15A as well.

PROPOSAL NO. 146 ACTION: 0-SUPPORT, 11-OPPOSED

DESCRIPTION: Modify seasons and bag limits for general season moose hunts in Units 7 and 15 on the Kenai Peninsula.

DISCUSSION: We opposed this, see comment Supporting #144.

PROPOSAL NO. 147 ACTION: 0-SUPPORT, 11-OPPOSED

DESCRIPTION: Suspend aerial taking of wolves in Unit 15A and modify the population and harvest objectives for moose.

DISCUSSION: We believe there is room for Moose to increase. In talking with hunters, and trappers who frequently get out in these areas, listening to what they are saying about the brows available, there isn't a need to lower the population objectives.

PROPOSAL NO. 148 ACTION: 7-SUPPORT 3- OPPOSED 1- ABSTAINED

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in a portion of Unit 15C.



**BOARD OF GAME
SOUTHCENTRAL REGION MEETING
Anchorage AC Recommendations
March 15 - 19, 2013**

DISCUSSION: We supported the Department, those that Opposed this, felt that Cow hunts aren't necessary, and object to killing the Moose Factories.

PROPOSAL NO. 149 ACTION: 0-SUPPORT, 11-OPPOSED

DESCRIPTION: Allow the harvest of up to 100 antlerless moose in Unit 15C.

DISCUSSION: We believe that 15C has the habitat to carry a larger Moose population than what is presently there.

PROPOSAL NO. 150 ACTION: 0-SUPPORT, 11-OPPOSED

DESCRIPTION: Allow the use of motorized land vehicles during certain hours in the Lower Kenai Controlled Use area.

DISCUSSION: We feel the current system works, and support the Kenai/Soldotna AC on this as well.

PROPOSAL NO. 151 ACTION: 0-SUPPORT, 11-OPPOSED

DESCRIPTION: Re-institute closure of Palmer Creek/Lower Resurrection Creek areas in Unit 7 to moose hunting.

DISCUSSION: We are not in favor of seeing any hunting area closed. This sounds like a, "Not in my backyard proposal" Department records indicate that 6 hunters used the area. 2 were local resident hunters. It would have been nice if the authors presented some facts with their statements.

PROPOSAL NO. 152 ACTION: 11-SUPPORT 0- OPPOSED

DESCRIPTION: Remove the reference to brown bear drawing hunts on the Kenai Peninsula.

DISCUSSION: Department housekeeping item.

PROPOSAL NO. 153 ACTION: 11-SUPPORT 0- OPPOSED

DESCRIPTION: Modify the registration season dates and the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 15A and 15C.

AMENDMENTS: Supporting the Department Amended Recommendation for this proposal, along with our Amendment of longer season dates. AMEND the season portion of the proposal to read: September 1, through December 31, and January 1 through June 15.

DISCUSSION: The reason behind the split season would be, if the Department issues an Emergency Closure on the Fall Hunt; a split season would insure the Spring Hunt could still take place, or vise-versa. We also know the Kenai area has Bears that come out in the winter. We think the residents should be able to harvest these bears instead of these bears being taken under the D.L.P. if necessary.

PROPOSAL NO. 154 ACTION: T.N.A.

DESCRIPTION: Allow brown bear baiting in Unit 15 intensive management areas.

DISCUSSION: See comments on #155

PROPOSAL NO. 155 ACTION: 11-SUPPORT 0- OPPOSED

DESCRIPTION: Allow for the incidental harvesting of brown bears over black bear bait sites in Units 15A and 15C.

DISCUSSION: After a lot of discussion the committee did agree that it would be nice if Black Bear Bait Station Hunter could take an Incidental Brown Bear while hunting over Bait. Brown



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Bears are taking over the bait sites of Black Bear Hunters. There is a surplus of Brown Bears in 15A, and 15C. Most of the discussion hinged on whether we should give proposal #153 a chance first, before taking this next step. But the committee was unanimous on its vote, in support of it.

PROPOSAL NO. 156 ACTION: T.N.A.
DESCRIPTION: Open a brown bear registration hunt in Units 7 and 15; and allow the incidental take of brown bear at black bear bait sites.
DISCUSSION: See comments on #155

PROPOSAL NO. 157 ACTION: 0-SUPPORT, 11-OPPOSED
DESCRIPTION: Modify the black bear salvage requirement for Units 7 and 15.
DISCUSSION: Leave requirements as is. The Department likes the current sealing requirements as well.

PROPOSAL NO. 158 ACTION: 0-SUPPORT, 11-OPPOSED
DESCRIPTION: Increase the bag limit for black bear in Units 15A and 15C.
DISCUSSION: This is not an issue; the Department stated that its record shows no one individual has sealed more than two bears in a season.

PROPOSAL NO. 159 ACTION: 11- SUPPORT 0- OPPOSED
DESCRIPTION: Open wolf, coyote and lynx hunting in Skilak Loop.
DISCUSSION: We favor the predator hunting, and the expanded hunting opportunities.

PROPOSAL NO. 160 ACTION: 11- SUPPORT 0- OPPOSED
DESCRIPTION: Open a no closed hunting season for wolf in Units 7 and 15.
DISCUSSION: More opportunity to harvest a wolf, and fits within the I.M. plans for the area.

PROPOSAL NO. 161 ACTION: 0-SUPPORT, 11-OPPOSED
DESCRIPTION: Lengthen the spring season with a decreased bag limit for ptarmigan on the Kenai Peninsula.
DISCUSSION: We thought the longer season would have a negative impact on the overall population.

Regional and Multiple Units

PROPOSAL NO. 162 ACTION: 0-SUPPORT, 11-OPPOSED
DESCRIPTION: Open resident sheep seasons seven days before nonresident seasons for Southcentral Region Units.
DISCUSSION: We do not agree with this Proposal. Almost all draw hunts in the Southcentral area are under a less than 10% allocation for non-residents. Because of the drawing allocation we feel conflict between resident, and non-residents do not exist in the field. There is not a current allocation for Residents, over Non-residents in Units 7 and 15. Department records indicate that only 3 non-resident drawing permits have been given out over the last 9 years.

PROPOSAL NO. 163 ACTION: 0-SUPPORT, 11-OPPOSED
DESCRIPTION: Open resident sheep seasons seven days before nonresident seasons for Southcentral Region Units.



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DISCUSSION: See comments on #162

PROPOSAL NO. 164 ACTION: 0-SUPPORT, 11-OPPOSED

DESCRIPTION: Open resident sheep hunting seasons five days before nonresident seasons for Southcentral Region Units.

DISCUSSION: See comments on #162

PROPOSAL NO. 165 ACTION: 0-SUPPORT, 11-OPPOSED

DESCRIPTION: Open resident hunting seasons seven to ten days before nonresident seasons for Southcentral Region Units.

DISCUSSION: See comments on #162

PROPOSAL NO. 166 ACTION: 0-SUPPORT, 11-OPPOSED

DESCRIPTION: Open resident hunting seasons seven days before nonresident seasons for Southcentral Region Units.

DISCUSSION: See comments on #162

PROPOSAL NO. 167 ACTION: 0-SUPPORT, 11-OPPOSED

DESCRIPTION: Open resident hunting seasons ten days before nonresident seasons, allocate 90 percent of harvest to residents, remove guide requirements, and increase tag and permit fees for the Southcentral Region.

DISCUSSION: This proposal is asking for too much under one proposal. Plus several of the items fall outside of the authority of the B.O.G. And we do not favor the early resident openers.

PROPOSAL NO. 168 ACTION: T.N.A.

DESCRIPTION: Limit drawing permits to 10% for nonresidents in Southcentral Region Units.

DISCUSSION: See comments on #169.

PROPOSAL NO. 169 ACTION: 10-SUPPORT 0-OPPOSED 1- ABSTAINED

DESCRIPTION: Allocate 90% of drawing permits to residents for Southcentral Region hunts and exclude nonresidents in hunts with less than ten permits.

AMENDMENTS: AMENDED this to read 10% or Less of the Drawing Tags available for non-resident.

DISCUSSION: We think that if the hunt is under a Draw allocation, then we would like to see a limit of 10% or less placed on the available tags.

PROPOSAL NO. 170 ACTION: 11-SUPPORT 0-OPPOSED

DESCRIPTION: Limit Dall sheep drawing permits to 10% for nonresidents for Southcentral Region Units.

DISCUSSION: We support the 10% or LESS of the Drawing Tags for Non-residents in Southcentral Region

PROPOSAL NO. 171 ACTION: 0-SUPPORT, 11-OPPOSED

DESCRIPTION: Develop a permit allocation formula for second degree of kindred hunters in Units 14C and 15.

DISCUSSION: Our AC is opposed to any further subdividing of the Second Degree Kin Allocation. We feel that there should only be the one pool of Non-resident applications. Not



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adding a new layer of Hunts to the Drawing application, and thus LIMITING the chances of Alaska Residents to bring family up to go on such hunts.

PROPOSAL NO. 172 ACTION: 0-SUPPORT, 11-OPPOSED

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit the taking of wolves March through November in the Southcentral Region.

DISCUSSION: We opposed this proposal, because we are not in favor of limiting the Harvest opportunity on Wolves in the Southcentral Region.

PROPOSAL NO. 173 ACTION: 0-SUPPORT, 11-OPPOSED

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit snaring of bears in the Southcentral Region.

DISCUSSION: We support the current I.M. plans, which include the snaring of Bears for Predator Control Management.

PROPOSAL NO. 174 ACTION: 0-SUPPORT, 11-OPPOSED

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit snaring of bears in the Southcentral Region.

DISCUSSION: See comments for #173

PROPOSAL NO. 175 ACTION: 11-SUPPORT 0-OPPOSED

DESCRIPTION: Open a no closed hunting season for coyote with no bag limit for the Southcentral Region.

DISCUSSION: We favor this move to make the Regs easier and less confusing to follow from one G.M.U. to another.

PROPOSAL NO. 178 ACTION: 11-SUPPORT 0-OPPOSED

DESCRIPTION: Authorize a Predator Control Program in Unit 1A

DISCUSSION: We support the Department in its efforts to help turn around the declining Deer population on Gravina Island. Deer harvest numbers are down over 75% in recent years

PROPOSAL NO. 179 ACTION: 11-SUPPORT 0-OPPOSED

DESCRIPTION: Authorize a Predator Control Program in Unit 3

DISCUSSION: Again we support the Department in its efforts to help turn around the declining Deer population in Unit 3.

PROPOSAL NO. 180 ACTION: 11-SUPPORT 0-OPPOSED

DESCRIPTION: Clarify Regulations concerning the incidental taking of animals while Trapping.

DISCUSSION: Our Full Committee voted to support this proposal at its February 5th meeting, 15 Support, 0-Opposed.