



# Alaska Bycatch Advisory Council (ABAC)

## March 31, 2023 Meeting Minutes

### Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

#### 1. Call to order

The Alaska Bycatch Advisory Council meeting was called to order at 9:00 am. Public comment was not requested for this meeting due to the organizational focus of the meeting.

**Advisory Council members present:** Linda Kozak (Chair) John Jensen (Vice-Chair), Kevin Delaney, Brian Gabriel, Stephanie Madsen, Karma Ulvi

**Other attendees:** ADF&G staff: Art Nelson, Henry Leasia, Kari Winkel, Deputy Commissioner Rachel Baker

#### 2. Approve Agenda: March 31, 2023, Approved

#### 3. New Business

##### 1) Election of chair

- Member Kozak called for election of Chair and Vice-Chair.
- Member Kozak elected as Chair
- Member Jensen elected as Vice-Chair

##### 2) Discussion on how meetings will be organized administratively.

- ADF&G looking to add webinar function to Zoom account. This will allow a more efficient way for the public to participate in the meetings.
- Member Madsen offered to help with review of meeting minutes.
- ADF&G will continue to aid with recording meetings, drafting meeting minutes and upkeep of the website and email list.
- ADF&G to relay meeting info to advisory committees (Board of Fisheries ACs) and organizations along the Yukon and Kuskokwim.

##### 3) Discussion on organizational details.

- Chair Kozak to work with Members Gabriel and Madsen to work on organizational issues to recommend operating procedures at the May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.
- Member Delaney to work on statement of purpose which will be sent to members for review at the May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.
- Suggested sub-groups: This will be part of the organizational discussion.
- Member Ulvi to help provide advice on how to get information out to rural/remote areas in the state.

**4) Commissioner's office communication**

- Deputy Commissioner Baker thanked the group, noted input needed for some of the recommendations for state engagement. Also provided updates on how the state is following through with some of the recommendations made.
- Member Madsen discussed engagement with Russia over salmon bycatch with efforts at the State Department and other communication being pursued.
- Chair Kozak asked DC Baker to continue providing policy advice and input going forward to make this body more helpful to ADF&G.

**5) Future meeting agenda/dates**

- Chair Kozak called for agenda items for next meeting.
  - i. Adopt organizational plan and mission statement.
  - ii. Document with overview of ABRT recommendations
  - iii. Identify what issues to request for public comment. It was agreed that written public comment should be accepted.
  - iv. Discussion was held on possible presentations. This will be addressed as needed. One suggestion was to request information from the NPFMC on their outreach and communication protocols.
- Future meeting dates
  - i. May 1<sup>st</sup> and May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9am-12pm
  - ii. No meetings are planned for June, July or August
  - iii. Fall meetings will be discussed at the May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting

**4. Next Meeting Date: May 1, 2023 @ 9:00 am**

**5. Adjournment by 9:50 am**