



Alaska Bycatch Advisory Council (ABAC)

May 1, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

1. **Call to order**

The Alaska Bycatch Advisory Council meeting was called to order by Chair Kozak at 9:02 am

2. **Roll call: acknowledge Advisory Council participants.**

Members present: Linda Kozak (Chair), Kevin Delaney, Brian Gabriel, Stephanie Madsen, Karma Ulvi

Other attendees: ADF&G staff: Art Nelson, Henry Lesia, Kari Winkel, Deputy Commissioner Rachel Baker. A total of 69 individuals attended the meeting.

3. **Approve Agenda: May 1, 2023, Approved**

4. **Approve Minutes: March 31, 2023, Approved**

5. **Old Business: Organizational plan and statement of purpose**

- Chair Kozak spoke to some organizational structures and responded to some questions by members regarding comments and email lists.
- Discussion was had on how public comment wanted to be received by other Council members.
- Member Delaney discussed the statement of purpose that he drafted.

6. **New Business: Review ABRT recommendations**

- Chair Kozak went back over the what the ABRT had recommended and presented it in the shorter format that is posted to the website [here](#)

7. **Public Comment**

- **Brooke Woods**, Fisheries woman from Rampart on Yukon River: Made comments regarding traditional subsistence fishing on the Yukon and how it affects local residents and Alaskan Native culture.
- **Duncan Fields (ABRT member)**, works with several Nativ and Tribal organizations: Spoke to recommendation regarding the better utilization of bycatch/discards.
- **Paul Fairbanks**, Alaskan from Eagle River area: Spoke to how bycatch affects residents, subsistence users and sport fisherman. Social media access and involvement would help a newer generation get involved.
- **Theresa Peterson**, Tanner Crab fisheries participant: Made comments regarding Advisory Council process and trawling in regard to the Tanner Crab fishery.
- **Blair Hickson/Nick Wetstein**, lodge owners on AYK: Provided comment regarding allocation of funds to DNA studies and suggested how those studies might be conducted.
- **Kiril Basargin**, Kbay fisheries association: Proposed more members to the council and spoke to Canada's ability to provide better information. Pointed out all species are a problem and committees split focus.

- **Kevin Abena**, Halibut longline fisherman: Spoke to management in regard to unobserved trawl vessels and how 100% observer coverage should be required.
- **Erik Velsko (ABRT member)**, fixed gear fisherman in GOA and Bering Sea: Spoke to NPFMC motion regarding 100% observer coverage, etc. went to final action but not implemented. Proposed more coverage on non-pelagic fleet in GOA.
- **Milan Keen**: Attacked Member Madsen and is ashamed of every member of this advisory council and thinks this is a joke.
- **Julie Bonney**,: Suggested adding hot topic issues to be discussed and commented used Tanner crab and flat fish as an example.
- **Frank Kelty**, City of Unalaska: Spoke to impacts of recommendations to groundfish communities in southwest Alaska and encourage scale samples in these areas.
- **Rose Fosdick**, Nome resident serves on Ecosystem Committee: Interested in how management efforts affect subsistence in rural communities.

8. Discussion

- Chair Kozak called for discussion on State Engagement recommendations by Advisory Council Members.
- Member Madsen spoke to possible agenda items for the next meeting and process going forward. Suggested that NPFMC and NMFS staff present on bycatch resources on their websites.
- Member Gabriel expanded on Member Madsen's comments regarding the next agenda items.
- Member Ulvi spoke to website accessibility.
- Member Delaney spoke on how to work on State Engagement issues.
- DC Baker: Spoke to how NPFMC stakeholder meetings prior to the council meetings will continue and how to engage in those.
- Chair Kozak assigned Member Delany to provide the draft mission statement for member review and hopes to finalize at the next meeting. Called for volunteers to draft implementation plan for State Engagement.
- Member Delaney spoke to process and what would be needed to move forward.
- Chair Kozak spoke to the reasoning behind going with ideas on implementation before creating FAQs or hot button issues.
- Member Ulvi asked for information from the state on what is being done to provide bycatch information to the public.
- Member Gabriel called for foundational information at the next meeting.

9. Next Meeting Date: May 23 @ 9:00 am

A request was made for members to look at calendars in order to try and set September and October meeting dates at the May 23rd meeting.

10. Adjournment by 11:33 am