



Alaska Bycatch Advisory Council (ABAC)

September 3, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

1. Call to order

The Alaska Bycatch Advisory Council meeting was called to order by Chair Kozak at 9:04 am

Roll call: acknowledge Advisory Council participants.

Members present: Linda Kozak (Chair), Kevin Delaney, Brian Gabriel (vice chair), Stephanie Madsen, Karma Ulvi, Eva Dawn Burk, Erik Velsko

Other attendees: ADF&G staff: Art Nelson, Deputy Commissioner Rachel Baker, Kari Winkel, Chris Siddon

2. Approve Agenda: September 3, 2024, Approved with amendments

3. Approve Minutes: April 16, 2024, Approved

4. Election of Vice Chair

- Brian Gabriel elected as interim Vice chair until elections are held in March

5. Meeting Issues

a.) Bycatch Research

- Chair Kozak: introduced and refreshed the recommendations from the ABRT. Spoke to many different aspects of what the ABRT recommended and how the BAC is moving those forward or should move them forward.
- Member Madsen: Agreed to comments on follow through on ABRT recommendations and what the BAC will be moving forward.
- Vice Chair Gabriel: Further concurred with Member Madsen and Chair Kozak and put an emphasis on gear modification.

b.) Town Hall meetings on Bycatch/ Review

- Chair Kozak reviewed previous town halls and requested input on virtual town hall meetings. Also encouraged communities and groups to reach out to the Commissioner's office to request town hall meetings around various on-going events.

6. Reports

a.) Bycatch Review Task Force Research Recommendations

- Chair Kozak: Recapped recommendations and discussed continuation of several suggestions called for public to provide suggestions on how to get notice out better for meetings.

b.) NPFMC bycatch-related research priorities **** Chris Siddon provided this presentation first

- The power point is on the bycatch website [here](#)
- Presentation provided to review NPFMC Bycatch priority research that is to be put out to other entities that actually do the research and report back to the Council.

c.) **Review April report to Commissioner**

- **Chair Kozak:** Called for input on the report
- **Member Dawn Burk:** Asked for insight on abundance based management in its totality

7. **Public Comment**

- **Dorothy Schockley:** Regarding townhall meetings, tie them to events either before/after/or during the meeting.
- **Rebecca Schwanke:** Running for a legislative seat offered to be a contact for legislative change for the BAC and anyone else. PH# 907-259-3421 99588@gmail.com
- **Malinda Chase:** Looking at the totality of the bycatch and management issues is very much needed. Important to look holistically at things.
- **Brooke Woods:** Tribal citizens from the Yukon have not been able to fish for Slamon for the last 5 years and specifically chinook for 7 years. Restricting Alaskan Natives from their way of life is not the solution., We need better coordination in the Bering sea when it comes to trying to restore and protect salmon species. All of the salmon are important to the Yukon people and the land and waters. Looking at the cumulative effects overtime of bycatch wants to see a graph of chinook run numbers over time. Something needs to be done in the sea and not just shut off Tribal citizens. These restrictions have not improved the runs just hurt them further. Salmon return home to Native peoples for a reason.
- **Jazmyn Vent:** Recent undergraduate student, explored fisheries management on the Yukon and Kuskokwim. The banning of subsistence fishing is creating food insecurity and loss of culture. Participants in research project showed responses to include commercial fisheries being mismanaged, lack of inclusion of indigenous voices to be involved in this process.
 - Email provided for Jazmyn to supply research paper mentioned to the BAC members.

8. **BAC discussion and motions**

- **Chair Kozak:** Called for comments on topics up for discussion. Asked Member Madsen to submit a paper for the reference library. Calls for motion on recommendation to joint protocol council. Called for communities that want a town hall to communicate with the BAC and let them know they want to have a bycatch town hall in the area.
- **Member Delaney:** Commented on when and where a townhall should be supports a virtual townhall meeting. Suggested further town halls around the upcoming BOF meetings.
- **Member Madsen:** Spoke to a recent research paper to be posted to the BAC website. Spoke further to tracking research by different entities so work is not duplicative. Called for meetings in Aleutian island communities.
- **Vice Chair Gabriel:** Mentioned having a town hall surrounding AFN or it's events. Appreciate input from those in rural Alaska and recognizes their strength in coming forward to speak. Spoke to members being available to attend town hall meets with Commissioner and other staff. Encourages townhalls occurring around other fishing/Alaska Native events.
- **Karma Ulvi:** Commissioner should be in person for townhall meetings. Encourages the tracking of research and research on impacts to tribal entities should be prioritized as a humanitarian issue. Likes the progress reports and those presentations, need to address more management recommendations during this crisis. Called for Joint Protocol Committee recommendations to Commissioner
- **Eva Dawn Burk:** TCC has a biannual convention in FAI spoke to stewardship program director. Invites the Commissioner to attend the convention and present a townhall then. Wants the analytic data to go back to the 80's and that to be analyzed along with current data. Would like to see another NPFMC working group on this issue. Would like NOAA staff to attend regional advisory council meetings.

- **Erik Velsko:** Questions about logistics for townhalls do we revisit places or only go to new places.

9. Set next meeting data and agenda topics

- **Chair Kozak:** Spoke to agenda topics and heard input from members.
- **Member Delany:** Suggested a panel discussion session with BAC members

10. Adjournment by 11:12 am Next meeting November 5, 2024 at 9am