

**Koyukuk River Fish and Game Advisory Committee Meeting
Teleconference
January 1, 2016**

I. Call to Order: 12:10 Jack Reakoff

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: Jack Reakoff (Undesignated), Gary Hanchett (Bettles), Jack Wholecheese & Darrel Vent (Huslia), Warner Bergman (Alatna), PJ Simon (Allakaket)

Members Absent: Pollock Simon Sr, Andy Simon Sr., Harding Sam, Wilmer Beetus, Shawn Huffman

Number Needed For Quorum on AC: 6 (considering current vacancies)

III. Approval of Agenda: Yes

IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Waived till the next face to face meeting

V. Fish and Game Staff Present: Christina Gleason & Sabrina Garcia (DCF); Nissa Pilcher (BDS)

VI. Guests Present: Tim Bodony (KIYU, Galena) , Jeremy Havener & Kenton Moos (FWS), , Arnold Demoski

VII. Old Business:

VIII. New Business:

Jack Reakoff gave an update on the Dall Sheep Working Group. He has attended a previous meeting in 2015 for the committee. He would like to continue to represent the committee but would like the committee to vote on who they would like to have represent them. His view on how to address the sheep issue is to control guiding on state land. He noted that it looks like it is going to be a longer process than originally hoped, but would like to stick with it.

Officially nominated Unanimously voted to represent the Koyukuk River AC on the working group.

ARCTIC / YUKON / KUSKOKWIM FINFISH

JANUARY 12–17, 2016

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

Mandatory- Please Summarize Your Proposal Comments in this Form

BOG or BOF	Proposal Number	Proposal Description	
Supports or Opposes?	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments/Discussion (list Pros and Cons)/Amendments to Proposal
BOF	115	Allow for the retention of king salmon less than 25 inches in length in Yukon Area fish wheel subsistence fisheries.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Action			<p>Discussion of what was a jack. Jacks are sexually viable and by targeting them we could do some harm. And they contribute to the overall numbers of salmon returning. Discussion on fish friendly fish wheels and how many users have them vs what it takes to make your fish wheel fish friendly</p>
BOF	118	Establish specifications for a beach seine used for subsistence fishing in the Yukon Area.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	6	0	<p>This is a large amount of net to be using; committee found it difficult to believe that kings could be returned to the water unmolested if fishermen are using this much net. Between getting rolled up in the bottom to the amount of fish that would be herded in to the net.</p> <p>Initially an amendment was discussed to mirror the WIRAC's amendment that would change the language to a restriction of 50 fathoms, 45 meshes deep, but eventually left the mesh size and depth the same as proposed, at 100 mesh (29.1feet).</p> <p>Allakaket uses seines, as well as Hughes, to catch fall fish. They use nets that are smaller than 50 fathoms, but deeper than 45 meshes, in water up to 20-25 feet deep. The committee didn't want to change any regulations to make current gear depth illegal, so the committee decided to amend the proposal to the below language;</p> <p>Amendment; reduce the net length to 50 fathoms but leave the mesh depth, and size the same as the proponent of the proposal. Current 150 nets used in the lower Yukon can be cut to 50 fathoms without incurred cost.</p>
BOF	121	Expand the area of allowable subsistence drift gillnet fishing for chum salmon in Subdistrict 4-A of the Yukon Area.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	6	0	Brief discussion on where this would affect
BOF	123	Further define commercial beach seine specifications for summer chum salmon in the Yukon Area.	

<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	6	0	<p>This is a large amount of net to be using; committee found it difficult to believe that kings could be returned to the water unmolested if fishermen are using this much net (900 feet). Between getting rolled up on the muddy bottom, the potentially large amount of chums (hundreds), mixed with the kings in the net, the amount of time to go through all of that gear would increase king mortality.</p> <p>Initially an amendment was discussed to mirror the WIRAC's amendment which would change the language to a restriction of 50 fathoms, 45 meshes deep, but left the mesh depth the same as proposed.</p> <p>Allakaket uses seines, as well as Hughes, to catch fall fish. They use nets that are smaller than 50 fathoms, but deeper than 45 meshes and the committee didn't want to change any regulations to make current gear illegal, so the committee decided to amend the proposal to the below language;</p> <p>Amendment; reduce the net length to 50 fathoms but leave the mesh depth and size the same as the composer of the proposal. Current 150 nets used in the lower Yukon can be cut to 50 fathoms without incurred cost.</p>
BOF	124	Allow for six-inch or smaller mesh gillnets in the commercial salmon fishery in Yukon River District 6 by emergency order.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	6	0	<p>Would give the department the tool to restrict mesh size to limit king mortality if needed.</p>
BOF	125	Establish gillnet gear provisions to allow a directed pink salmon commercial fishery in districts 1–3 of the Yukon Area.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	0	6	<p>There doesn't need to be any additional directed salmon harvest fisheries with 4" mesh, during times when kings are present in the river.</p> <p>Considering the run timing overlap for other salmon species, including kings, if there is additional pressure on kings during conservation, to meet escapement needs.</p>
BOF	126	Add purse seine gear as an allowable commercial salmon fishing gear to target summer chum salmon in districts 1–3 of the Yukon River during times of king salmon conservation.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	0	6	<p>We are not in favor of this proposal. The proposal does not specify net depth, and would effectively allow Drift Gillnet permit holders three times the current gear length. Seine gear can be fished in mid-channel, or off points where mixed stocks are concentrated. Once round hauled there can potentially be hundreds of chum, as well as kings choked into the moneybag. Kings would be oxygen deprived, to experience high incidental handling mortality, especially with 150 fathoms of gear.</p>
BOF	142	Change the dates gillnet gear may be used in the South Fork and Middle Fork of the Koyukuk River from November 1 to June 30 to August 20 to June 30.	

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	6	0	Committee discussed where this current subsistence fishery occurs, and were in full support of additional harvest opportunity, after hearing the authors justifications.
BOF	144	Allow the use of five and one-half inch mesh gillnets across an entire channel in portions of the Koyukuk River for the purpose of targeting northern pike.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	6	0	<p>Author spoke to the proposal; believes that pike eat too many salmon smolt and eggs and that this proposal is akin to wolf control.</p> <p>We support this regulatory change, but need to make it clear that the intent is not to target salmon, but to target primarily pike.</p> <p>Amendment; this regulatory change would apply the Koyukuk Drainage from the mouth to including the south fork of the Koyukuk drainage. Apply to all sloughs, and tributaries that don't have salmon runs.</p>

Jackie Wholecheese to attend BOF AYK Meeting; Darrel Vent to be the alternate
 Chairman approved to finalize minutes

*Approved by Jack Reakoff, Chair
 January 6, 2016*

Jack Reakoff