

On-Time Advisory Committee Comment List

Alaska Board of Fisheries: Statewide King & Tanner Crab
Anchorage, March 8-11, 2020

Bethel Fish & Game Advisory Committee	AC1
Central Kuskokwim Fish & Game Advisory Committee.....	AC2
Chignik Fish & Game Advisory Committee	AC3
Homer Fish & Game Advisory Committee.....	AC4
Juneau-Douglas Fish & Game Advisory Committee	AC5
Kodiak Fish & Game Advisory Committee	AC6
Lower Kuskokwim Fish & Game Advisory Committee.....	AC7
McGrath Fish & Game Advisory Committee.....	AC8
Naknek-Kvichak Fish & Game Advisory Committee	AC9
Northern Norton Sound Fish & Game Advisory Committee	AC10
Nushagak Fish & Game Advisory Committee	AC11
Sitka Fish & Game Advisory Committee	AC12
Southern Norton Sound Fish & Game Advisory Committee	AC13
Stony Holitna Fish & Game Advisory Committee	AC14
Unalaska/Dutch Harbor Fish & Game Advisory Committee.....	AC15
Copper River/Prince William Sound Fish & Game Advisory Committee.....	AC16
Wrangell Fish & Game Advisory Committee	AC17



Bethel Advisory Committee
07/10/20 *
Location of Meeting

- I. Call to Order: 6:05pm by [Jaimie Kassman]

- II. Roll Call
Members Present: Robert Lekander, Thad Tikiun, Jaimie Kassman, Henry Hunter, Jon LaValle, Henry Kohl, Alissa Rogers, Lucinda Alexie (6:45pm)

Members Absent (Excused): Jerry White
Members Absent (Unexcused): Ben Eisen
Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 6
List of User Groups Present:
USFWS Aaron Moses
State of Alaska Wildlife Trooper: Jon Simeon

- III. Fish and Game Staff Present: Janet Bavilla, Nicholas Smith, Dave Runfola

- IV. Guests Present:

- V. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve Henry Kohl, 2nd Thad Tikiun, Motion passed unanimously

- VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve Henry Kohl, 2nd Thad Tikiun, Motion passed unanimously

- VII. Reports
 - a. Chair's report
 - b. ADF&G
 - c. Others

- VIII. Public Comment

- IX. Old Business

- X. New Business



XI. Set next meeting date: Call of the Chair

XII. Other

Adjourn:

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
280	5AAC 01.270. Lawful gear and gear specifications and operation; 5AAC 07.365 Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan		
Support as Amended	8	1	Alissa Rogers makes motion 2 nd by Thad Tikiun to amend proposal to include bank orientation (nets must be set within 100 ft of normal high water mark) amendment passes unanimously. Lucinda Alexie opposed She wants to see official comments from the department before she supports.

Minutes Recorded By: _____
 Minutes Approved By: Jamini Kama
 Date: 2/21/2020

Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee
January 31, 2020, 12:30-5:00 pm
Napaimute Aniak Office and Teleconference
Teleconference info: 1(800) 504-8071 Access: 5432709#



- I. Call to Order: **This meeting was recorded and an audio tape is available from the state upon request.**
- II. Invocation:
- III. Roll Call
Members Present:

Members Absent (Excused):
Members Absent (Unexcused):
Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 5
List of User Groups Present:
- IV. Approval of Agenda:
- V. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: April 16, 2019
- VI. Introductions:
 - Fish and Game Staff Present:
 - Other Agency Representatives:
 - Members of the Public/Other:
- VII. Member Elections: Two Undesignated Member Seats
- VIII. Public Comment/testimony: Non-AC Members, 3 minutes per person
- IX. Old Business:
- X. New Business:
 - Kuskokwim River Fishery Proposal 280 (formerly ACR 9)
 - Alaska Board of Game Interior and Eastern Arctic Region proposals to be discussed and voted on:
 - Proposals 44-50, 54, 56, 97-107, 109, 111, 113, 115-118.
 - I. Board of Game comments due February 21, 2020
 - II. Board of Game Interior and Eastern Arctic Region meeting March 6-14, 2020
- XI. Select representative for board meeting by person or teleconference:
- XII. Set next meeting date



Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
280	Lawful gear and gear specifications and operation: and Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.		
	0	6	This is too early in the recovery period. It is important to maintain the cushion on the front end.

Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: Nick Kameroff
 Minutes Approved By: Lisa Feyereisen
 Date: 2/21/2020

- * Registration only available with the hunting unit
- Dates of registration limited to between July 15 and July 31
- Registration tags equitably distributed (population? Household?) between the villages
- Household registration with limit of 1
- Up to 300 permits

**Chignik Advisory Committee
1-6-2020
Teleconference**

- I. Call to Order: 1:09 p.m. by Jacob Shangin

- II. Roll Call
Members Present: Jacob Shangin, Chair, Ivanof Bay
Ben Allen, Vice Chair, Chignik Bay
Raechel Allen, Secretary, Chignik Bay
Gene Carlson, Chignik Bay
Clinton Boskofsky, Chignik Lake
Al Anderson, Chignik Lagoon
Alfredo Abou Eid, Chignik Lagoon
Edgar Shangin, Ivanof Bay
Austin Shangin, Perryville
Boris Kosbruk, Perryville

Members Absent: Nancy Mills, Taylor Lind, Marty Takak, Stephan Shangin,
Patrick Kosbruk, Rame AbouEid (alternate), Brandon Daugherty (alternate)

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8
List of User Groups Present: All Communities Represented

- III. Fish and Game Staff Present: Bronwyn Jones, Subsistence Resource Specialist; Nat Nichols, Kodiak; Taryn O'Connor-Brito, Board Support

- IV. Guests Present: George Anderson, Chuck McCallum

- V. Approval of Agenda: Proposals 39,52, 256-258 added to 259 and 260

- VI. Staff Updates: Pacific Cod in the Gulf of Alaska is severely restricted in Federal fisheries. State water cod jig is open January 1st and pot cod will open March 1st in Chignik.

- VII. New Business: The minutes will be recorded in stages to prepare 39 and 52 as an RC for the Kodiak Finfish meeting on Jan 11th. Ben moves and Gene seconds for Jacob to approve these minutes. It is unanimously approved. The comments are listed in the template below.



Alaska Board of Fisheries: Statewide King & Tanner Crab Proposals

March 7-11, 2020 | Anchorage, Alaska

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<p><i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i></p>			
256	Adopt amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence for king crab in the Kodiak Area (ADF&G)		
No Action	10	0	Alfredo moves to adopt. Ben seconds. Staff explained this doesn't functionally change the subsistence fishery. It creates a baseline for King crab. Permits from 1995-2018 will be evaluated to develop numbers. Ben moves to take no action. Gene seconded. A member commented that residents advised the Department, prior to the last commercial tanner opening in Chignik, that it shouldn't open. After that fishery the crab in Castle Bay were minimal and the subsistence users suffered.
257	Open the Kodiak District Tanner crab fishery December 15 (Dia Kuzmin)		
Oppose	0	10	Ben moves to adopt. Alfredo seconds. Initial support is voiced with the thought that giving more opportunity to fish was positive however concern increased that Chignik could be disadvantaged during the overlap fishery if start dates varied between areas. It is also thought that the same start date in Kodiak as in Chignik would accommodate processing ability for Chignik's product. There is uncertainty how the regulations would be interpreted concerning the overlap period, e.g. would boats registered in Chignik fish in the overlap before Chignik opened? It is generally agreed that Chignik's opening date should match Kodiak's. It was voiced that the overlap fishery area should only be open for Chignik and Kodiak concurrently. Various motions and amendments were made and subsequently retracted. Ultimately, Al moves to oppose 257 and Ben seconds. The members oppose 257 unanimously.



Alaska Board of Fisheries: Statewide King & Tanner Crab Proposals

March 7-11, 2020 | Anchorage, Alaska

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
258	Align pot storage requirements and allow storage of pots in waters more than 25 fathoms for seven days following season closure for Tanner crab in the Kodiak District (Oliver Holm)		
Support	10	0	Ben moves to adopt. Alfredo seconds. A member supports extending the time frames in order to assist smaller vessels work around bad weather. Another member believes 7 days could be too short a time period. Ben moves to support. Seconded.
259	Create a Chignik Registration Area commercial king crab fishery and provide for registration, seasons, size limits, lawful gear, pot storage requirements, inspection, and vessel length restrictions (Axel Kopun)		
Support	10	0	Ben moves to adopt. Gene seconds. Staff states there is no red crab plan at this time. Members agree with the intent of the proposal as bringing the overlap area into the Chignik district and aligning the area with the salmon and groundfish boundaries. Differing boundaries for different fisheries creates confusion. It is agreed that the original Board intent for the overlap fishery was so both Chignik and Kodiak could fish but lately only Kodiak fishes the overlap area (during Tanner), reducing the crab on grounds and Chignik rarely has enough biomass of crab to open. In 2018, three Kodiak vessels fished the overlap. Ben moves to support. Alfredo seconds.
260	Align the boundaries for the Chignik District commercial Tanner crab fishery with the commercial salmon fishery (Axel Kopun)		
Support	10	0	Ben moves to adopt. Alfredo seconds. Ben moves to support and to include comments for 259. Alfredo seconds. [Members agree with the intent of the proposal as bringing the overlap area into the Chignik district and aligning the area with the salmon and groundfish boundaries. Differing boundaries for different fisheries creates confusion. It is agreed that the original Board intent for the overlap fishery was so both Chignik and Kodiak could fish but lately only Kodiak fishes the overlap area (during Tanner), reducing the crab on grounds and Chignik rarely ever has enough biomass of crab to open.



**Homer Fish & Game Advisory Committee
Feb. 4, 2020
Kachemak Bay NERRS Bldg.**

- I. **Call to Order:** 6:05 pm by Dave Lyon, chair
- II. **Roll Call**
Members Present: Dave Lyon (chair), Thomas Hagberg (vice chair), George Matz (secretary), Michael Craig, Dan Anderson, Wes Humbyrd, Marvin Peters, Joey Allred, Doug Malone, Matt Hakala, Joe Martishev, William Roth,
Members Absent: Dennis Wade, Malcolm Milne, Morgan Jones, Lee Martin, Bob Nathanson.
Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8
List of User Groups Present: None
- III. **Fish and Game Staff Present:** Elisa Russ, Mike Booz, Holly Dickson.
- IV. **Guests Present:** None
- V. **Approval of Agenda:** Yes
- VI. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Yes
- VII. **Reports:** None
- VIII. **Public Comment:** None
- IX. **Old Business:** None
- X. **New Business:** BOF and BOG proposals
- XI. **Select representative(s) for board meeting:**
- XII. **Set next meeting date:** Tues, Mar. 10, 2020



Alaska Board of Fisheries: Statewide King & Tanner Crab Proposals

March 7-11, 2020 | Anchorage, Alaska

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
247	Adjust the opening date of the subsistence Tanner crab fishery east of Kachemak Bay in the Cook Inlet Area (ADF&G)		
Support	12	0 - 0	The AC combined #247, 249, & 249. These proposals simplify regulatory language, establish an opening date aligned with other Cook Inlet areas, and a more sustainable season limit.
248	Establish an annual limit for Tanner crab sport fisheries (ADF&G)		
Support	12	0 - 0	See #247
249	Align tanner crab sport fishery season dates for all areas (ADF&G)		
Support	12	0 - 0	See #247
250	Include an appeal process for failure to report for the Tanner crab sport fishery harvest recording form (ADF&G)		
Support	12	0 - 0	This proposal adds clarification.
251	Require two escape mechanisms per pot in the tanner crab sport fishery in the Cook Inlet and North Gulf coast areas (Dan Anderson)		
Support	12	0 - 0	This proposal is a good conservation measure which allows crabs to escape lost pots.
252	Establish a seasonal limit for Tanner crab in Kachemak Bay (Dave Lyon)		
Support	12	0 - 0	There is need for a seasonal per person limit to avoid some overharvesting. The proposal suggests a range for a limit but leaves it up to the BOF to make that more specific.
253	Allow crab rings in the Cook Inlet Area Tanner crab sport fishery (Gary Barnes)		
Support	12	0 - 0	Apparently not including crab rings was an oversight that this proposal corrects.
254	Allow crab rings in the Cook Inlet Area Tanner crab subsistence fishery (Gary Barnes)		
Support	12	0 - 0	See #253
255	Amend commercial and noncommercial thresholds, and management based on thresholds, for Cook Inlet Area Tanner crab fisheries (ADF&G)		
Support	12	0 - 0	See #253
279	Dual Permit Allowance		
Support	11	0 - 0	This proposal is not in the book, but was described by an AC member who is familiar with it.



Juneau Douglas Fish and Game Advisory Committee
1/6/20 – 6:00 pm
UAS Room 108

- I. Call to Order: 6:05 pm by Chairman Kevin Maier
- II. Roll Call:
Members Present: Kevin Maier (Charter Fishing – Freshwater), Peter Robertson (Non-Consumptive Commercial), Ed Buyarski (Sport Fish, Hunting and Personal Use), Thatcher Brouwer (Commercial Fishing), Jason Kolhase (Processor), Melanie Brown (Alternate), Michael Bethers (Sport Fish, Hunting and Personal Use), Jesse Walker (Sport Fish, Hunting and Personal Use), Atlin Daugherty (Hunting Guide), Richard Yamada (Charter Fishing – Saltwater) (on teleconference).
Members Absent (Excused):
Members Absent (Unexcused): Michael Cole (Alternate), Terry White (Charter Fishing - Saltwater), Forest Wagner (Commercial Fishing), Chris Miller (Commercial Fishing), Kristine Trott (Non-Consumptive Personal), Nicholas Orr (Sport Fish, Hunting and Personal Use) and Jesse Ross (Trapping).
Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8
List of User Groups Present: Fresh and Saltwater charter fishing, non-consumptive commercial and personnel us, sport fishing, hunting and personal use, commercial fishing, processor, and hunting guide. Also present were representatives from Fish and Game and the community.
- III. Approval of Agenda: Approved by unanimous consent.
- IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Previously approved.
- V. Fish and Game Staff Present:
Dave Harris (ADFG Commercial Fish), Annie Bartholomew (ADFG Board Support), David Love (ADFG Fisheries), Dan Teske (ADFG Sport Fish), Roy Churchwell (ADFG Wildlife), Robert Welch (Wildlife Trooper)
- VI. Guests Present:
Ario (sp?) Student Participant in Government meeting
Ben Atlin (sp?) Retired. Interested in committee hearings.
- VII. Old Business:



VIII. New Business:

ELECTIONS:

Jesse Walker moved and Ed Buyarski 2nd to approve the reelection of the current members who are up for election. This includes Thatcher Brouwer, Kristine Trott, Terry White, Mike Bethers and Nick Orr. All expressed interest in being reelected. The motion passed unanimously.

ROCKFISH:

Dan Teske – sportfish biologist, discussed the recent announcement that the sport, commercial and personal use fishery will be closed for non-pelagic rockfish, including yelloweye. Roughly 60 percent decline of abundance of yelloweye on outside. Suspect that the decline is also occurring in inside waters, but no surveys. Sportfish harvest has more than doubled. Eliminate directed commercial fishery and implement non retention for sport fish. Assessment is done with underwater counts, in same areas, every couple of years. It would take board of fish action to change rockfish groupings. Richard is working on a proposal to change the groupings of rockfish. Administrative code reference number 5aac75.995.47. It was asked what the rationale for linking all DSR non pelagic to yellow eye abundance? Mr Teske stated that yellow eye makes up a huge percentage commercial harvest.

Commercial Directed fishery are closed. ADFG biologists were not sure if bycatch will be allowed.

Michael Bethers: Will there be any contact with Federal Government? Dan Teske: Yes there will be contact with Federal government and look at bycatch issue.

Jesse Walker: When will we see release devices on commercial vessels? Dan Teske: Would like to see it on commercial vessels, but it would take board action.

HUMPBACKS:

Richard Yamada: Reports that actions that will not immediately impact commercial fisheries. Any regulatory action would need to go through committee. However, there would be additional restrictions with the critical habitat designation. Marine mammal protection act often relates to entanglements. Very few specifics on what it will really mean to have a critical habitat designation.

Ed Buyarski: Would like to see more research. Not more critical habitat.



Jesse Walker: Proposes that Thatcher Brouwer draft a letter and then approve it by way of email.

Jason Kolhase: We need to take a position

Motion by: Ed Buyarski 1st and Jesse Walker 2nd. Oppose designation of critical habitat.

Richard Yamada: We want a seat at the table.

Jason: Concerned about federal overreach and blanket regulation.

Melanie: These may be the only critical habitat areas if they are successful with aquaculture.

Mike: Does not support a critical habitat area.

FINAL VOTE of drafting a letter: 6 in favor. 2 abstain

RESIDENT FISH AND GAME LICENSES:

Consideration of a proposal from southern POW advisory committee to further refine the requirements to obtain a state sport hunting and fishing license as well as a subsistence permit.

Atlin Daugherty: It is easier to qualify for a resident license and subsistence than it is for a PFD. This would align qualification for resident license and subsistence license with the permanent fund dividend.

Jesse Walker: Supports principal of it, but will oppose.

Michael Bethers: Supports it. Has seen the problem in Tenakee.

Melanie Brown: Concerned about what is happening. Has seen the problem with dipnetting and sales at farmers markets in Colorado.



Michael Bethers: Do you know of cases?

Trooper: We hear lots of complaints. We need to back it up and have proof. Obstacle is bad case law. Court sides with individuals with trailers/boats/ect in locked yard for 12 months. Troopers will not take a position often.

Melanie Brown: It could be a work session.

Ed Buyarski: Is this is a proposal? Can we support this.

Trooper: Not the majority of cases.

Ed Buyarski: Moves that JDAC support the POW efforts to tighten up residency requirements and support their efforts and solution. Atlin Daugherty. 2nd the motion.

Trooper: It would be a long wait for a license.

Jesse Walker: Would it be a headache? Determines if you are a resident. Box of worms.

Atlin Daugherty: There will always exceptions to rule.

VOTE TO SUPPORT EASTERN POW EFFORTS. 6 SUPPORT. 1 OPPOSE. 2 ABSTAIN. MOTION PASSES.

Homer Personal Watercraft:

Dunleavy repealed ban on personal watercraft in critical habitat in Katchemack Bay. Went through in 2001 personal watercraft. 30 day comment period when there should have been a 90 day comment period according to Melanie Brown.

It was stated that the comment period was extended to January 21st.

Melanie Brown: Comment letter should be to our legislators and copied to the governor's office and offers. It could state that the State is going around the process that exists and is disrespectful to biologists.

Michael Bethers: Do we want to get involved in user conflict in Homer?

Melanie: Concerned about precedent.

Melanie: I move that we submit a letter weighing in on this matter to oppose the governor's action to allow personal use watercraft. And a suggestion that it focus on process. (Atlin).

Michael: Is going to sit this one out.



Richard: This is out of our area. Would like more information.

Melanie: Bad executive government process.

FINAL VOTE: 3 support. 3 oppose. 3 abstain. Motion fails.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The committee will meet in March to consider board of fish proposals. Additionally, it was noted by Roy Churchwell that there are concerns with the Gustavus Moose Hunt and there will be meetings to figure out a solution.

Board of Fisheries & Game Proposals			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
Interior and Eastern Arctic Region Proposal #155	9	0	Anterless Moose Hunt Authorization: Roy Churchwell with ADFG stated that there is a stable population and this is an annual authorization to allow ADFG to use this as a management too; if needed, for Gustavus and Berners Bay. Jesse Walker made the motion and Ed Buyarski seconded the motion.
Statewide King & Tanner Crab Additional Proposal #277	9 Support 1 Abstain		The department did not think there were issues if bycatch with the expanded area. Mr. Kolhase inquired about the seine position on the proposal. No one in the audience knew the answer.
<i>In addition to the above proposals, the Joint Board will discuss setting a schedule for future Joint Board meetings. Currently, Joint Board meetings are scheduled on an as-needed basis. Advisory committees are welcome to provide recommendations on this topic.</i>			



January 12, 2020

Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East West Highway (SSMC3)
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Attn: Humpback Whale Critical Habitat Proposed Rule, Docket Number 190925-0039

Dear Honorable NOAA Fisheries Staff:

On January 6th, 2020, the Juneau Douglas Fish and Game Advisory Committee (JDAC) considered the NOAA Fisheries proposal to designate critical habitat in Alaska for certain distinct population segments (DPS) of humpback whales. After review and discussion of the NOAA Fisheries proposal the JDAC voted to oppose the designation of critical habitat in Alaska for certain DPS of humpback whales. Furthermore, JDAC agreed to urge NOAA Fisheries to work closely with stakeholders should a large portion of Alaska be designated as critical habitat.

The JDAC is one of 84 advisory committees in the State of Alaska. In addition to advising on Alaska Board of Fish and Game issues, the advisory committees are tasked with: “providing a local forum for fish and wildlife conservation and use, including matters relating to habitat.”

At the committee meeting, JDAC members expressed concern that the 22,152 square miles in Southeast proposed to be designated critical habitat encompasses almost all of Southeast Alaska waters. In addition, there was discussion of the fact that a very small percentage of the humpbacks found in Southeast Alaska are the DPS the designation is targeting to protect. It is estimated that 95% of the humpbacks that feed in Southeast Alaska’s pristine waters, spend the winters in Hawaii, and are not endangered or threatened.

Furthermore, JDAC members expressed the belief that designating an area about the size of California as critical habitat in Alaska could result in significant impact to fisheries, and the infrastructure sport and commercial fishermen depend on. Also noted, was the fact that the State of Alaska’s request to review the draft biological report, consistent with section 6 of the Endangered Species Act, was denied.

For these reasons the JDAC voted to oppose the designation of critical habitat in Alaska. In addition, it was noted that more research is needed to better understand the health, feed habits and migration paths of the humpbacks that spend their summers in Alaska before a critical habitat designation is made.

Finally, JDAC committee members recognize that this designation may be implemented and there is a certain amount of uncertainty of the impact. Should the critical habitat area be designated in Alaska, the JDAC would like all user groups and the State of Alaska to have a seat at the table to discuss the implementation and ramifications of the designation.

Thank you for considering these comments,

Juneau Douglas Fish and Game Advisory Committee
C/O Alaska Department of Fish and Game
PO Box 115526
1255 W. 8th Street
Juneau, AK 99811



**Kodiak Advisory Committee
February 12, 2020
1:15pm at ADF&G Building**

I. Call to Order: 1:19pm by Paul Chervenak, Chair

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 9

Paul Chervenak, Chair	Randy Swain (phone)
Patrick O'Donnell (phone)	Albert Schmeil
Theresa Peterson, Secretary	Alexus Kwachka
Oliver Holm	Rolan Ruoss
Kevin Adkins (phone)	

Members Absent (Excused):

Duncan Fields	Julie Kavanaugh, Co-chair
Ron Kavanaugh	Melissa Berns
Danny Clarion	Conrad Peterson
Nathan Rose	Andrew Finke

Members Absent (Unexcused):

Conrad Peterson

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8

List of User Groups Present:

Big Game/guide	Concerned Citizen
Southend Setnet	Small Boat/Herring/Crab
Transporter/Sport Fish	Kodiak Processor
Kodiak Large Boat/Crab	Trawl
Port Lions	

Fish and Game Staff Present:

Mark Stichert, Biologist
Nat Nichols, Biologist
Taryn O'Connor-Brito, Boards



III. **Guests Present: 0**

IV. **Approval of Agenda**

Move to approve: Oliver Holm, 2nd Roland Ruoss 9/0

V. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

None

VI. **Reports**

VII. Public Comment

a. N/A

VIII. Old Business

a. N/A

IX. New Business

Proposal 256

Move to adopt: Alexis Kwachka, 2nd Roland Ruoss

Vote 9/0 support

No staff comments available yet.

Proposal can be approved without specific numbers for each crab species and department will work to establish numbers.

Usually subsistence division will bring forward numbers that are in a non-constraining, reasonable range.

May look at subsistence harvest from fishermen, currently may have 3 king crab per household and one pot.

Subsistence range developed after collapse of king crab; information may be needed should other uses come into play such as commercial fishing.

Proposal 257

Move to adopt: Alexis Kwachka, 2nd Roland Ruoss

Vote 0/9 fails



Concerns with fishery occurring during the darkest days of the year, the least daylight available and occurring over the holidays.

December start date would occur at a time processors are closed down, there would be difficulties to find crew.

No biological concerns are addressed in the proposal.

As currently structured, the vessels need to choose which fishery they want to participate in which reduces number of boats participating in the Tanner fishery.

Proposal 258

Move to adopt: Alexis Kwachka, 2nd Oliver Holm

Vote 9/0 support

The proposal seeks to clarify a discrepancy, currently conical and square pots treated differently, conical pots allowed on grounds 30 days ahead. The proposal mirrors the regulations for the pot cod fishery and treats all pots the same.

Increasing the number of days to seven and allowing pot storage extra storage depth will address aspects of the following challenges:

- Currently, by regulation, vessels have 24 hours to get to the plant which then offloads vessels in a first come first serve basis. It may take several days to get offloaded and get back out in 3 days.
- Some vessels cannot carry all gear in after closure, especially in rough weather. It is difficult for vessels to move all gear into shallow waters when working within a 24 hours window.
- Change will be even more necessary when and if the number of pots to prosecute the fishery is increased during periods of high Tanner crab abundance.

The department supports the proposal.

Proposal 259

Move to adopt: Theresa Peterson, 2nd Roland Ruoss

Vote 0/9 fail

The proposal would establish a new, stand-alone area in Chignik for commercial harvest of king crab.

There has been no commercial harvest of king crab since 1983 and if the stocks were rebuilding to the point of having a fishery a new harvest strategy would need to be developed. Given the current status of the stocks, this proposal would not be good use of time of department time and resources for a theoretical fishery.



The proposal seeks to homestead ground for the Chignik region.

The regulation would also apply to brown crab and may affect historical fishery which occurs in the Alaska Peninsula area.

Proposal 260

Move to adopt: Alexis Kwachka, 2nd Oliver Holm

Vote 0/9 fail

The proposal is similar to proposal 259 but with the Tanner fishery.

The area was open in 2018 when the Southwest district of Kodiak was open. The region identified can open if Chignik or the Southwest district is open and Chignik can currently fish in this region if both areas are open.

Chignik has not been open since 2012 and area proposed would only open if Chignik open. When open for Kodiak and closed for Southwest Kodiak, vessels can fish this area as currently an open access fishery with super exclusive registration requirements.

Range of participation was 4-28 boats, average 17 and participation low when open.

No compelling reason to support.

Proposal does not align with salmon or 3-mile line as written.

Proposal 264

Move to adopt: Oliver Holm, 2nd Alexis Kwachka

Vote 9/0 support

Department supports this weather update to reflect current designation. In practice nothing will change but the proposal will clarify language.

Continue to support 10- day window although have never used and unlikely to use, still good to have if the provision is needed.

Proposal 261

Move to adopt: Albert Schmeil, 2nd Alexis Kwachka

Vote 9/0 support

Proposal will provide increased department flexibility, use of best available science and a more refined tool to lower exploitation on mature male crab when female population down. The department supports the action and it has been in development for 3 years with industry and the department.



Action helps to mitigate pulse and 'on/off' harvest. When mature male are at a peak they are an important harvest opportunity.

When female abundance low, a dimmer acts to lower the male exploitation. Action will adopt a control rule with a female dimmer.

Proposal may help influence harvest strategies in other regions.

The following proposals were discussed with minutes capturing the discussion but no votes were taken:

Proposal 262: The smaller size provides more crab to harvest and will give larger TACs if size reduced. There is a 33% mortality rate applied to legal discarded males. The department supports the concept as it may reduce discards. May be an important action in the future if crab move North. Understand there is no action to be taken at this time and the authors may withdraw proposal.

Proposal 263: The proposal would allow vessels targeting snow crab to keep a rate of Tanner crab. There is a concern with potential tickets for Bairdi retention after March. The vessel would need to have IFQ to retain the crab. The action would require an FMP change. The department is opposed due to FMP change requirement and lack of understanding of the practice enough to support it. No problems have been identified.

Proposal 268 gear transfer provision, department proposal.

Proposal 269 Onboard Observer Programs. Reviewed actions to:

1. Capture ability to let go of certified observers who do not function at sea which provides more flexibility.
2. Clarify degrees and exposure to technical science.
3. Provide the ability to brief observers for both target trips, thereby helping to clarify regulations and work more efficiently.

Committee Comments:

Select representative(s) for board meeting – Oliver Holm to attend on behalf of the Kodiak Advisory Committee (Motion from Roland, 2nd by Albert and passed 9/0)

Chair will request other proposals of interest to the AC to add to the agenda via email prior to the meeting.

X. Set next meeting date – None at this time

XI. Other



Move to allow Chair to approve minutes
Oliver Holm, 2nd Theresa Peterson
Vote 9/0 Support

- XII. Adjourn
Move to adjourn Roland Ruoss, 2nd Oliver Holm
Adjourn 2:58 pm

Minutes Recorded By: Theresa Peterson
Minutes Approved By: Paul Chervenak
Date: 2/18/20



Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee
02/17/2020
Teleconference

- I. Call to Order: James Charles (acting chair)
- II. Roll Call (1:40pm no quorum) (2:10pm have a quorum)
Members Present: Brian Latham, James Nicholas, Georg Alexie, Sandra Nicori, George Berry, Earl Samuelson Sr., Henry Parks, James Charles

Number Needed for Quorum on AC:8
- III. Fish and Game Staff Present: Ben Gray, Janet Bavilla
- IV. Guests Present:
- V. Approval of Agenda: Yes
- VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Yes
- VII. Public Comment
- VIII. New Business:

Support (8-0)	Proposal 280 (formerly ACR 9)	5 AAC 01.270. Lawful gear and gear specifications and operation; and 5 AAC 07.365 Kuskokwim River Management Plan. 5 AAC 01.270 (n)(1)(B). Lawful gear and gear specifications and operation. 5 AAC 07.365 (c)(2)(C) and (c)(3)(C). Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.
<p>James Charles mentioned another proposal similar submitted to allow more salmon fishing opportunities. Supports this proposal to allow more opportunity on main stem and not just non-salmon tributaries. Ben Gray explains this proposal and how it changes current regulations. Earl Samuelson Sr. says if it changes anchor able to be used wouldn't like that and asked clarification on other parts of proposal. Janet Bavilla answered on bank orientation and how other AC voted. Ben Gray gave more detail on changes on Earl's question.</p> <p>Earl Samuelson Sr. moves to adopt proposal. Henry Parks Second. Roll call vote. Unanimous support.</p>		

- IX. Select representative(s) for board meeting: James Charles, alternate Phillip Peter Sr.

02/21/2020 07:38PM 9072562441
RECEIVED 02/21/2020 07:18PM 9072562441
02/21/2020 04:38 19075432021

Qinarmut Corp
Qinarmut Corp
ADFG



DATE 02/20

AC07
2 of 2

X. Set next meeting date: Call of the Chair

XI. Adjourn 3:00pm.

James A. Charles 2/21/20



**McGrath Advisory Committee
December 19, 2019
McGrath Native Village Council Community Center**

- I. Call to Order: 12:09pm by Chair Roger Seavoy

- II. Roll Call
Members Present:
Ray Collins, Mark Cox, Lewis (Lucky)Egrass, Steffen Strick Sr (McGrath)
Dan Esai, Jimmy Nikolai, Vern John (Nikolai);
Clinton Goods & Jesse Grady (Takotna);
Jimmy Nikolai (Telida)
Roger Seavoy, Ken Deardorff, (Undesignated)
*Kevin Whitworth was elected to the Undesignated seat held
previously by Peter Snow Jr during elections*
Members Absent (Excused): Robert Magnison, Steffen Strick Jr, Peter Snow Jr (see
above note)
Members Absent (Unexcused): None
Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8

- III. Fish and Game Staff Present: DWC; Josh Peirce, Jon Barton*
DCF; Nick Smith*
BDS; Nissa Pilcher*

* Via teleconference

- IV. Guests Present: Brett Gibbons (AWT), Sally Collins, Johnathan Samuels

- V. Approval of Agenda
Approved with addition on a discussion on submitting a shift in moose season
Agenda Change Request
So moved by Egrass, 2nd by Seavoy. 12 in favor, 0 opposed

- VI. Approval of Minutes: Moved by Egrass, 2nd by Goods. 12 in favor 0 opposed

- VII. Old Business

- VIII. New Business
Elections
Elections were held for all McGrath, Undesignated, Takotna, and Telida seats. Nikolai seats are
not set to expire until June of 2020.
Peter Snow Jr has moved from McGrath and no longer wants to retain his seat. Kevin
Whitworth was elected to fill his seat.
Terms to expire on 6/20; Steffen Strick Jr, Jesse Grady, Clinton Goods, Kevin Whitworth
Terms to expire on 6/21; Robert Magnison, Stefen Strick Sr, Roger Seavoy
Terms to expire on 6/22; Ray Collins, Mark Cox, Lewis Egrass, Jimmy Nikolai



Officer Elections

Chairman

Chair Roger Seavoy encouraged others to be the chair. As there were no takers, Roger unanimously voted to remain Chairman

Vice Chairman

Mark Cox ran unchallenged to remain vice chairman

Secretary

Ken Dearnorff stated he would like a break, Kevin Whitworth was elected to the secretary position but Ken will assist him for this meeting.

AWT Update

Brett Gibbens briefed the committee on the growing incidence of trespass cabins and vehicles in GMU 19C....specifically around Farewell. He says that the situation continues to deteriorate with increasing numbers of hunters.

He also noted that the reported moose harvest reports cannot be reconciled with the number of hunters present.

Alaska Board of Fisheries: Statewide King & Tanner Crab Proposals			
March 7-11, 2020 Anchorage, Alaska			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
280	Allow use of set gillnets with 6” mesh to harvest salmon other than king salmon and other non-salmon fish species on the Kuskokwim River for subsistence purposes during times of king salmon conservation.		
Oppose	0	12	Concern about the bank orientation portion of the proposal; The bank orientation might catch more kings as they are in the main channel going upriver, and the larger mesh size will catch more kings. Committee felt that this proposal was another poorly disguised attempt to increase take of king salmon. Proposal is nearly identical to proposal 105 that we rejected last year. Moved by Strick, 2nd by Egrass. 0/12 Motion to support failed.

ADF&G Staff Update



Nick Smith (DCF) gave brief summary of the Kuskokwim River for the 2019 season; members have the season summary in hand

This is an excerpt of the McGrath AC's minutes, to focus on fishing issues. For a complete set of minutes, please visit the meeting notice for this meeting at <http://notice.alaska.gov/196186> where a full set are archived

IX. Adjournment: 4:18 pm

Minutes Recorded By: Ken Deardorff



Meeting Minutes
Naknek/Kvichak Fish and Game Advisory Committee
Monday, February 10, 2020 at 6:30pm
At the Naknek Village Council Office, Dolly's Hall
Teleconference 1-800-504-8071, access code 8425142

I. Call to order 6:34 PM

II. Roll call-

Present: Everett Thompson, William Regan Jr, Joe Klutsch, Joey Klutsch, John Wise, Ralph Zimin, Graham Morrison, Patricia Edel.

Absent: George Wilson Jr, Marc Watson, Gustie Tallekpallek

III. Approval of agenda- Everett Thompson moved to approve, Joe Klutsch 2nd. Motion carries Unanimously

IV. Approval of minutes from the February 4, 2019 meeting- Everett Thompson moved to table minutes until fall meeting. John Wise 2nd. Motion carries unanimously

V. Introduction: Staff - Taryn O'Coconor-Brito, Boards Support; Lee Borden, Sport Fish; Dave Crowley, Wildlife; Troopers David Bump and Travis Lyons. Guests- Lydia Olympic

VI. Elections for AC members- Brief discussion of committee members reiterating they still want to be on board, no new nominations, all incumbents reinstated, no objection.

VII. Elections for officers - Committee asked if they would like to see change in officers, no change wanted.

VIII. ADF&G staff updates:

Lee Borden talked about the sports fish, the hot summer, some mortality of fish and recent surveys on Naknek River done. Use is up considerably since last survey was done in 1999. Committee brought up low numbers of kings and pressure on other species. Jason Dye is new Regional Coordinator.

Dave Crowley talked about better North Pen. Caribou Herd numbers up to 4000, calf survival rate better south than Mulchatna herd up north, calf survival rate. Mulchatna herd closed hunt after Jan. 31. Moose numbers talked about.

IX. Comments

- Public, None
- AC members,

Predation, moose, caribou and fish numbers

X. New Business



I. Board of Fisheries Proposal 279: Requirements and Specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay- Everett Moved to adopt, John second. Everett moved to amend prop 279 to support if it pertains only to the Nushagak using 200 fathoms of gear while Naknek Special Harvest Area was in Effect. Graham 2nd. Amendment passed unanimously. Proposal supported as amended 6-1

II. Board of Fisheries Proposal 281: Live Earthworms- Joe moved to adopt, Ralph 2nd. All in favor. Motion carries unanimously

III. Board of Game Proposal 166: Brown Bear Tag Fee Exemption Reauthorization- Everett moved to adopt, Joey second. Discussion was made that \$25 for a tag fee isn't substantial and that residents won't consider it a burden if fee isn't reinstated. Fee exemption prop was opposed unanimously.

IV. Board of Game call for proposals for the 2020/2021 Central/Southwest and Statewide

Game Meetings, props due May 1, committee doesn't foresee putting any in.

XI. Miscellaneous Business:

I. Discussion of approval of these minutes for submission to the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game (on time comments due February 21st), committee designated Everett to finish minutes, and William to approve minutes.

II. Discussion of date and location for next meeting - Early November

XII. Adjourn 8:03

Minutes recorded by Everett Thompson

Minutes approved by William Regan

Date: Thursday, February 20, 2020



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee
Teleconference Meeting
February 11th, 2020 1300hrs
Nagozuk Conference Room, UAF Northwest Campus, Nome AK
Meeting Minutes

Charlie Lean – Chair, Brandon Ahmasuk – Vice Chair, Kevin Knowlton – Secretary,
Jacob Mannix – Nome, Andrew McCann – Nome, Edward Stang – Nome,
Patrick Knodel – Undesignated, Tom Gray – Undesignated,
Davis Lincoln – White Mountain, Lloyd Kiyutelluk – Shishmaref,
Tanya Oblowaluk – Teller, Clifford Seetook – Wales, Henry Olanna Jr. – Brevig Mission,
Charles Saccheus – Elim, Jack Fagerstrom – Golovin

1. Call to Order: meeting called to order by Chair Charlie Lean at 1323hrs.
2. Roll Call (8 members required to meet quorum)
 - a. Present: Charlie Lean, Kevin Knowlton, Patrick Knodel, Andrew McCann, Jacob Mannix.
 - b. Telephonic: Davis Lincoln, Lloyd Kiyutelluk, Clifford Seetook, Henry Olanna.
Excused: Edward Stang, Tom Gray, Tanya Oblowaluk, Charles Saccheus, Jack Fagerstrom.
 - c. Excused: Edward Stang, Tanya Oblowaluk, Charles Saccheus, Jack Fagerstrom, Tom Gray. Tom Gray submitted written notes on the agenda and his vote on the proposals.
3. Guests in Attendance
 - a. Alaska Department of Fish and Game: Bill Dunker, Sara Germain, Kevin Clark, Justin Leon. Telephonic: Hazel Smith.
 - b. Alaska State Wildlife Troopers: Maggie Stang.
 - c. Federal Officials: None
 - d. Guests Present: Garrett Adsuna – self, Eric Osborn – self, Thomas Vaden – self, Scott Kent – NSEDC, Colby Engstrom – self, Dawn Wehde – NSEDC, Adem Boeckmann – self.
 - e. Telephonic Guests: Randy Takak – SNSAC, Matilda Hardy - SNSAC, Wes Jones – SNSAC, Renae Ivanoff – SNSAC, Jacob Ivanoff – SNSAC.
4. Approval of Agenda – Amendment requested to move public comment to first part of both elements of new business. Motion made by Patrick Knodel, second by Andrew McCann to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Chairman’s Report/Update: Chair stated he would distribute a summary of proposals that passed and did not pass from the recent Board of Game meeting. Postpone discussion of petition until after the Board of Fish proposals.
6. New Business – Board of Fish Proposals



- a. Public Comment – Eric Osborne expressed his concern on the short notice provided to the public of the meeting, and of the change in start time and location of the meeting. He questioned the legality of the meeting and asked for the chair to resign. He also brought up other issues directed personally at the chair. The chair called a point of order about the personal attack and advised that the legality of the meeting had been confirmed and the meeting would continue as scheduled.
- b. Proposal #273: To delay the opening date of the winter red king crab commercial fishery by two weeks. Motion made by Kevin Knowlton, second by Patrick Knodel to support the proposal as written. The department stated that it was neutral to the proposal. The question was called for with the motion passing unanimously 8-0.
- c. Proposal #274: To limit winter red king crab commercial permit holders to 20 pots per season – motion made by Kevin Knowlton, second by Patrick Knodel to support the proposal as written. The department stated that it was neutral regarding the proposal. They also stated that in 2019 there were more subsistence pots lost than commercial pots. They saw a large increase in the number of permit holders, when the regulation limiting permit holders to 20 pots at a time was implemented. The increase was also coincident with the price per pound of crab doubling.
Adem Boeckmann asked Maggie Stang with the State Troopers if there were any enforcement issues that would occur if this proposal was passed. She stated that a set 20 pots per permit holder per season would be easier to enforce.
Colby Engstrom asked at what point does the ghost pot fishing become a detriment to the crab population. Scott Kent advised that the average pot loss from 2014-18 be considered when comparing commercial and subsistence pot loss, and to not only consider 2019 numbers. The question was called for, motion carried unanimously 8-0.
- d. Proposal #275: To remove the two-week pot fishing vacation currently required prior to the summer crab season – Motion Made by Kevin Knowlton, second by Andrew McCann to support the proposal as written.
The department was neutral on this proposal, and State Trooper Maggie Stang stated that it would make enforcement harder.
Scott Kent stated that the use of crab excluders on the pots are very identifiable and it should not be that hard to tell what the pot is set up for.
Adem Boeckmann said that it would allow for crab fishermen to sneakily scout for crab giving them an unfair advantage once the crab season opened.
The question was call for, and the motion carried with 7 in support and 2 opposed.
- e. Proposal #276: To remove the two week pot vacation required after the crab summer season – Motion Made by Andrew McCann, Second by Jacob Mannix to support the proposal as written.
The department stated that it is neutral on this proposal.
Maggie Stang stated that it would make enforcement harder.



Eric Osborn stated that this proposal would provide the fishermen more flexibility, they could make their final delivery after the season closed, change over their gear and get right back to fishing.

Question was called for, motion carried unanimously 8-0.

Five Minute recess

- f. AC Petition to close Commercial Crab Fishing in Norton Sound – Motion Made by Kevin Knowlton, Second by Andrew McCann to support the petition as written.

Eric Osborn stated that he felt that there was not a lot of notice given to fishermen about the possible closure and the schedule of this meeting. He feels that a closure is not warranted, and that the North Pacific Council established a small quota to allow for fishermen to fish. He believes that in 2019, the majority of the crab moved to the west due to conditions and with the ice this winter the crab will most likely move back to their normal territory.

Garrett Adsuna said that it is a small fishery, last year (2019) a lot of the crab were small so they should be coming back bigger this year.

Colby Engstrom shared his opinion that things are changing rapidly and will not be like in the past so trying to compare this crash to what has happened in the past is unrealistic. Things are evolving and more research is happening to try to figure out what the effects of these changes are to better predict what will happen in the future.

Scott Kent shared that the North Pacific Council looks at the results of numbers from the trawl surveys and makes their best assessment of the amount of the biomass. They did not look at the evidence of low reproduction rates.

Andrew McCann said that he talked to many commercial fishermen prior to the meeting and that all those he had talked to were in favor of the closure, especially after the dismal winter and summer seasons in 2019.

Charlie Lean went over how crab reproduce: the males excrete semen onto the female's ovipores, the eggs come out and if they get fertilized, they stick to the hairs on the females back legs. If the eggs do not get fertilized, they drift away. So, females with small clutches of eggs or no eggs indicate that they have been mated with a small or immature male or could not find a male at all. Observers and data from the trawl show that a large sample of the population of females had small clutches of eggs or no eggs at all. It takes up to seven years for a male crab to achieve reproductive maturity so even though there may be a lot of small crab, not all of them are males and it will be a while before they are very active reproducers.

Jacob Mannix stated that we are not all-knowing but with the information that we do have the more conservative choice would be better.

Colby Engstrom asked if it has been considered to move the fishery boundary farther offshore giving the crab more protection.

Scott Kent said no, there has been more focus on the decline in the biomass.



Kevin Clark referred to the history data on the biomass and it showed ups and downs (crashes).

Charlie Lean talked about the seven-year cycle for crab from hatch to maturity and how the historic data followed that cycle with taking almost 15 years to come back to a stable population. He also expressed that in his opinion if we do not take drastic measures now, we could totally destroy the fishery.

Eric Osborn in the past at least there was an opening to allow a guy to feed his family.

The question was called for, Motion Carried unanimously.

7. New Business – Board of Game

- a. AC Petition on Special Weapons to allow the use of straight walled cartridge guns in the TX096 hunt – Motion Made by Jacob Mannix, Second by Andrew McCann to support the petition as it is written.

Bill Dunker the Seward Peninsula area biologist stated that with harvest data of hunters being restricted to shotgun or muzzle loader he did not see a need to consider content of the petition especially when taking public safety into consideration.

With the AC members receiving this information it was unanimous to take no action on this petition.

8. Advisory Committee members comments

- a. Kevin Knowlton wanted to express for the record that in reference to the Commercial Crab Season Closure Petition he did not come to his decision without taking into consideration the economic effects but as Jacob Mannix stated the more conservative route is the best at this point with the information that we have. Patrick Knodel said thank you to everyone for their diligence during the meeting. Andrew McCann said that when he saw the petition, he reached out to crab fishermen that he knew and they all said close it for a year and hope it bounces back.
Jacob Mannix had no comment.
Clifford Seetook no comment.
Davis Lincoln no comment.
Lloyd Kiyutelluk said thank you for the meeting.
Henry Olanna Jr. no comment.

9. The committee unanimously supported the Chair, Charlie Lean to attend the upcoming board meetings

10. Next meeting date is to be announced, should be in November 2020.

11. Meeting adjourned at 1611hrs.

Minutes prepared by

Kevin Knowlton
NNSAC Secretary



Approved

Charlie Lean
NNSAC Chair

Brandon Ahmasuk
NNSAC Vice Chair

unavailable

Nushagak Fish & Game Advisory Committee
January 7, 2020
Meeting Minutes

I. Call To Order: 9:02

II. Roll Call:

present

Frank Woods Dlg chair	Joe Chythlook vice chair by phone
Todd Fritze Dlg	Gayla Hoseth Dlg
Tom O'Connor Dlg	Dan Dunaway Dlg Secretary
Steve Perkins Dlg	Gust Tungiung Koliganek by phone
Travis Ball Aleknagik	Richard King Ekwok by phone
Curt Armstrong Dlg	Peter Christopher New Stuyahok by phone until noon
Susie Brito Dlg arrive 9:32	

Absent excused:

Chris Carr Portage Creek too cold for plane
Joe Wassily Clarks Pt. power plant failure
Walter Kanulie Togiak alt training conflict

Absent no contact, not excused:

Barbara Moore Manokotak
Moses Kritz Togiak

It should be noted that temperatures were below zero, down to -20 or colder and this deterred some members.

Additionally, Jan 7 is Russian Christmas and is observed extensively in most Bristol Bay villages. The AC members expressed regret for the conflict and will seek to avoid this in future meetings.

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: total seats 15, quorum 8
quorum met. 13 present at start of the meeting.

List of User Groups Present:

Subsistence fishing and hunting
Commercial Salmon drift net



Commercial Salmon set net
Sport fishing and guiding.
Trapping

III. Approval of Agenda:

Todd moved and Gayla 2nd to adopt the agenda. Dan asked to add a discussion of Mulchatna Caribou hunt under IX New Business as item IV. Motion maker and 2nd agree to add Mulchatna Caribou. Agenda approved Unanimously.

Frank Woods, chair announced his resignation from as chair and from the AC for personal reasons. Frank departed the meeting immediately. Several members expressed thanks for Franks hard work and regret he had to resign.

There was a discussion how to conduct the rest of the meeting since vice chair, now chair Joe Chythlook was attending by phone and it is so difficult to run a meeting over the phone. Several names brought up. Dan and Taryn worked through first items of the agenda.

IV. Introductions:

ADFG and Enforcement Staff present:

Lee Borden Sport Fish
Lauren Watine Wildlife Conservation
Tim Sands Commercial Fish
Jordan Head Com Fish by phone
James VanLanen ADFG Subsistence by phone
Joe Wittkop AWT

Guests and other Agencies

Togiak Refuge
Kenton Moos Patrick Walsh
Andy Aderman
Gary Cline BBEDC
Cody Larson BBNA
Isabel Ross KDLG
Pete Heyano commercial fisherman
Greg Marxmiller set netter
Lindsay Layland set netter
John Bennett drift netter

V. Election of AC Members:



1. Designated Dillingham Seat

Gayla moved to open nominations Tom 2nd.

Todd Fritze & Robert Heyano nominated

There was some question whether a non Dillingham resident could make nominations, and nomination for Mr. Heyano was withdrawn. Others present noted that Mr. Heyano has declined nominations in previous meetings.

Dan move to close and Tom 2nd.

Todd Fritze elected to the open designated seat. Term to expire 6-30-20

Chair Joe Chythlook asked attendees to postpone remaining elections until next meeting given the low attendance at this meeting. After discussion, it was decided there was adequate notice and we should proceed with elections.

2. One Undesignated Seat and Two Alternate seats.

Consensus to take nominations, top vote to be seated as undesignated member, second and third most votes to be assigned alternate seats.

Nominations: Gayla Hoseth, Steve Perkins, Caleb Westfall. Gary Cline declined nomination.

Travis moved to close Susie second.

Boards distributed, collected, and counted votes including text votes from phone attendees.

Gayla Hoseth won top votes and was seated in the Undesignated Seat.

Steve Perkins and Caleb Westfall elected as alternates.

VI Election of Officers:

By general consensus and given the limited availability of the meeting room, the interim nature of several seats, and soon to end terms of several other members, AC agreed to postpone election of officers until a fall meeting. We have enough officers to get this meeting done.

Discussion: As vice chair Joe Chythlook became interim chair. After some discussion Joe moved to have Susie Brito to run the rest of the meeting, Tom 2nd. Approved by unanimous consent. Its too hard to do by phone. With support of the AC members, Susie agreed to run the rest of the meeting.

VII ADFG Staff Updates:

Tim Sands Commercial Fish

Tim presented and handed out copies of the 2020 salmon forecast, 48.0 million Bay wide, 12.63 total run for Nushagak District. Kvichak is projects to have 19.97 million, and Egegik 10.75.

Herring 202 forecast, 215,000 tons total with 38,749 allocated to Togiak sac roe fishery. Tim discussed how the model for 2020 forecast was revised and produced a higher



guideline harvest than in 2019. Fewer buyers may be present in 2020 and its not likely the whole allocation will be taken.

2019 Salmon run discussion: Nushagak King run was poor, sockeye run extremely good. However high water temps low water levels caused some mortality, worst case was Igushik river where its possible 100,000 fish died. The Igushik is highly exposed to the sun, between tides the mudflats heat up; at the lake outlet temperatures as high as 23 C were observed - salmon don't like above 17C. High temps, low dissolved oxygen kill fish. Even some observations of very lethargic fish in other systems.

King Salmon: problems counting fish with a sonar not designed to count kings, exacerbated by low water high temps, resulted in a count of 46,000 kings, well below desired levels. ADFG will operate the 2020 commercial fishery with extreme caution to protect kings including: waiting as long as possible before opening commercial (possibly let more than 100,000 reds up Wood River before opening) shorter fishing periods for both set and drift gear, possibly keeping fishery closed for entire tide. Depends on fish behavior, conditions, fish passage. BOF Nushagak King Working Group had one meeting in the fall and another scheduled for March - other than a list of considerations no action on the plan.

Other Salmon Mgt Plans. Tim says there are 10 salmon plans that have been addressed piecemeal over the years, He asked AC to consider setting a process to regularly conduct a comprehensive review of a couple plans each BOF cycle to keep up to date. He suggested starting with the Togiak Herring and Wood River Special Harvest Area. He advocates an open process and that ADFG might not be the one to take the lead.

Brief discussion of AC and ADFG on impact of the sport fishery on Nushagak kings.

Peter Christopher advocated for closed windows in the king sport fishery.

Another person pointed out that some upriver residents illegally "seine" the kings taking more than a 100 at a time.



Joe Wittkop AWT Troopers:

Herring - large quota few violations. No large patrol vessel available. Used 32 foot Kvichak to patrol, boarded 14 vessels. Issued 2 tickets for crew license violations. One report of possible wasted fish no case made. Boarded 8 trawlers, tramper, and processor boats (may have been 20 such vessels in the area)- difficult thing for him to do. Contacted 135 boats, few violations one missing ADFG triangle plate.

Spring Bear 2019: Effort was reduced no citations issued.

One butchered moose found along Dillingham road in June, DNA evidence collected, no suspects at this time.

Sport Fishery: no funding for a sport fish enforcement team, patrolled as personnel and time allowed. Lack of life jackets and boat registrations were main issue. A few snagging and over limit cases made. Definition of a fly liberalized reduced issues on gear.

Commercial fish enforcement: about 600 vessels in the Nushagak district and skeleton enforcement presence. Mainly Joe, one pilot, one shore based patrol boat. 2026 contacts, 122 warnings, 181 citations, 48,000 pounds of fish seized. Closed period fishing was the main violation; some gear marking, lost nets as well. Grounding drift boats still and issue and a couple instances of permit holder not present at time of sale.

Locally poor internet created problems obtaining picture IDs so Troopers were lenient.



Togiak fishery was minimally patrolled - main violation was set nets fishing close periods and having nets too far off shore. One waste of salmon, a net was not picked for several days.

Fall Hunting: slow hunting at beginning as it was so hot, more harvest success towards end of moose season. Still a problem for hunters understanding regulations between registration permit and "general hunt" harvest ticket - confusion on season dates and reporting requirements. One sublegal moose taken and one failure to mark harvest permit.

Winter moose season no patrols due to medical situation. One winter harvest found 250 yard off highway when hunt conditions require 1/2 mile from highway.

Discussion on positioning of hunter with snow machines.

Discussion on incidental or personal use take of kings in commercial fishery.

Discussion of grounding of drift boats, some drift boats using extremely long tow or tag lines (half mile was expressed) to meet letter of the law regarding grounding was drifting. This is causing annoyance for other fishermen. Presents hazard and obstacle to other fishers. The office said they are aware of what they call "parking" and its a concern. May need a proposal to BOF to address the issue.

No subsistence violations were issued in 2019.

Lee Borden Sport Fish

Creel surveys were conducted on the Nushagak Kings, Alagnak Kings, Naknek fall rainbow fisheries. Data currently being analyzed no results ready to present.

Nushagak kings were very low catch rates with low and very warm water. Fish seemed to hole up maybe travel at night.

The previous years' Nushagak King sport mortality study is in the final stages in preparation for publishing and should be out soon.

In 2020 Sport Fish plans to conduct creel surveys on Togiak king salmon, Nushagak coho, and conduct another Naknek fall creel survey.

in 2021 Sport Fish is planning to conduct spring rainbow trout work in the L. Iliamna drainage in major tributaries.

Former area biologist Jason Dye took a promotion and moved to Anchorage, the Area Biologist position will be recruited and refilled.

Taryn Brito Board Support

Note to all: Board Calendars published in the proposal books are now out of date and wrong. Check the website or her office for up to date ones.

1) No further work from rod and reel gear special BOF committee.



- 2) Naknek BOF work session scheduled in 2020.
- 3) Nushagak King Plan work group had a meeting in fall 2019 and another scheduled March 12, 2020. Other than organizing and some guiding papers no actual planning action.
- 4) Action Item: fall work session, BOF approved ACR regarding D boats and 200 fathoms for Bristol Bay - now it is Proposal 279, available on line or at Board offices, comment deadline is February 21 and BOF will address in March meeting.
- 5) AC has action items on BOG proposals 165 re-authorize 17A antlerless moose, 166 brown bear tag fee exemption, ACR 5 (now 169) Troopers request to clarify purchase of locking big game tags,

VIII Public Comments

Cody Larson for Bristol Bay Native Association.

BBNA is concerned for the often warm winter conditions making winter moose hunts difficult and hopes to work with ADFG to add flexibility to the discretionary "conditions of hunt".

Gary Cline Bristol Bay Economic Development Corp (CDQ).

BBEDC is supportive of the systematic review of Bristol Bay salmon management plans. They agree the plans have been "piecemealed" over the years and more comprehensive and systematic approach is warranted to keep plans current.

BBEDC is willing to host the local meetings well ahead of BOF meetings. The goal is to bring well prepared information to the BOF.

LUNCH BREAK 12:03

RESTART 12:32

Susie resumed the meeting emphasizing the 3PM meeting room deadline.



IX New Business: Review and actions on proposals.

1. Proposal - BOF proposal 279 (ACR from October 2019)

Alaska Board of Fisheries: Statewide King & Tanner Crab Proposals March 7-11, 2020 Anchorage, Alaska			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<p><i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i></p>			
279	<p>5AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms drift gillnet in Bristol Bay.</p>		
Oppose	2	8	<p>Dan Move Todd 2nd: Tim Sands explained history of regulation and how this proposal would affect the fishery. ADFG is neutral. Discussion about the history of D boats and 200 f gear was supposed to aid permit holders without boats, take some boats and gear out of the water. But it activated dormant permits. Now a single person can own 2 permits may have added gear to fishery and works against original intent. When the Naknek RSHA is opened many D boats tend to head to Nushagak District adding competition to that fishery.</p> <p>Joe C. " I've always opposed allowing 200 fathoms of gear and current regulation is working fine.</p> <p>Sands indicated that there were over 600 boats in Nushagak District in 2019 and over 700 in 2018; that Nushagak generally supports the most D boats, especially early in the season and then D boats tend to disperse to other districts as the season progresses.</p> <p>Curt, this does not rise to the level justifying an ACR and would be better addressed by more of the public if it came up in the normal BOF cycle for the Bay.</p> <p>Susie is opposed, in her case it would be better for her family to fish a second boat and full complement of gear. But Nushagak District is already congested and they don't need more boats coming in, especially with 200f. "I am opposed to the fisheries proposal more to the effect that it would increase congestion in the Nushagak and reduce local permit holders</p>



Alaska Board of Fisheries: Statewide King & Tanner Crab Proposals			
March 7-11, 2020 Anchorage, Alaska			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			<p>opportunity/catch."</p> <p>Gust - I support D boat system, it helps some village families and keeps some gear out of the water. But I only support for 2 individual permit owners.</p> <p>Tom called the question. Roll call vote.</p>

Dan reminded group we've worked a long time to have uniform, coherent range-wide caribou regulations, be careful about breaking things up again.

Gayla commented maybe the AC should have a working group on this.

X. Miscellaneous Business:

1. proval of minutes:

Joe move and Travis 2nd for secretary write minutes, and have Gayla and Susie review and approve for submission to Boards Support. All three to approve and sign.

Motion supported Unanimously, 10-0.

2. ext Meeting Time and Location:

Time: by call of the Chair. TBA

Location: Gayla moved the Curyung Tribal building where we are less likely to be under time constraints we always have at the City building.

Motion supported Unanimously, 10-0.

XI. A journ: Meeting adjourned 2:35 PM

I.

Minutes Recorded By: __Dan Dunaway__

Minutes Approved By:
 Susie Jenkins-Brito
 Gayla Hoseth
 Date: _____1-13-20



**Sitka Fish and Game Advisory Committee
February 12, 2020
University of Alaska Southeast**

I. Call to Order: 6:02 by Jon Martin

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: Karen Johnson, Eric Jordan, Andrew Thoms, Moe Johnson, Tad Fujioka, Woody Cyr, Jeff Feldpausch, Dick Curran, Jon Martin, John Murray

Members Absent (Excused): Joel Markis, Heather Bauscher, Steve Ramp, Heather Bauscher, Stacey Wayne, Aaron Prussian

Members Absent (Unexcused): Wayne Unger, Luke Bastian,

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8

List of User Groups Present: 10

At Large
Subsistence
Power Troll
Conservation
Trapping
Seine
Long Line
Trapping
Hunting
Charter

Floyd Tomkins, Lauren Bell, Bill Marx,
Mariah Groshek, Jeff Farvour

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Tad F. motions to approve, Dick Curran Seconds, unanimous

IV. Agenda changes: Chair set a time limit of 9pm; Dick Curran moves to approve change, Andrew Thoms seconds

V. Board Chair reports to committee on process for removing members if they haven't shown up to a number of meetings or are incommunicado. Board support outlined the process to be followed.



- VI. Board Elections: Secretary resigns; Eric Jordan moves to accept resignation, Dick Curran seconds.
- a. Eric Jordan moves to nominate Andrew Thoms for secretary; vote unanimous in favor. Andrew Thoms elected to 2 year term as secretary
- VII. Fish and Game Staff Present: Aaron Dupois, Rhea Ehresmann, Troy Tydingco,
- VIII. ADFG Staff Briefings:
- a. Aaron Dupois: gave report on Shrimp fisheries closure in Hoonah Sound
- i. Recruitment failure
 - ii. Lack of small shrimp coming into population
 - iii. Partial closure of Hoonah sound with areas open meant to strategically offer opportunities so as not to put too much pressure in other places that may lead to overfishing
 - iv. Tenekee fishery for Shrimp did bounce back after similar closures when their fishery collapsed in 2011
 - v. ADFG is still processing the information from the 2019 comm fish season for shrimp
- b. Rhea Ehresmann gave a presentation on demersal shelf Rockfish (DSR) closure
- i. Outlined rockfish species and biology
 - ii. Outlined survey methods and areas
 - iii. Outlined the ways ADFG estimates biomass
 - iv. ADFG feels like there is a decline overall and a declining trend; some AC members felt that they did not see the declining trend in the data
 - v. Lower 48 and BC has created Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to try to rebuild rockfish stocks
 - vi. ADFG is working on a plan for conserving stocks and increasing biomass and will be reaching out to stakeholders to help with this. Reported that ALFA has good maps of where rockfish habitat is and where rockfish are most abundant.
 - vii. Taking preventative measures and conserving now to increase recruitment and build back populations
- c. Troy Tydingco: available to answer questions on sportfish catch of rockfish
- i. Question on why shut down all rockfish when it is yelloweye that seems to be the conservation concern



- ii. Question about life cycle of yellow-eye and if we know the biology of the other types of rockfish
 - iii. Comments from sport fish rep that sport fishing can reduce mortality with catch-and-release mechanisms and this action is pretty broad stroke and could be more strategic to still allow sport catch
 - iv. Other AC member stated that population appears to be stabilized
 - v. AC rep wants to know what the threshold population is for rockfish and if it has been defined and who defines it
 - d. Eric Jordan offered his appreciation of ADFG staff and recognized the service of Eric Coonradt who passed away this past week. Also James Parker and highlighted his role in saving herring population by setting a minimum guideline harvest
- IX. Lauren Bell presented some of her research for PhD on coastal kelp forest communities and how they will respond to climate change, ocean warming, and ocean acidification
 - a. Looking at ecology of coastal systems and movement of energy through systems
 - b. Most specifically interested in changes that will occur because of climate change
 - c. Invited AC to visit her research lab in the basement of Sitka Sound Science Center
 - d. Her labs can simulate various ocean conditions (temperature, acidity, etc.)
 - e. Outlined that there will be impacts to fish, invertebrates, and seaweed
 - f. Her work is looking at how changes in ocean conditions will impact inter-species associations and relationships
 - g. Question on how the research is identifying the threshold levels for critical systems from this research. A: complex systems and this work is beginning to allow some examination into that. Gave example on seasonal fluctuations on acidity levels and when susceptible species are most at risk (coastal ecosystem equivalent to high snowfall years for deer)
 - h. Question on what to do: A: take action curtail carbon emissions—use less fossil fuels
- X. Considering resolution on climate emergency and mobilization effort to adapt to a changing climate: Board chair introduced a resolution on climate emergency that the Sitka Assembly is considering and a request from the sponsoring assembly members for the AC to weigh in and inform City on their perspective
 - a. Dick Curran Moved to Support the City Resolution; Karen Johnson seconded motion
 - b. Eric Jordan outlines the fact that it is within the purview of the AC to take action on items that affect resources the AC considers.
 - c. Tad pointed out that there is good reason because we need to be using our renewable energy because of our hydro-facilities and investment we have already made and excess capacity that needs to be utilized
 - d. Andrew Thoms: comment that this needs to be backed up with strong statement requesting policy changes



- e. Jeff Feldpauch: need policy changes at a larger level and need leadership that recognizes the problem
 - f. Members of the public ask for a stronger resolution in testimony
 - g. Vote: Unanimous—10 in favor
 - i. Discussion on how the support would be delivered: Eric and John volunteered to go to the assembly meeting to represent the AC on voice their support
 - ii. Request from Jeff Feldpauch to share our resolution with the rest of the ACs across the state; will reach out to AC chairs and share our resolution and ask them for support.
- XI. Considering request from Kent Barkau to support a Federal House bill that sets up a federal carbon fee and dividend program
- a. Chair's recommendation is that we table the issue and take time to learn about it with the materials provided
 - b. Eric Jordan moved to adopt a resolution and read his proposed resolution. Tad Fujioka seconded.
 - c. Jeff Feldpausch summarized the proposal and outlined the tribes consideration of it and his consideration of it. The dividends will not impact the threshold for GA benefits. He did say that the people who fly frequently will be hit hard for costs. He cited the carbon tax calculator.
 - d. Eric Jordan asked that if we table this, we should put publicity out.
 - e. Moe Johnson moves to table, John Murray seconds. 9 in favor, 1 against
 - f. Will be considered next meeting with Kent present and recruiting others
- XII. BOF PROPOSAL 277—Management of Chum Salmon Troll Fishery: Eric Jordan moves to support; Dick Curran seconds.
- a. Eric Jordan outlined background of proposal and who helped develop and who currently supports
 - b. Tad commented that ATA and SPC submitted similar proposals but this was the proposal that has gained consensus
 - c. Jeff opposes because he thinks it will cause issues with the index stream and will put much more pressure on the wild runs; outlined the issues with the fishery and impacts it is having on wild runs in this area and overlap with early season runs
 - d. Woody commented that wild fish are generally in front of the stream mouth by then
 - e. Concerns on straying that are beyond this proposal; concern about index stream; concern about this hatchery release site; evidence of wide-spread straying
 - f. VOTE: IN FAVOR 8, OPPOSE 1, ABSTAIN; MOTION TO SUPPORT PROPOSAL 277 PASSES
- XIII. BOF PROPOSAL 281—freshwater sportfishing—restricting live earthworms in the genus *lobricus*—John Murray moves to adopt, Woody 2nds;



- a. Type of earthworm that is not native and is extremely voracious in the most important part of the soil layer and changes the biology of the soil with ecosystem effects.
 - b. Vote—9 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained. MOTION TO SUPPORT PROPOSAL 281 PASSES
- XIV. FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD PROPOSAL WP20-08: TRAPS NEEDS TO HAVE IDENTIFICATION TAGS; MOVE TO ADOPT—NO SECOND
- XV. FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD PROPOSAL WP20-09: EXTENDING BEAVER SEASON IN AREAS 1-5-- ERIC JORDAN MOVES TO SUPPORT; WOODY CYR 2NDS
- a. No current or anticipated conservation concern
 - b. VOTE: 9 IN FAVOR; 1 ABSTAIN SITKA AC SUPPORTS
- XVI. FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD WP20-10: CUSTOMARY USE DETERMINATIONS FOR BLACK BEAR; TAD MOVED TO SUPPORT; ERIC JORDAN SECOND
- a. VOTE: 10 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSE: SITKA AC SUPPORTS
- XVII. FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD WP20-11: CUSTOMARY USE DETERMINATIONS FOR BROWN BEAR; TAD MOVED TO SUPPORT; ERIC JORDAN SECOND
- a. VOTE: 9 IN FAVOR, 1 OPPOSE, 0 ABSTAIN: SITKA AC SUPPORTS
- XVIII. FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD WP20-13: CUSTOMARY USE DETERMINATIONS FOR ELK; TAD MOVED TO SUPPORT; ERIC JORDAN SECOND
- a. Discussion on if a C&T finding is appropriate for a relatively recently introduced species and why we are introducing species anyway
 - b. VOTE: 6 IN FAVOR, 4 OPPOSE: SITKA AC SUPPORTS
- XIX. Next meeting:
- a. Third Wednesday of each month is not good for Jeff F.
 - b. Kent Barkau carbon price
 - c. Herring
 - d. Squid proposals—methods of take

Adjournment: 8:45 called to close

Minutes Recorded By: andrew thoms

Minutes Approved By: Board President

Date: Feb 18th, 2020



Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee
MEETING AND ELECTIONS

Agenda

December 4, 2019 – 12:45

Unalakleet Native Corporation Building (NSED Office) – Unalakleet, Alaska

Vacant-Chair, Vacant-Vice Chair, Jacob Ivanoff-Secretary,
Wes Jones-Member; Frank Katchatag-Member
Morris Nassuk-Koyuk; Matilda Hardy-Shaktoolik
Alexander Niksik Jr.-St. Michael; Leo Kobuk-St. Michael
Peter Martin-Stebbins

1. Call to Order Jacob called meeting to order at 12:47 pm.
2. Roll Call – 5 to make quorum
Present Jacob Ivanoff, Frank Katchatag, Morris Nassuk, Matilda Hardy, Peter Martin, Leo Kobuk
 - a. Excused – Wes Jones,
 - b. Unexcused – Alexander Niksik Jr.
3. Introduction of AC members and guests present including teleconference attendees

AC member present: Jacob Ivanoff, Frank Katchatag, Matilda Hardy, Morris Nassuk, Leo Kobuk, Peter Martin. Guest present Gary Eckenweiler, Clarence Towarak, Renae Ivanoff. ADFG staff present Bill Dunker, Sara Germain, Hazel Smith

4. Approval of Agenda

Matilda made motion to approve agenda, Morris seconded motion approved

5. Elections to seat AC members
 - a. Six seats open
Frank made a motion to have four seats for Unalakleet and two seats for the other communities. Morris seconded motion. Motion approved. Wes and Jacob submitted letters of interest, Gary and Renae agreed to sit on the committee. Four seats are filled

6. Officer Elections

- a. Chair/Secretary

Morris made motion to nominate Jacob as Chair, seconded by Matilda. Motion passed

- b. Vice Chair

Jacob nominated Morris seconded by Matilda, motion passed.

- c. Secretary – No interest, Jacob agreed to remain secretary

7. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – **03/08/2019**

Matilda made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Gary

8. Wildlife Management – Bill Dunker, Area Biologist

Bill gave an update on staff work.

9. New business – Board of Game – **Comment deadline, January 3, 2020**



Alaska Board of Fisheries: Statewide King & Tanner Crab Proposals March 7-11, 2020 Anchorage, Alaska			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
273	Amend the season dates for king crab in the Northern District Norton Sound Section (Northern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee)		
Support	6	0	Morris motioned to support, seconded by Peter. With climate change, winter crab fishery may no longer exist and the crab mortality is not good for the population
274	Limit the number of pot tags per permit per season in the Norton Sound Section commercial king crab fishery (Northern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee)		
Support	6	0	Morris motioned to support, seconded by Matilda. With not allowing fisherman continually getting tags during the winter fishery it reduces the amount of pots lost.
275	Allow a person or vessel to participate in the Norton Sound red king crab fishery after operating commercial Pacific cod pots in the Norton Sound Section within 14 days prior to the opening of the Norton Sound red king crab fishery (Wes Jones)		
Support	6	0	Morris motioned to support, seconded by Peter. While we understand that fish and game may not be comfortable with allowing other types of pot fishing right up to the opening of the red king crab fishery, there appears to be the ability to compromise between the proposal and the current regulation. The number one reason for this proposal it to allow more fishing opportunities of our local fisherman.
276	Allow a person or vessel to operate commercial Pacific cod pots in the Norton Sound Section within 14 days of the closure of the Norton Sound red king crab fishery after participating in the Norton Sound red king crab fishery (Wes Jones)		
Support	6	0	Matilda motioned to support, seconded by Renae. While we understand that fish and game may not be comfortable with allowing other types of pot fishing right after the closure of the red king crab fishery, there appears to be the ability to compromise between the proposal and the current regulation. The number one reason for this proposal it to allow more fishing opportunities of our local fisherman.

- 11. Boards Support Report
- 12. Guests/Public comments



Clarence Towarak said that he was very happy that the advisory committee was active and alive. He appreciates all members that serve on the committee and he used to serve on the committee and was one of the members to help create the moratorium of the moose hunt on the Unalakleet river.

13. Advisory Committee member comments

Morris thanks everyone for all the work they had done for our region.

14. Board of Fish, Board of Game, Joint Board Meeting Schedule

- November 1, 2019 Board of Game – Agenda Change Request deadline
- November 15, 2019 Boards Support – travel requests to board meetings
- January 3, 2020 Board of Game – Arctic/Western Region comment deadline
- January 16, 2020 Board of Game – Arctic/Western Region Work Session
- January 17-20, 2020 Board of Game – Arctic/Western Region meeting
- February 21, 2020 Board of Game – Interior/Eastern Arctic Region comment deadline
- February 21, 2020 Board of Fish – Statewide Tanner/King Crab comment deadline
- March 6-14, 2020 Board of Game – Interior/Eastern Arctic Region meeting
- March 7-11, 2020 Board of Fish – Statewide finfish & supplemental issues Anchorage, AK

15. Select representatives to attend Board of Game and Board of Fish meetings as appropriate.

16. Set next meeting date

17. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 15:56



Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee

DRAFT Agenda

February 20, 2020 – 1:00pm

NSEDC Office – Unalakleet, Alaska

To participate by teleconference dial:

1-800-504-8071 Access Code: 4421717

Jacob Ivanoff-Chair-Secretary, Morris Nassuk-Vice Chair, ,
Wes Jones-Member; Renae Ivanoff-Member Gary Eckenweiler-Member
Peter Martin Sr-Stebbins; Matilda Hardy-Shaktoolik
Alexander Niksik Jr.-St. Michael; Leo Kobuk-St. Michael

1. Call to Order at 1:10 pm
2. Roll Call – 5 to make quorum
Present: Jacob Ivanoff, Morris Nassuk, Wes Jones, Renae Ivanoff, Gary Eckenweiler
 - a. Excused – Peter Martin Sr.
 - b. Unexcused - Matilda Hardy, Alexander Niksik Jr., Leo Kobuk
3. Approval of Agenda
Wes made the motion to approve the agenda with moving the approval of the 12/3/2019 meeting minutes to the fall meeting, seconded by Morris. Motion carried
4. Seating of a Shaktoolik AC member
Gary made a motion to ratify the Native Village of Shaktoolik nomination of Randy Takak, seconded by Renae. Motion carried
5. Teleconference Attendees Present – Morris Nassuk, Randy Takak
6. Fish & Game Staff present – Kevin Clark, Justin Leon
7. Guests present – Merle Towarak (Crabber/Fisherman), Fred Ivanoff (Fisherman)
8. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – **12/03/2019 – Moved to approve in the fall meeting**
9. New business – **Norton Sound Crab Management Petition- Charles Lean**

Charlie gave an overview of the petition and the concern regarding the possibility of overharvesting the Norton Sound Red King Crab (NSRKC) stock.

- Gary Eckenweiler asked if last year's weather anomaly of record proportions had a negative effect on the NSRKC stock? He also mentioned that we have never experienced such lack of sea ice in addition to abnormally high temperatures.
- Charlie stated that it could be a possibility; however the major concern is reproduction - if females are not mating and there is a shortage of large males to reproduce, and if we continue fish these particular males, a major crash in the population could occur.
- Jacob agreed with Gary – warm temperatures during the winter and lack of sea and river ice could have created the cause of concern for NSRKC. In addition, sea and river ice was the thinnest we have ever seen. When ocean water temperature increases, it reduces the pH levels. This may have caused stress on the females and their ability to reproduce effectively as they were showing lack of eggs. It may have also been the reason the males started to molt earlier than normal.
- Charlie stated that when males started to molt, Fish and Game did not close the fishery and pots were left unattended for several weeks as fisherman switched over to halibut fishing because crabbing was slow. He also mentioned with warmer waters and stress of the females is another reason we should be concerned because if the females will not reproduce, there will not be a stock to continue fishing.



- Morris asked if this would affect the handline subsistence fishing and Charlie responded that it will not have any affect on the subsistence crab fishery.
- Jacob mentioned that the stress does not only come from the summer fishery but believes that the winter fisheries is harder on the crabs than the summer. The winter fishery targets mating males which creates stress for both females and males. Another factor is increased mortality as the smaller males are being exposed to freezing temperatures. He supports the petition to shutdown the winter fishery and believes it should be shutdown completely for the following reasons: 1) the stress of mating males, 2) the amount of crab pots lost during the winter fishery is so high and fishing on unstable sea ice will only increase the amount of pots ghost fishing and; 3)if winter fishery continues, it will only add detriment onto the already stressed stock.

Wes made the motion to support the Norton Sound Crab Management Petition, Morris seconded.

Morris support, Randy neutral, Gary Support, Wes Support, Renae support motion passed

10. Guests/Public comments

- Charlie Lean's comment: The NSRKC stock is in a state of emergency and believes the BOF should see it as one as well. One of the biggest red flags is the NSRKC egg clutch size dropped more than half in one year and it is not due to population concerns. The model for the stock is unimportant; however, what we need to really look at is female clutch fullness. If females do not reproduce, what are we going to do with a major crash that will be similar to the 80s.

11. Advisory Committee member comments

- Gary E mentioned with a trawl survey this summer, we should be able to compare last summer to a more normal summer, that is if the winter ice holds out and we don't have record temperatures. Charlie and Wes did a good job illustrating what they believe to be a dire straits concern for the adult male numbers and ability to fertilize all the females. I agree with Charlie's proposal to hold off a year to see what the survey shows rather than potentially damaging the fishery for years to come.
- Randy Takak's comment: I have been a commercial fisherman for 20 years and because we had one bad year that we should not be too concerned because other species have fluctuating populations all the time. But again, I do not want to see the NSRKC stock crash to where we cannot fish for many years, so I am neutral on this proposal.
- Renae no comment
- Morris Nassuk's comment: I do not want this to have any effect on the subsistence crabbing.

Jacob Ivanoff's comment: I am neutral on this petition, but I do support shutting down of the winter fishery. There were too many natural factors that occurred in 2019 to come to a determination on the petition but do agree that if we need to shut down one year, it is better than having it closed for multiple years. It will be interesting to see the trawl data for 2020 and if the female clutch fullness will increase and if the water temperatures drops. It was alarming to see the number of empty females, but we will not know if it was because of the warm temperatures.



Wes' comment: I am in support of the petition to close the commercial winter and summer fishery. This is a precautionary measure to take when there are so many indications that the crab stock is under extreme stress. While the extreme weather conditions seen in 2019 may have changed where the crab were and thus negatively affected the trawl and commercial fishing results. If there is truly more crab out there than indicated, the warm conditions are still putting stress on the stock.

Other pieces of information that are very important and indicate the stock is low and under extreme stress.

- a. The ADF&G 2018 and 2019 surveys have the two lowest Pre-recruit 1 and legal males on record.
- b. The only indicator of a positive legal male populations is the model results and all other indicators are of a stock under stress.
- c. Overtime the model has consistently been over optimistic on the legal male population.
- d. The summer commercial CPUE dropped in the middle of the 2018 season and during the 2019 season only got worse even with longer soak times. The CPUE ADF&G reports is crab per pot pull and is not a time component. Fisherman have increased the amount of time soaked between pulls.

The question comes down to this. If ADF&G is correct and the stock is doing okay and no commercial fishing occurs in 2020 and then the trawl survey shows better results, we lose one year of fishing. However, if ADF&G is wrong and the stock is doing poorly and commercial fishing occurs and the trawl survey shows more poor results, we only push the stock further down and will need to have extended closure to rebuild. Which option is more prudent to take?

12. Board of Fish, Board of Game, Joint Board Meeting Schedule

- February 21, 2020 Board of Game – Interior/Eastern Arctic Region comment deadline
- February 21, 2020 Board of Fish – Statewide Tanner/King Crab comment deadline
- March 6-14, 2020 Board of Game – Interior/Eastern Arctic Region meeting
- March 7-11, 2020 Board of Fish – Statewide finfish & supplemental issues Anchorage, AK

13. Select representatives to attend Board of Game and Board of Fish meetings as appropriate.

14. Set next meeting date

15. Adjourn at 2:15 pm



Minutes

Stony Holitna Fish & Game Advisory Committee (SHAC) Meeting/Teleconference Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2019 / 2:00P.M.

Wildlife Safeguard – 800 478-3377

If meeting attendees want to report a game violation, they should call this number.

SHAC meets to discuss ways and means, habitat and other biological data for hunters and fishers to harvest wild animals.

Call to Order by SHAC Chairman Doug Carney at 2 P.M.

Roll Call / Quorum established

- Lime Village – Rick Breckheimer attended / Faron Bobby was absent.
- Stony River – David Bobby & Charlie Gusty were absent
- Sleetmute – Doug Carney & Frank Egnaty were present
- Red Devil – Barb Carlson & Ruby Egrass attended

Others Attending -

Josh Peirce - Area Biologist / Jon Barton - assistant area biologist / Nissa Pilcher – Boards Support

SHAC Members' Concerns

- Any agenda additions to Other Business for this meeting? **None**
- Any proposals to discuss besides the ones listed? **None**
- Anything for future meetings? **Nothing**

Approval of Agenda –

Chair - If any committee members have proposals to discuss, other than those listed below, say so now and we'll add them.

I emailed several documents to SHAC members, including a list of the proposals we will be considering. They are –

Western – Region 5 BOG meeting / Jan.17-20 / comment deadline Jan.3 – Proposals 1-3

Interior / Region 3 BOG Meeting / March 6-14 / comment deadline Feb.21

- Regionwide & Multiple Units – Proposals 44-56
- McGrath Area Proposals / GMUs 19, 21A & 21E – Proposals 95-119

BOF Statewide Meeting / March 7-11 / comment deadline Feb.21/ Proposal 280

Reading & Approval of Minutes – The Chair read the minutes from the Dec.7, 2018 SHAC meeting, & the committee approved them.

Updates by Chair –

- RM 682 Hunt At the March, 2019 BOG meeting, Proposal 127 carried as amended and created the RM682 hunt in GMU 19A. All SHAC recommendations became hunt conditions. I emailed committee members the hunt results, and a table from the Nov, 2019 composition count results. Josh will talk more about these later.



- TKC waivers for aerial pred. control - A resolution was passed by The Kuskokwim Corporation (TKC) Board of Directors, to allow aerial predator control on TKC lands. The liability waivers were recently sent to ADF&G for predator hunt permittees to sign. There has been a predator control program in GMU 19A since 2004, so that's 15 years without the use of these permits to kill wolves. So this is a very big deal for 19A, and makes things less confusing for the aerial hunters. CKAC has Proposal 105, asking for a predator control program. Josh will speak more on this.
- Joint Boards Meeting - Proposal 3 was made by the CKAC chair, to add 2 undesignated seats to the committee, which CARRIED.
SHAC Proposal 4 was to move the committee out from under ADF&G Western Boards Support to Interior Region Boards Support, which CARRIED.
Proposal 5, by the Georgetown Tribal Council was to add 2 seats to SHAC. They had been given incorrect information by an ADF&G employee, who was confused about how state committees and federal RACS operate. Georgetown traditional Council pulled their proposal before the Joint Boards meeting took place.
Proposal 12 was to remake a regulation that requires members of ACs to reside within the committee's geographical area. SHAC supported this, but it FAILED.

Barb will give fisheries information and speak about BOF Proposal 280 later in the meeting.

Josh Peirce, Area Biologist –

Josh had emailed a pdf of a slide presentation to members.

- RM682 –30 permits-19 hunted-8 moose taken - 42% success rate. 6 on Holitna & 2 on Stony
- Went over 19A map of hunt areas
- Discussed results of 2017 GSPF survey – another one due in 2020. Spoke of 19A ANS & the harvestable surpluses in TM680(165), RM682(77), LVMA(10), and in the Bear Control Focus Area(29). Total for 19A is 6300 moose -.6 per square mile
- Nov. 2019 moose composition count –21calves-100 cows/40 bulls-100cows –bears & wolves
- Feb.24-27, 2018 aerial wolf survey - showed 60 wolves – close to pre-control levels. Wolf take was very good in 2004-05, and #s stayed low till recent years.
- May 28-31, 2018 twinning survey
- Map showing 40hp CUA
- Board findings on proposal 127 / RM682 hunt conditions

Doug Carney, Chair –

SHAC Proposal for 2021 Statewide BOG meeting / Proposal deadline - May 1, 2020

This split would be roughly where the 2 different hunts are defined on the map. Also discussed was making 19B part of 19A, and splitting the 2 by drainages, with the Aniak Drainage being included in 19A west, and the Stony & Holitna drainages being included in eastern 19A.

We discussed this proposal at the Sept, 2017 SHAC meeting.

Some of the main reasons for a split are that -

- there are 2 separate identified moose stocks that are, and have been managed separately.
- there are 2 separate harvestable surplus numbers
- there are 2 separate hunts
- there are different use patterns
- there is much different topography
- there are major land ownership differences - state, federal & private

A vote was taken at the Sept. 2017 meeting, allowing the chair to write and turn in a proposal to split GMU 19A into 2 separate subunits. It was written but not turned in, because that sort of issue is addressed at statewide BOG meetings, and the next one is in 2021. Does anyone want to discuss this proposal



further? Let's take another vote/ moved & seconded / unanimous in favor. OK - There is a May 1, 2020 deadline to get the proposal put in, so I'll do that.

SHAC comments on BOG Proposals –

The effects of proposals 2 & 46 were discussed – the committee supports both.
Proposals 44, 117 & 118 were discussed – agreement that C & T findings were not needed and already exist for small game. Also mentioned were long term effects in relation to possible future federal actions. There was much discussion centered on proposals 97, 98, 99 - Also on proposals 100, 101, and 103. If 105/predator control passes, it should be a separate program from the one that already exists in 19A. Amended 115 to say, “prior to Oct.1”
Some proposals didn't require much discussion, since SHAC was supporting the actions of other ACs. Some discussion is included on the comment forms.

Barb Carlson, Vice Chair / Fisheries Update

SHAC's Dipnet Proposal 107 passed – they can be used anytime.
Barb gave a talk on what the present regulations do and how they work.
The earlier Kings go to the headwaters, and there are now more getting there to spawn.
Reds are doing very well, and Kings are improving as well. Chums and dogs are not doing that well, but are OK.

Proposal 280 / BOF Statewide Meeting / March 7-11 / comment deadline Feb.21

This is the only proposal that affects our AC and it was submitted as an ACR, so it's not in the proposal book. This proposal would change the early net closure that is currently in regulation. It would allow 6" mesh openings with no bank orientation to occur during the closure.

Currently, only 4" or smaller mesh is allowed with the outer end of the net being within 100' of the high water mark.

Discussion mentioned that this proposal could easily lead to the catching of kings on their way to the headwaters, which is what this regulation was put into effect to prevent.

Present regulation already allows for an adjustable start date to the closure. Only the end date of June 11 is firm. The open start date is already built-in to allow for fishing longer before the closure starts, if King numbers indicate that the early run of upriver Kings can hold up to more fishing.

SHAC voted unanimously to oppose 280.

A motion was made, seconded & approved to appoint Barb to go to the BOF meeting.



Alaska Board of Fisheries: Statewide King & Tanner Crab Proposals

March 7-11, 2020 | Anchorage, Alaska

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
280	Allow use of set gillnets with 6" mesh to harvest salmon other than king salmon and other non-salmon fish species on the Kuskokwim River for subsistence purposes during times of king salmon conservation.		
OPPOSE	0	5	<u>SHAC Opposes this proposal.</u> It defeats the reason for the early season closure to help conserve the headwater Kings. Last year's escapement numbers were down, and SHAC certainly doesn't want 6" mesh used, that <u>could</u> be used to target Kings, since we are trying to rebuild King numbers. <u>If King numbers look like they are good enough to warrant additional early harvest, the present regulation allows that through the use of the flexible start date.</u>

Adjournment: Dec.17, 2019 @ 4:20pm

Minutes Recorded By: Barb Carlson

Minutes Approved By: Doug Carney

Date: December 20, 2019



UNALASKA FISH & GAME LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 2/4/2020

CALL TO ORDER:

18:02 Gregory

BOARD MEMBERS:

Shari Coleman	present	
Dustan Dickerson	absent	excused
Andy Dietrick	absent	excused
Melissa Good	present	
Don Goodfellow	absent	
Steven Gregory	present	
Jeff Hancock	present	
Tim Mahoney	absent	
Chris Price	present	
Roger Rowland	present	
Riley Spetz	present	
Abi Woodbridge	present	

GUESTS PRESENT:

Guests appeared telephonically: Taryn O'Connor-Brito, ADF&G Board Support; Jackie Keating, ADF&G Subsistence Division

Guests in person: Miranda Westphal, ADFG; Ethan Nichols, ADF&G; Alex Arduser, Alaska State Trooper; Hope McKenny, KUCB

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

Jackie Keating presentation to follow New Business.

Add Don Goodfellow's resignation to follow Approval of the Minutes

APPROVE AGENDA:

Motion to adopt agenda as ammended: Good, Woodbridge

Agenda adopted with no dissent.



APPROVE PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve minutes from September 26, 2019: Hancock, Spetz

Minutes approved with no dissent.

LEGISLATIVE:

Motion to accept Don Goodfellow's resignation from the Advisory Committee: Rowland, Good.

Discussion. Goodfellow's perspective from the seafood processor sector will be missed.

Motion passed 8 -0

ADF&G UPDATE:

Groundfish (presented by Westphal) – Sablefish state waters are closed. Pacific cod trend is going down in harvest amount. Surveys showing northern migration of cod, and NPFMC not including this population as part of BS cod, as of yet.

Shellfish (presented by Nichols) – Eastern Aleutian GKC just about done. Good CPUE and weights were as expected. Western Aleutian GKC also wrapping up with typical weights. Snow crab has a slow start, with 58 vessels registered, reporting lots of legal, but small crab (<4").

OLD BUSINESS:

N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposal 261. Adoption of new BS bairdi harvest strategy. Abundance of females will determine male harvest amount (female dimmer switch approach).

Motion to adopt: Hancock, Good. Motion passes 8 - 0

Proposal 262. BS *C.opilio* TAC based on smaller than 4" industry standard.

Motion to adopt: Good, Rowland. Good withdraws motion; no action taken.

Proposal 263. Retention of *C.bairdi* in directed fishery of *C.opilio*. UAC concerns about retention of a species that can not be sold and will be automatically surrendered to deadloss.

Motion to adopt: Coleman, Rowland. Motion fails 0 - 8

Proposal 265. Area O registration. Housekeeping measures.

Motion to adopt: Good, Hancock. Motion passes 8 – 0



Proposal 266. Change fishing season for Aluetian Islands GKC.

No action taken.

Proposal 268. BSAI IFQ gear transfer requirements.

Motion to adopt: Good, Rowland. Motion passes 8 - 0

Proposal 269, 270, 271, 272. Shellfish observer proposals. Housekeeping measures to provide regulatory authority for standard practises.

Motion to adopt: Good, Rowland. Motion passes 8 – 0

Proposal 281. Prohibit earthworms genus *Lumbricus* for fresh water fishing.

Motion to adopt: Good, Woodbridge. Motion passes 8 – 0

UAC representation at statewide king and Tanner crab meetings. Hancock may be able to attend, as he will be in Anchorage for other business.

Motion to approve Hancock as UAC representative: Good, Price. Motion passes 8 – 0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jackie Keating, ADF&G

Will be here in April for comprehensive subsistence survey. Random sample of 200 households. Needs help from local residents. Will pay. Be here for 2-4 weeks. Talks to not just those who harvest but to how the subsistence program benefits nonharvesters.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Next meeting Feb. 18, at 18:00

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn made by Coleman, Rowland.

Adjournment at 19:26.

Minutes recorded by: Shari Coleman

Minutes approved by: Spetz/Rowland, motion passes 7-0

Date: 2/18/20



Submitted By
john renner
Submitted On
2/21/2020 2:25:51 PM
Affiliation
chaiman fish CR/PWSac

The CR/PWSac would like to support king crab proposals 244 and 245 the committee feels any additional opportunity would be beneficial for the community and the fleet. The committee also felt that the fishery could be managed without significant cost to the department.



Copper River Prince William Sound AC

Committee Minutes

February 18th, 7:00pm , 2020

Pwsac Board room

Call to order: 7:05 pm, roll call

Members present: Renner, Carpenter, M. Collins, Tirrell, Mattson, Greenwood, Hanson, King, Zadra, Baker

Members Absent: J. Wiese, A Wiese, Lohse, Blake, Kimber, Sheridan

Motion to approve agenda: Moved Collins, sec Baker

Additions to agenda, Pws king crab proposals 244, 245.

Minutes from Jan 23rd, 2019 approved as submitted.

Prior to elections Carpenter informed the AC a letter from A. Wiese on her early resignation was received as she is leaving Cordova. A letter from T. Sheridan stating his new position as Gm PWSAC for the time will be consuming most of his time.

Move nominations Greenwood, Sec: Baker

1. Tirrell
2. M. Collins
3. Renner
4. Otoole
5. G. Collins
6. Foode



7. Lohse

Nominations closed King, Sec: Baker

Results from the elections: M. Collins 17, T. Lohse 17, J. Renner 16, T. Tirrell 16, M. Otoole 16, J. Foode 16, G. Collins 13. John Wiese received two votes but not nominated and didn't respond to inquiry if interested in running again.

Officer nominations Carpenter Co chair Game, Renner Co Chair Fish, AC DECIDED NOT TO HAVE A SECRETARY AND THE CHAIR WHO HOLDS A MEETING WILL BE IN CHARGE OF KEEPING AND DRAFTING MINUTES TO PRESENT AT THE NEXT MEETING AS WELL AS SEND TO SUPPORT STAFF.

7:40pm

General discussion with Charlotte Westing, Unit 6 AREA GAME BIOLOGIST.

1. West copper, 6c not enough snow once again to do a bull/cow fall comp. Last comp fall 2013. Adfg will possibly use a helicopter in fall 2020 to get one if snow fall limits use of aircraft. Flew small survey with little to no snow fall 2019, a bull/cow estimate of 18/100. This is below the 25/100 avg for this area. 2019 harvest was 13 of 15 bulls state. 36 of 45 bulls Fed, 33-35 cows Fed. Ac COMPROMISED WITH State and Fed managers to drop the bull harvest to 40 total in 2020, and increase the Fed cow harvest to 40, this is to allow some possible strain on big bulls to recover for a year until better bull/cow Est can be achieved in fall 2020.

2. **Moved Baker, sec King on BOG proposal 157**, reauthorize ANTLERLESS hunt in 6c. No state hunt currently exists, all harvest of



cows takes place under Federal Subsistence but the AC wants this kept as a toll for the state to use if needed. **Motion passed 13-0.**

3. Goat populations up across the board in Unit 6. Mild winters have had the biggest impact for this growth. Although warmer winters have caused less snow to fall creating icier conditions which make feeding more difficult. Summer surveys showed strong growth and recruitment.

4. Black Bears are slowly recovering in PWS. This will be the 3rd year of the PWS black bear study. Ester and knight islands are the two areas being studied. Since the study started in 2016, 106 captures and 96 where different bears. 53 bears have sat collars and 3 have had to be refitted. Field work is complete, analysis will continue along with collars collecting data until 2021.

5. Conversation with Jay Baumer, ADFG SPORT FISH via teleconference regarding any upcoming sport division BOF 2020 proposals, he stated they will submit regarding changes in PWS SHRIMP reporting requirements.

Questions regarding with low escapement during the 2019 fall copper river delta coho season why the adfg sport fish waited so long to change bait, then ultimately bag limits several weeks after the commercial season had been closed for the remainder of the year due to low water and poor escapement. Troopers talked about their increased level of in person education during this event.

6. Conversation with Mark Somerville and Jeremy Botz via teleconference about any upriver sport or subsistence proposals that might be moved during the next board cycle. Somerville instructed a possible proposal regarding PU REPORTING, still considering changes to subsistence reporting. Estimates of approx. 175K salmon harvested in



2019 PU FISHERY, 80k HARVESTED Sub fishery, and he thinks Fed sub harvest will be higher than expected due to more moving to Fed side for their permits.

9. Moved King, sec Hanson BOF proposal 244, 245, regarding king crab pws.

Ac supports the idea of creating a season, adjusting the GHR levels 0-60,000, this would allow for the possibility of a commissioners permit to be issued in pws for king crab.

Motion passed 13-0

Next meeting scheduled for March 16th, 2020 PWSAC Board room 7:00pm Cordova. Renner will be chairing this meeting and will be developing the agenda.

Motion to adjourn Hansen, sec Baker

Adjourned 10:04pm

Motion to Adjourn Collins, Sec Greenwood

Meeting Adjourned 9:49pm



Wrangell Fish & Game Advisory Committee
Notes for Meetings
January 16, 2020
Wrangell, Alaska

- I. Call to Order: 7 PM by Chris Guggenbickler, Committee Chair
- II. Roll Call:
Members Present: (14) Chris Guggenbickler, David Rak, Tom Sims, John Yeager, Brian Merritt, Otto Florschütz, , Robert Rooney, Winston Davies, Jason Rooney, Janis Churchill, Brett Stillwaugh, Marlin Benedict, Bill Knecht, Dave Brown
Members Absent: (3), Brennon Eagle Alan Reeves, Mike Bauer,
Number Needed for Quorum on AC: eight (8)
List of User Groups Present: NA
- III. Approval of Agenda: Elections; finish/shellfish proposals; Frank Robbins the new ADF&G area wildlife biologist from Petersburg to discuss potential for an elk hunt on Zarembo, plus moose and deer; and the current status of the confiscated moose meat committee.
- IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: NA
- V. Fish and Game Staff Present: Tom Kowalske, Frank Robbins
- VI. Guests Present: Martin Hutten, Jim Nelson and Clint Kolarich- USFS
- VII. Old Business: NA
- VIII. New Business: Elections and Reports.

Chris Guggenbickler announces that Brennon Eagle has resigned from the Wrangell AC, and from his position as Vice–Chair, effective this meeting.



ELECTIONS

Motion to nominate by Marlin Benedict, Second by Rob Rooney

Nominations Number of votes

Chris Guggenbickler 27

Dave Brown 26

Tom Sims 20

Otto Florschutz 23

Jason Rooney 21

Brett Stillwaugh 13

Janice Churchill 8

Motion to nominate by Tom Sims

Jordan Bunes 23

Motion to nominate by Bruce Eagle

Susan Wise-Eagle 8

Motion to nominate officers by Otto Florschutz, Second by Bill Knecht: Chris Guggenbickler, Chair; Tom Sims Vice -Chair; David Rak Secretary. 15 in favor, on All 15 members agreed; no objection; no abstain.

Chris Guggenbickler appointed Brett Stillwaugh and Janice Churchill to serve as Alternate Members to the Wrangell AC for one year.

REPORTS

- Report by Chris Guggenbickler on the confiscated moose meat in Wrangell. The meat of three confiscated moose was distributed to the community by several organizations working together.
- Report by Frank Robbins, ADF&G Area Biologist provided a very thorough power point program on elk harvest history and statistics for Zarembo and Etolin Islands. Moose harvest history and statistics for Units 1B, 1C and 3 from 1995 to 2019. Proposed setting up a site where people can deposit date stamped elk images with information on the location and number of bulls and cows seen. Frank would also like reports on wolf sightings.
- Report by Chris Guggenbickler on a plan to close the ADF&G office in Wrangell. Discussion on the AC support for the local ADF&G office included the following: The ADF&G office and personnel in Wrangell are a real asset to both Wrangell and the State of Alaska. The professional Fisheries Biologist and office staff are important to the community needs for sport, personal use, and subsistence fishing and hunting permits and reporting. Some of these services Wrangell residents visit the office for every day could be done on-line, but many cannot. Furthermore many residents do not have the knowledge or skills to perform many tasks that have been switched from paper forms to



the internet, for this reason we see this as an accessibility issue for individuals. Closing the Wrangell ADF&G office would result in a true hardship to many Wrangell citizens.

There are many tasks performed by the clerk's position that will be difficult to perform online, such as accepting moose and elk harvest requirements (jawbone and antlers). Sealing requirements for bear and furbearers. Annual shellfish registrations and pot tags for all commercial crab fisheries as well as signing an affidavit for lost gear and replacement tags. The sportfish logbooks are also physically received in the Wrangell office. There are also many tasks the local clerk assists AST with as well as their offices are attached.

Commercial fishing is a very large private sector employer, and critical element to the economy of Wrangell. Closing the Wrangell ADF&G office would seriously impact the local fin and shell fisheries, and the management of those commercial fishers in the Wrangell area. The ADF&G employees who monitor the Stikine River Chinook Salmon, required by the Pacific Salmon Treaty, would also be seriously impacted by closure of the Wrangell ADF&G office.

Motion by Brian Merritt, second by Tom Sims to send a letter to Governor, Commissioner, Representative Ortiz in support to keep Wrangell ADF&G office open. Vote by show of hands: 15 in favor, no objection and no abstain. See attached letter.

- Report by Chris Guggenbickler on the Crystal Lake Hatchery operated for ADF&G by Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA). The \$9 user fee from the sport fishing license will be discontinued and SSRAA will no longer receive the sport fish funds to raise king salmon at the Crystal Lake Hatchery. SSRAA may need to borrow money to raise those king salmon, or discontinue the program.
- Report by Chris Guggenbickler that statewide fin fish proposals to the Board of game would be due April 10, 2020.
- Report by Chris Guggenbickler on the Proposed Rule by the National Marine Fisheries Service/NOAA to Designate Critical Habitat for Humpback Whales in (CHH) Southeast Alaska. Discussion on the AC opposition to the CHH proposed rule included the following: According to NMFS data, and the SPLASH study, only 2 percent of the entire population of the Mexican DPS of Humpback Whales are estimated through extrapolation to summer from the North end of Vancouver Island to Yakutat. Over 40% of the length of that area is not included in SE Alaska. It is likely only one percent of the entire population of the Mexican DPS would occasionally be in in SE Alaska occasionally.

Since the commencement of commercial whaling in the Pacific, Humpback Whale populations have rebounded in numbers. The main population, the Hawaiian DPS which makes up 96% of the SE population has grown tremendously, unhindered by the current commercial fisheries and vessel traffic. This leads us to believe the problem with the Mexican DPS is not due to actions in SE Alaska.



Furthermore the economic data which NOAA is considering in the proposal is underestimating the true costs of the proposed program, because only agency administrative costs are included. This is very disingenuous, as costs to our communities and fisheries could potentially be much higher and disastrous. Costs of living in remote areas of Alaska are already high, however we feel NOAA ignores this in their economic studies. The future impacts of CHH to shipping, vessel traffic and fisheries could be unsustainable to these small communities.

The CHH proposal document states the specific role of critical habitat in contributing to conservation and recovery is not quantifiable. The AC finds it hard to justify that protecting less than two percent of a population in an area where others of the species are flourishing, will result in significant protection of the species from extinction. The AC also feels the benefits of exclusion for reasons stated above far outweigh the benefits of CHH designation. The AC feels that Southeast Alaska (Unit 10) should be exempted from being determined as Critical Humpback Habitat.

Motion by Marlin Benedict, second by Brian Merritt to send a letter to NOAA and Federal Congressional Representatives in opposition to the proposed CHH designation for Humpback Whales. Vote by show of hands: 15 in favor, no objection and no abstain. See attached letter.

- Report by Chris Guggenbickler on next meeting of the Wrangell AC. No meeting was scheduled.
- Report by Martin Hutten on the Stikine River subsistence Sockeye fishery for 2019. Although the fishery was closed early, 1,833 Sockeye salmon were harvested; 19 large Chinook, 53 small Chinook, 115 chum, and 231 pinks were intercepted by the Sockeye fishery.

Adjournment: 9:55 PM

Minutes Recorded By: David Rak
Minutes Approved By: Chris Guggenbickler
Date: 02/20/2020



WRANGELL FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE
P.O. Box 1491, Wrangell AK 99929

January 26, 2020

The Honorable Governor Mike Dunleavy
PO Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99801-0001

Re: ADF&G Office in Wrangell

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

The Wrangell Fish and Game Advisory Committee is an elected group from Wrangell with an interest in Fish and Wildlife issues who are charged to provide recommendations to the Alaska Boards of Fish and Game as well as a forum to discuss recommendations to relevant agencies. It is our understanding that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Office Wrangell is to be closed due to budget cuts. The Wrangell Fish and Game Advisory Committee would like you to reconsider this decision. The office is important to the community, and we request that the ADF&G office in Wrangell continue to be funded.

The ADF&G office and personnel in Wrangell are a real asset to both Wrangell and the State of Alaska. The professional Fisheries Biologist and office staff are important to the community needs for sport, personal use, and subsistence fishing and hunting permits and reporting. Some of these services Wrangell residents visit the office for every day could be done on-line, but many cannot. Furthermore many residents do not have the knowledge or skills to perform many tasks that have been switched from paper forms to the internet, for this reason we see this as an accessibility issue for individuals. Closing the Wrangell ADF&G office would result in a true hardship to many Wrangell citizens.

There are many tasks performed by the clerk's position that will be difficult to perform online, such as accepting moose and elk harvest requirements (jawbone and antlers). Sealing requirements for bear and furbearers. Annual shellfish registrations and pot tags for all commercial crab fisheries as well as signing an affidavit for lost gear and replacement tags. The sportfish logbooks are also physically received in the Wrangell office. The local office performs the registration/de-registration of commercial fishers that are using a bigger boat to tender their crab, (if they are moving crab gear). There are also many tasks the local clerk assists Alaska State Troopers with, as their offices are attached.

Commercial fishing is a very large private sector employer, and critical element to the economy of Wrangell. Closing the Wrangell ADF&G office would seriously impact the local fin and shell fisheries, and the management of those commercial fishers in the Wrangell area. The ADF&G employees who monitor the Stikine River Chinook Salmon, required by the Pacific Salmon Treaty, would also be seriously impacted by closure of the Wrangell ADF&G office.



ADF&G Office in Wrangell

Page 2 of 2

We understand there are deficits in the State budget and we appreciate the difficult task of trying to balance necessities, however we do not feel closing the Wrangell office and sending our employees to Petersburg, a town of similar size with an office that already has 8 or 9 employees while leaving Wrangell with no physical accessibility is in our best interest. We request that the Wrangell office remain open and serving the people of Wrangell.

Thank you for your consideration of keeping the ADF&G office in Wrangell open. If you have any questions or if you would like to discuss the reasons for our request, I am available to talk with you. My e-mail address is: ccgugg@gci.net, and my cell 907-305-0531.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Guggenbickler".

CHRIS GUGGENBICKLER
Chairperson

Cc: Senator Bert Stedman, Representative Dan Ortiz, ADF&G Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang, Wrangell Mayor Steve Prysunka



WRANGELL FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 1491, Wrangell AK 99929

January 26, 2020

Endangered Species Division
Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East West Highway (SSMC3)
Silver Springs, MD 20910

Re: Proposed Rule to Designate Critical Habitat for Humpback Whales in SEAK

The Wrangell Fish and Game Advisory Committee (AC) is an elected group from Wrangell with an interest in Fish and Wildlife issues who are charged to provide recommendations to the Alaska Boards of Fish and Game, as well as a forum to discuss and make recommendations to relevant agencies concerning fish and game issues in our region. It is our understanding that comments are being accepted on a proposed rule to designate critical habitat for Humpback Whales in the waters of southeast Alaska.

On January 16, 2020 the Wrangell AC unanimously passed a resolution objection to that proposed critical habitat designation. The Wrangell AC would like to voice its disappointment in the proposed critical Humpback habitat (CHH) designation for SE Alaska (Unit 10). According to NMFS data, and the SPLASH study, only 2 percent of the entire population of the Mexican DPS of Humpback Whales are estimated through extrapolation to summer from the North end of Vancouver Island to Yakutat. Over 40% of the length of that area is not included in SE Alaska. It is likely only one percent of the entire population of the Mexican DPS would occasionally be in SE Alaska occasionally.

Since the commencement of commercial whaling in the Pacific, Humpback Whale populations have rebounded in numbers. The main population, the Hawaiian DPS which makes up 96% of the SE population has grown tremendously, unhindered by the current commercial fisheries and vessel traffic. This leads us to believe the problem with the Mexican DPS is not due to actions in SE Alaska.

Furthermore the economic data which NOAA is considering in the proposal is underestimating the true costs of the proposed program, because only agency administrative costs are included. This is very disingenuous, as costs to our communities and fisheries could potentially be much higher and disastrous. Costs of living in remote areas of Alaska are already high, however we feel NOAA ignores this in their economic studies. The future impacts of CHH to shipping, vessel traffic and fisheries could be unsustainable to these small communities.

The CHH proposal document states the specific role of critical habitat in contributing to conservation and recovery is not quantifiable. We find it hard to justify that protecting less than



Critical Habitat for Humpback Whales

Page 2 of 2

two percent of a population in an area where others of the species are flourishing, will result in significant protection of the species from extinction. Also we feel the benefits of exclusion for reasons stated above far outweigh the benefits of CHH designation. Therefore we ask that Southeast Alaska (Unit 10) be exempted from being determined as Critical Humpback Habitat.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or if you would like to discuss, I am available to talk with you. My e-mail address is: ccgugg@ gci.net, and my cell 907-305-0531.

Sincerely,

CHRIS GUGGENBICKLER
Chairperson

Cc: Senator Lisa Murkowski, Senator Dan Sullivan, Representative Don Young