



**Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee
10/14/2020
Teleconference**

I. **Call to Order:** 7:04pm by Chad Lipse

II. **Roll Call**

Members Present:

- Andy Couch
- Birch Yuknis
- Austin Manelick
- Neil DeWitt
- Danny Lewis
- Dom Nickles
- Chad Schierman
- Chad Lipse
- Mel Grove

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8

List of User Groups Present: None

III. **Fish and Game Staff Present:** Charity Leman, Mark Somerville, Tracy Hansen

IV. **Guests Present:** None

V. **Approval of Agenda:** Neil motioned, Andy seconded – Accepted w/o Opposition

VI. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Andy motioned, Neil seconded – Accepted w/o Opposition

VII. **Announcements:**

- Charity Leman –
 - Board of Fish work session scheduled for 10/15-10/16/2020 via Zoom.
 - Prince William Sound and Yakutat Southeast meeting postponed until TBD date.
 - Board of Game may also adjust their schedule due to COVID concerns.
 - Email sent out with regarding use of Zoom and best practices for meetings.



- Elections, if done, will need to be done over Zoom.
- Andy Couch –
 - Read Craig Medred article regarding North Pacific Fish Counsel to close EEZ to commercial fishing. Comment period soon and should be discussed on future agenda.
 - Article will be sent to Charity for distribution to the AC members.

VIII. **Proposals:** Andy motioned to take Proposals 1,23,29 off the table and proceed from last meeting (Proposal 31), Neil seconded.

Alaska Board of Fish Prince William Sound (Including Upper Copper and Susitna) 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
1	Establish a longline skate fishery in Prince William Sound		
Oppose	0	9	Dept – No comment as this is commercial issue. Oppose – Concerns with bycatch and unknown repercussions.
23	Reverse the positive customary and traditional subsistence use determination for rainbow and steelhead trout in the Prince William Sound Area, or establish amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence and bag and possession limits for rainbow and steelhead trout in the Prince William Sound Area		
Oppose	0	9	Dept – Rainbow trout and steelhead are not considered subsistence fish with exception to fishwheel bycatch due to dry boxes and no close attendance requirement. Harvest not sustainable. Oppose – Proposal would not work as planned, harvest not sustainable.
29	Allow use of drift gillnets to harvest salmon for subsistence uses throughout Prince William Sound		
Oppose	0	9	Dept – Subsistence fisheries ties to commercial type gear and opens Saturday subsistence opener added Oppose – Concerns that allowing drift gillnets could affect management and allocation, potential for excessive harvest.
31	Increase the possession limit for sockeye salmon in the Upper Copper River		
Support	9	0	Dept – No sustainability concerns, harvest increase would be minimal. ADF&G has considered creating this same proposal.



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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			Support – Align with possession limits in other fisheries. Amendment – Concerns about specifics. Specify new possession limit of 6 (Opposed 1-8-0).
32	Allow harvest of rainbow trout 20 inches or less in a portion of the Gulkana River		
Oppose	1	8	Dept – No predation studies but predation is not a concern, rainbow trout population is low and unable to sustain long-term sustainable harvest. Support – Harvest should be allowed especially if rainbow trout is mortally hooked. Oppose – No predation risks, harvest is not sustainable.
33	Allow harvest of rainbow trout 18 inches or less in the Gulkana River		
Oppose	2	7	Support – No shortage of rainbow trout and harvest should be allowed. Not enough information to oppose harvest. Oppose – Population is low and harvest is not sustainable.
34	Remove the 14-inch size limit for Gulkana River Arctic grayling		
Support	9	0	Dept – Proposal by ADF&G to simplify by eliminating need to measure before harvest. Recent studies show size restriction no longer needed to maintain desired population size and structure. 7% of population is greater than 14". Larger fish are in the cold water tributaries which is difficult to access. Support – Necessity to measure fish is too restrictive and does not serve purpose.
35	Amend bag and possession limits for Arctic grayling and methods and means in Moose Creek		
Support	7	2	Dept – Low fishing pressure, has not noticed decline is population.



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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			Support – Decreased bag limit and restriction during spawning are appropriate to avoid reduced population. Oppose – Low fishing pressure and harvest.
36	Increase the bag and possession limit of lake trout in Crosswind Lake		
Oppose	1	8	Dept – No population survey for Crosswind Lake but monitors harvest survey. No evidence of Lake Trout overabundance and predation on sockeye smelt has minimal effect on hatchery survival. Lake Trout Management Plan is in place based on sustainable biomass and changes as well as more opportunity coming in future board meeting. Support – Lake Trout population strong from firsthand experience. Long distance to travel to harvest one fish. Oppose – No evidence of overabundance or predation concern.
37	Establish sport bag and possession limit for lake trout in the Prince William Sound area		
Support	9	0	Dept – Create management strategy for Lake Trout. Support – Establish consistent regulations and support sustainability.
38	Establish restrictions in the Copper River Delta coho salmon sport fishery based on the number of days the commercial fishery is closed		
Oppose	0	9	Dept – Management plans include no triggers like other regions. Sport fishery can still be supported and maintained to meet escapement goals when commercial fishery is closed. Oppose – Too restrictive by closing Catch and Release, does not appear to be shared burden.
39	Extend the area closed to sport fishing in Ibeck Creek		



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Oppose	0	9	Oppose – Low fishing pressure in area, most fishing is lower in the creek. Takes away opportunity from already limited sport fishing off the road system.
40	Close 18 Mile or Silver Creek to coho salmon fishing August 1 to November 1		
Oppose	0	9	Dept – No fish population data for this system. Oppose – AC supports sport fishing off the road system and this proposal would take it away.
41	Repeal mandatory closed waters from the Copper River King Salmon Management Plan		
Oppose	0	9	Oppose – Concerns about removing conservation and allocation measure. This proposal only benefits one user group.

IX. Closing Comments:

- Andy Couch
 - Feels no need to comment on proposals that were one commercial gear group arguing for more allocation or opportunity in specific fisheries; however, he would like the committee to comment on Proposals 49-55 and believes it would be appropriate for the committee to take a precautionary position in light of declines in sockeye, coho, and king salmon production in Upper Cook Inlet and declines in sockeye and king salmon production on the Copper River at least on alternating years.
- Chad Lipse
 - Asked if it would be appropriate for the committee to vote on using Zoom for meetings as he feels it would be more effective.



- Neil DeWitt
 - Bear and lynx hunting in Chugach State Park (14C) was brought up at Anchorage AC meeting and is not being well received. May be topic to bring up at future meeting.

X. **Adjournment:** 9:18pm

Minutes Recorded By: Chad Schierman

Date: 10/14/2020