

Mid Lower Yukon Fish and Game Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday November 17th, 2022

In Person at the St. Mary's City Hall in St. Mary's, AK

- I. **Call to order:** ~~Chair, William Alstrom~~ Acting Chair: Vice Chair Stanislaus Sheppard
 Call to Order: Time - 10:14 by Stanislaus Sheppard

- II. **Welcome and Introductions:** Vice-Chair, Stanislaus Sheppard

Roll Call:

	<u>Andreafski</u> <u>Alternate</u> George Beans	<u>Mountain Village</u> Stanislaus Sheppard	<u>Pilot Station</u> Rex Nick	<u>Pitka's Point</u> William Riley
Present	X	X		X – Arrived at 10:18
By Teleconference				
Absent			X	
Abs/Excused				
	<u>Russian Mission</u> Basil Larson	<u>St. Mary's Alternate</u> Sven Paulkan	<u>Marshall</u> No current member	
Present		X	-	
By Teleconference	X		-	
Absent			-	
Abs/Excused			-	

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 4 – 5 members present, quorum has been met

Attendance/Introductions:

Mid-Lower Yukon Advisory Committee Members introduced themselves.

ADFG: Keith Oster, Wildlife in Bethel; Lisa Stuby, Sport Fish in Fairbanks; Sam Decker, commercial fishing summer assistant manager for Yukon; Fari Fernandez, regional coordinator assisting; Savannah Hollingworth, western regional coordinator; Jesse Coleman, division of subsistence.

Others: Ashley Johnson, AVCP; Christian Alexie Jr. YK Delta, USFWS; Emmet Nicori, USFWS

- III. Invocation led by George Beans
- IV. Approval of Agenda: Motion made by George Beans to approve the agenda, Seconded by William Riley. Approved Unanimously.
- V. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: From January 9th, 2022
 Sven Paulkan points out the adjournment time is not recorded. Stanislaus Sheppard said he can look at his notes.
 Motion made by George Beans to approve the minutes from January 9th, 2022 with the recommendation that the adjournment time be added. Seconded by William Riley. Approved unanimously.
- VI. Reports
- a. Chair's report: Tabled, since the chair is out on travel
 - b. ADF&G
 - i. Fisheries Reports: Given by Sam Decker, ADFG.

1. Fish came in even less than expected
 - a. Only 45,000 King salmon past Pilot Station sonar
 - b. Estimates based on Pilot Station did not reach Eagle
 - i. Only about 12,000 passed into Canada; lowest on record
 - ii. Summer chum: 470,000, up from 156,000 last year. Still not enough for subsistence, but allowed some small harvest with 4 inch mesh.
 - c. Emmonak, Pilot Station, Eagle and new Rampart station partnered with USFWS for ichthyophonus work.
 - d. No goals were met
2. Question about difference in estimates between Pilot and Eagle
 - a. Department thinks that it may be disease, prevalence of ichthyophonus first reported by subsistence users. Studying.
 - b. Please report if salmon seen spawning in place that they are not usually seen.
 - c. Absence of dead fish or evidence is unknown.
3. Member Basil Larson talks about how eels can be caught in 4 inch nets but haven't been any recently. Elders say when eels stop showing up, everything else follows. Hope the abundance of eels this fall means the salmon will follow in the spring.
4. Concern about smaller King salmon from members. Sam Decker says that the jacks can still spawn larger fish, but there is concern for jills (smaller female Kings) because they carry less eggs.
5. Stanislaus Sheppard asks about what the Yukon Panel, the treaty, and state says in regard to escapement into Canada.
 - a. False Pass and Area M makes no action but restricted here but it is known that the fish are intercepted. He feels that the difference is because there is no money involved in subsistence harvest. There must be action taken in False Pass and Area M. Harry Wilde, Johnny Sheppard, Johnny Thompson, John Hansen took action and we saw a rebound after.
 - b. Stanislaus Sheppard said that it was a high water freeze up and he got eels November 9th. He repeats that when the eels run, the salmon follow.
 - c. Sam Decker sympathizes and encourages people to contact the Board of Fisheries and participate in the Board

meetings. She talks about resources available and offers to talk and listen to people. She says Savannah has resources to help too. Sam gives her desk phone and the main office number to the group.

6. George Beans asks how much enforcement happens when the chum and Kings are running?
 - a. Sam Decker said that she does not know but hears there is good compliance.
7. Stan Sheppard asked how Federal takeover works with people who have moved away from their village returning to fish and with their families.
 - a. Sam answered that it would not matter in state waters, but in federal waters people who had moved away would not be able to fish. She stated that it is complicated.
8. Shane Ransbury gave a report on the fall chum and coho salmon on the Yukon.
 - a. Chum, 3rd lowest on record at 236,000. Coho 2nd lowest at near 100,000. Treaty unlikely to be met. Selective gear was opened. Expect near record low subsistence harvest. Three new research projects: stress hormone analysis, Sheenjek River sonar, and coho radio tags. Also, Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska research.
 - i. Questions from members about high water, freeze up, and water temperatures? Could run be late or changing? Shane said that salmon could be affected, but fall chum are more consistent in the areas they spawn.
 - ii. Wildlife Reports: Keith Oster gave a report.
 1. Surveys completed February 2021, Innoko downriver to mouth of Yukon. 24,000 moose, about half downriver of Mountain Village. On-going browse surveys and capture project show nutritional stress. Twinning and composition show moose population is growing.
 - a. Questions about outsiders hunting moose, enforcement, and predator control. Keith answered that there are about 200 non-resident hunters that are successful each year. Basil Larson made comment that many people and other animals are targeting moose because of the low salmon numbers. No counts on predators. Moose are overpopulated and continuing to grow so no need for

predator control. Predator control would need to be approved by Board of Game. Basil said he and others notice that bears are more aggressive. Ripple effect of no fish. He said he and others have also noticed more wolves.

2. Mulchatna caribou still closed. Numbers are consistent the last 4 years at about 12,000. There are talks of proposals for tier II, but for now closed.
 - a. William Riley expressed concern over lack of enforcement. Have noticed same day aerial shooting and headhunters. Himself and others have seen headless moose in the field. Buying antlers makes problem worse. We need more enforcement. Need to conserve now for the future.
3. Pat Jones talked about the antlerless moose and brown bear tag fee exemption proposals. He said that moose are overpopulated and are overgrazing. That could lead to a population crash because they are starving. Biologists are trying to figure out if it is because the habitat can't support the population or if the winter weather is making it hard for the moose to access the food available. Pat discusses what would need to happen for predator control to take place and said that he does not think that it will happen anytime soon.
 - a. A member of the public asks about high water and moose wading in the water to eat the algae. Pat answered that the moose like the aquatic plants because of the salt. They also like the horse tail.
 - b. Pat reminds everyone that a call for proposals will be announced soon and offered help to polish up any draft proposals and get them submitted.

12:04 Lunch break, reconvene at 12:42

4. Enforcement questions are discussed. Stanislaus Sheppard said that people worry that when they report they may be blamed and receive a ticket themselves. Members said they are concerned and would like to see more enforcement. Sven and Matt Waskey ask about how to report wanton waste on federal lands. Pat Jones promises phone numbers for both Federal wildlife enforcement and state wildlife troopers.
 - a. Alaska Wildlife Trooper Thorvilson from Aniak joins into the teleconference to address the ACs concerns about off airport landing and wildlife violations. More enforcement in the area is requested by members. Officer Thorvilson said that he will make more of an effort to cover the area

and states that AWT is trying to station someone in St. Mary's. Officer Thorvilson asks that people please report when they see wildlife violations and he said that the troopers would be happy to follow up on any reports made.

iii. Board Support Section Reports

1. Participation, membership and elections

Savannah Hollingworth gave an update on the AC – Pilot Station and Marshall need elections, she has been trying to get them to do their own. Out of term members, villages should also do elections for those seats. She asks for suggestions on how to support or ways to improve participation.

i. Stanislaus Sheppard would like to request a stipend or per diem.

2. He feels that the AC business is important, but most members sit on other boards or have jobs that they are paid to attend and he could be doing other things that are just as important and paid. AC meetings take volunteers away from their jobs and other activities. Educated and experienced sitting on committees. We make proposals and make decisions on proposals to help the communities. High cost of living and inflation has impacted our communities making it harder to participate.
3. Savannah Hollingworth states that the issue had been brought up by the Central Bering Sea AC as well. She suggests writing a letter to the DOA commissioner and the local legislature and says she can pass on contact information. This is what the other AC is doing.
4. Other members add comments that they feel that their time should be compensated. A question is asked how much the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game receive stipend and per diem and the point made that they do the same thing. All members are in favor. Local knowledge is important to fish and game laws and effect everyone in the region. The Board uses our recommendations when they come to decisions. Difficult to get any interest because it is volunteer and costs the members, either in trying to participate or by time off of their regular job. Feel that it would be in the general interest of the people.

c. Others

II. Public Comment

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

a. Board of Fisheries: Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Proposals

- b. Board of Fisheries: Statewide Finfish Proposals
- c. Board of Fisheries: South Alaska Peninsula Salmon June Management Plan proposals
- d. Antlerless Moose and Brown Bear tag authorizations
- e. Board of Game upcoming call for proposals in January

Alaska Board of Fisheries: Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim January 14-18, 2023 Anchorage, AK Comment Deadline: Dec. 30, 2022			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support/ Support as amended/O ppose/No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (pros & cons), Voting Notes, Amendments
<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>			
80	Restrict subsistence king salmon harvest in the middle and upper Yukon River.		
S	5	0	Support equal harvest. There were some questions about subsistence harvest counts. Members feel that the counts may not be accurate since reporting is voluntary. They suggested doing counts of fish on racks.
81	Implement a Yukon River drainage subsistence salmon permit to allow retention of king salmon less than 24 inches in length with an annual limit 10 fish during times of king salmon conservation.		
NA			The AC decided to take no action because the lower Yukon does not have a permit system and feels this proposal does not apply, does not address household, family, or personal permits and limits. Too vague and how would this affect the lower river?
82	Modify the dates sinking of gillnets is allowed in the Yukon Area from October 1 to April 30. Motion Sven, 2 nd George		

S	4	1	Does not feel this is a practice in the Lower Yukon. It is dangerous and crazy that people would do this. Motion Sven, 2 nd George
84	Repeal and readopt Yukon Area subsistence fishery lawful gear and gear specifications. Motion William, 2 nd Sven		
S	5	0	There was a question whether people on the Yukon had 7 ½ inch nets to comply with this proposal. Sam Decker said that subsistence surveys indicate that most people do.
85	Modify Yukon Area Personal Use Salmon Fishery specifications for selective gear types and gillnet mesh size during times of salmon conservation. Motion William, 2 nd Sven		
NA			
86	Require retention of sport caught salmon, if removed from the water, in the Yukon River Area. Motion William, 2 nd Sven		
O	0	5	People will take advantage knowing that they will keep every fish they hook. Should not be any sport fishing if subsistence is closed or limited.
87	Define eel stick. Motion Sven, 2 nd George		
S	5	0	Eel sticks have been traditionally used for many generations. District 1 is not listed, but also traditionally use eel sticks; only Districts 2, 3, and 4 are listed.
88	Repeal and replace Yukon Area commercial salmon fishing gear specifications. Motion George, 2 nd William		
O	0	5	Opposed to 6 inch commercial gear river wide. One member commented that they would like commercial fishing gear regulations consistent river wide, but not 6 inch.
89	Modify Yukon Area commercial dip net gear operations in the commercial fishery to include a single rigid handle with a single line attached. Motion George, 2 nd William		
S	5	0	
<p>Alaska Board of Fisheries: Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues</p> <p>Proposals</p> <p>March 10-13, 2023 Anchorage, AK Comment Deadline: Feb. 23, 2022</p>			

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support/ Support as amended/Op pose/No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (pros & cons), Voting Notes, Amendments
<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>			
165	Prohibit compensation for guide services in subsistence fisheries. Motion George, 2 nd Sven		
S	5	0	Subsistence is for food not money.
Alaska Board of Fisheries: Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Island/Chignik February 20-25, 2022 Anchorage, AK Comment Deadline: Jan. 30, 2022			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support/ Support as amended/Op pose/No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (pros & cons), Voting Notes, Amendments
<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>			
134, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141	Motion made to address these proposals as a block. Motion Sven, 2 nd George		
S	5	0	Need fast action. Would like to support AFN action to deal with these issues that effect Yukon. We are overregulated here, but hardly any regulations there.

Alaska Board of Game Southcentral Region Meeting Proposals

March 17-21, 2023 | Soldotna, AK

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>			
178	Reauthorize the resident antlerless moose season in Unit 18		
S	5	0	
188	Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A		
S	5	0	

- V. Decide which Board meetings to attend and Select representative(s) for board meeting
 - a. BOF: AYK January 14-18 – Basil Larson
 - b. BOF: AK Pen/Aluetian Islands/Chignik February 20-25 – Basil Larson
- VI. Set next meeting date: December 10th, 2023
- VII. Other
- VIII. Adjourn: Motion made by Sven, 2nd by George

Adjournment: 4:53

Minutes Approved By: Verbally approved by Vice-chair Stanislaus Sheppard

Date: 1/7/2023

LYM MLYAC

10-17-88

10:14 AM

roll call George Beans, Stanislaus Ruppel, Basil Larson
 Owen Panton, Jr Riley
 Matt Wasley, Eric Wingard.

This summer, This summer runs were very low
 for both salmon species,

45,000 King's Pilot Station pass
 170,000 chinns " " "

British
 Jan

Shane

Pat Jones or Kith Oscar

24,000 Moose

50 moose, 25

Down River R

200 moose N/A

Pat Jones

12:00 noon

12:42 Back

I spoke about substance Community's want sale
 phone # 907-

Mid Lower Yukon Fish and Game Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday November 17th, 10:00AM-5:00 PM, 2022

In Person at the St. Mary's City Hall in St. Mary's, AK

Draft Agenda

By Phone: 1(888)475-4499 Meeting ID: 495 277 1108

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4952771108>

- ☒ I. Call to order: *Chair, William Alstrom* *Acting Chair - Stan'shus Shapp*
☒ II. Invocation/ Moment of Silence
 III. Welcome and Introductions: *Chair, William Alstrom*
 1. Call to Order: Time 10:14 am by *William Alstrom*

10:14

II. Roll Call:

	<u>Andreaski</u> Bill Alstrom	<u>Mountain Village</u> Seamus Shappard	<u>Pilot Station</u> Rox Nick	<u>Patoka Point</u> William Hays
Present	<i>George Boas</i> <i>Stan Shappard</i>	X		X
By Teleconference				
Absent			X	
Abs/Excused				
	<u>Russian Mission</u> Baill Larson	<u>St. Mary's</u> Peter Peterson <i>Sven Paulsen</i>	<u>Marshall</u> No current member	
Present		X		
By Teleconference				
Absent				
Abs/Excused				

III. Number Needed for Quorum on Ad 4 - 1 on way

IV. Attendance/Introductions

V. Approval of Agenda:

VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: From January 9th, 2022 Reports

☒ A. Chair's report - *table*
☒ B. ADF&G

☒ C. Fisheries Reports 907-459-7295 (907) 459-7274
☒ D. Wildlife Reports *Kill Oscar, Pat Jones*
☒ E. Board Support Section Reports

☒ F. Participation, membership and elections
☒ G. Others

Public Comment

-80	For	yes	no	
-81	for	yes	no	
-82	TH	yes	no	seen no. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100
-84	TH	yes	no	"
-85	TH	yes	no	seen second
-86	TH	yes	no	seen second
-87	TH	yes	no	seen second
-88	TH	yes	no	seen second
-89	TH	yes	no	seen second
-90	TH	yes	no	seen second
-91	TH	yes	no	seen second
-92	TH	yes	no	seen second
-93	TH	yes	no	seen second
-94	TH	yes	no	seen second
-95	TH	yes	no	seen second
-96	TH	yes	no	seen second
-97	TH	yes	no	seen second
-98	TH	yes	no	seen second
-99	TH	yes	no	seen second
-100	TH	yes	no	seen second

Going Mackinac - Jan 14-18 2023
 area M - Feb 20-25-2023