

**Togiak Advisory Committee
November 10, 2022
Togiak Traditional Council Office/Teleconference**

- I. Call to Order: 11:30 am by Peter Lockuk Sr, chair
- II. Roll Call:

Members Present:

Peter Lockuk Sr, Chair, Togiak
 Joe Alexie, Vice Chair, Togiak
 Walter Kanulie, Secretary, Togiak
 Jimmy Coopchiak, Togiak
 Kenneth Nukwak, Manokotak
 Moses Kritz, Togiak
 Keith Fayer Sr., Togiak
 Norman Gloko, Manokotak
 Thomas Dock, Togiak
 Mickey Sharp, Twin Hills
 Tessa Nickerson, Manokotak
 Kevin Lund, Togiak (seated after
 election)

Members Excused:

Roger Wassillie
 Dan Nanalook
 Frank Logusak
 Terry Evette
 Jonah Lomack

Members Absent:

Lester Moore

Staff Present:

Joe Wittkop, Wildlife Troopers
 Taryn O'Connor-Brito, Boards
 Lee Borden, Sport Fish
 Cassidy Colson, Wildlife Research
 Tim Sands, Commercial Fisheries
 Phill Stacy, Commercial Fisheries
 Assistant Manager
 Todd Rinaldi, Wildlife Conservation
 John Lansiedel, Wildlife Conservation
 Evelyn Lichwa, Wildlife Conservation
 Tim Addikes, Sport Fish

Guests Present:

Bob Dubey, Togiak Fish
 Cathy Albright, Togiak Fish
 Andy Aderman, Togiak National Wildlife
 Refuge
 Kevin Lund, Togiak River Lodge
 Craig Chythlook, Nushagak fisherman
 David Cleveland, Twin Hills

Note: Three to four additional Togiak
 residents were present but did not sign
 in.

Quorum was met, The minutes from February meeting- Walter K. mentioned he has started last minutes from February and says they can be reviewed next meeting.

After the quorum was established then Taryn provided updated information of the Nushagak advisory recent meeting. Followed by TAC voting representative for NAC.

Moses Kritz and Walter Kanulie were select on unanimous votes by TAC members for Nushagak AC seats.

Updates: There was a question from Walter K. what happened at Nushagak meeting about Jimmy C. proposal 29. Taryn says Proposal 29 failed. AC questioned what the proposal tying to the commercial fishery was accomplishing.

III. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Jimmy C., for approval, Moses K. seconds, ques., motion carried.

IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: The TAC secretary Walter K. reiterated that the minutes are not completed yet. The majority meeting attendants verbally agreed to cover the last meeting minutes upon completion – meeting continued on

V. Reports

- a. Chair's report- no current report – I have mentioned that due to my hearing, I wouldn't sufficiently lead the meeting. The attendants chose to go on with the meeting and says they will help me if needed.
- b. ADF&G-Tim Sands -commercial fisheries- season summary-583,000 sockeye harvested. Escapement met at Togiak lake tower. Forecast is out and is 700,000 sockeye. Above average. Nushagak AC meeting discussed Nushagak King salmon Stock of Concern and developing an action plan for the Board of Fish meeting. More conservative management to protect king salmon in the Nushagak District.
- c. Others-ADFG – Sport Fisheries – Lee Borden – Fishing on Togiak was below average. King Salmon bay wide was low and below average. E.O. on July 19th restricted bag and annual limit for entire Bristol Bay wide. First of its kind. Nothing new to report.
- d. Adf&G – Wildlife – John Landsiedel – Update is fully staffed division
Walter K. – I want to make clear that this update be a local report. Not for Bristol Bay wide report. Make it local. Peter L. – agrees
Evelyn: Mulchatna caribou heard 12,500. Below 30,000 objective. Moose surveys flown this year. Fall harvest in 17A was 37 moose harvested. 4 bulls harvested by non-residents. November survey flown for moose estimate with refuge and may liberalize harvest seasons if they are over objective. Planning to do a moose estimate in 17B. 55 bears harvested in 2022. BOG approved including bears in the intensive management plan. State will use personnel for removing bears in unit 17.
Jimmy C.- population for 17A? – Evelyn: moose population is not done yet.
Jimmy C. – What the fall moose harvest?

John landsiedel: 17A 36 moose killed. 2 cows. 31 bulls. 3 non-residents harvested bull moose. Lower than last year.

Jimmy C. winter Harvest?

John: Winter was 86 animals. 70 antlerless. Not sure of cow/bull harvest ratio. Not killing enough cows to control the moose populations right now. May be liberalizing harvest in the future in 17A.

Walter: no surprises for the winter seasons. We use snogos and it makes it easier. The fall harvest is upriver and in tributaries. May be others go to other rivers. Just let us know if there are changes to the non-residents.

John: no changes as if right now. It's 20 draw permits right now. The winter hunt is 2 months, Jan. and Feb. We used to have a variable season. We will be working with TNWR and Nush AC to increase moose harvest overall and especially cow harvest.

Jimmy C: other reports?

- e. Andy Aderman, TNWR: update on caribou collars around cape Pierce and Newingham area. Some north of Goodnews Bay. 500 caribou are in the area. October survey was 44/100 bulls to cows and calves were 46/100 cows. Growing populations down towards the capes and coastal plains north of Goodnews. Additional caribou out there.

Wondering what they will be doing in the future. They may be "resident" caribou. We'll see how it progresses. The Nushagak Peninsula herd is rebounding from 200 to 400 animals now in 2 years. Planning committee met in late July and decided to set harvest limits at 8 caribou for each community and a total of 48 permits. Ptarmigan have also rebounded. A large population currently.

Joe A: What are the numbers to allow resident of Togiak to hunt the Cape Pierce area?

Andy: I don't know right now. We need to see if they are separate, or part of the Mulcahtna herd. We will need to discuss this with the RAC, AC's, BLM, and ADF&G. BLM has put some money into the radio collars. We want more data and movement tracking. The number of calves is encouraging, but I can't give an estimate yet.

Joe A: what is the report on North of Goodnews?

Andy: just north of Goodnews Bay, we did a survey in late June and found caribou in the flats and a little east towards canyon lake. That was already in the 500 animal tally including south of Goodnews.

Joe: What about predators around cape pierce?

Andy: Both bears and wolves are there. I see them in the slug river area mostly and coastal. Wolf sighting of a single animal in the past. Unknown if there is a pack.

Kenneth N: have you surveyed predators also in 17A near the boundry?

Andy: we did a brown bear survey over 20 years ago. At that time, there was about 800-900 brown bears in the 4.2 million acre refuge. I don't have 17A specific information. I believe they are increasing in number. Wolves have been studied, and the first one was looking at Nushagak Peninsula caribou herd. Wolves are catching and eating them. The caribou and wolf numbers both increased during the study period. The second study is refuge wide. About 12 packs with avg. of 7 wolves per pack. 90-100 wolves in the packs, and some additional lone wolves over the entire refuge.

Kenneth: any new surveys planned?

Andy: the Nushagak Peninsula is the only area we are surveying. The refuge surveys took 2 years, and were expensive.

Kenneth: Nush Pen. Herd, if they double in 2 years, has the refuge considered a moratorium for a year or 2 to let the herd re-populate?

Andy: no discussion of that currently. We are currently at the optimum number. The committee discussed lichen cover and caribou population from 2016-2020 we harvested about 800 caribou. We knocked the numbers down, and looking at lichen loss, we are concerned because it is slow growing. Caribou eat it mostly during the winter and some in fall. We are where we want to be currently. If the numbers get too high, or a warm winter inhibits travel there is very little harvest. That is a discussion point at the next committee meeting. The calves were 63-100 cows. Herd was increasing quickly, and we limited the hunts.

Kenneth: KMO is dual management area. On lake trips, every sow bear had 3 cubs each. That was quite a bit of cubs. Amanka to ualik lake trips.

Andy: we're seeing 2-4 cubs flying around, probably because of salmon populations and good nutrition.

Kenneth: that is a concern for the moose and caribou populations in the future, if we don't take care of them in the future. The IGMP on wolves and bears would be wise in the future.

Tod Rinaldi: ADF&G wildlife manager. Salmon have been abundant right now. Pulsing nutrition availability. Significant predation on 17A is providing a food source for bears too. Caribou management is difficult also. You can take bears under other regulations. Bear harvest is currently very low. John can give you updates. Gives update on BOG actions on predation control... focusing on 17B, around 3,000 sq. mile area. Bears and wolves both. Will be some where in double digits. Teens to twenties is likely, but we don't have a bear population estimate. We don't need an estimate, we are focusing on the calving grounds. Common knowledge that bears specialize on caribou calves directly. These bears are caribou calf hunters. BOG charged ADF&G with removing them.

f. Wildlife Trooper update: Joe Wittkopf – local enforcement update....

When commercial fishery is closed, subsistence is closed in the district. Subsistence nets were unmarked and out in the fishing district when they shouldn't have been.

Big game guide investigations ongoing... questions?

Norman G.: 32 footers on boats. Trim taps, jets, or safety rails. Those are part of the boats. We need to make complaint, including anchors.

Joe W.: certainly. I'd have to see photos or do inspections. We inspected boat yards post-season and presented to the Board of Fish. We need to distribute letter fleetwide and get this fixed for equality.

Norman: I agree. They are fishing illegally. Trim tabs and rails extend the length. They need to do something about it.

Joe W.: Thanks for the comment. We are looking at jet drives and outdrives, and additional structures as plaining surfaces. Trim tabs are allowed up to 18" and avoiding tubing that provides flotation. We'll keep doing it.

Norman: sooner the better. It's not fair. Give notice to boat builders.

Joe W.: understood. Are trying to get this done before someone build an illegal boat.

Norman: I heard about it and wanted to bring it up at this meeting.

Joe W.: Thank you

Chairman: Agency updates?

Break 15 min., reconvene at 1:30 pm. Board reconvene and discusses law enforcement on commercial fishing activities.

Chair Peter L.: was wondering about killing a wounded and hurt moose. ADF&G said to leave it for a natural death by wolves.

Thomas D.: I got an okay to dispatch that moose and told the fish and game guy that I would distribute to the elders. As and an USF&W employee.

VI. New Business-

Board of Game Proposals:

Committee Supports Proposals 177 and 187 Unanimously

Board of Fish Proposals:

Tim Sands: which proposals would you like me to discuss?

Jimmy Coopchiak: proposal 29 on kings over here. there's no enforcement upriver on sportfishing for kings. In the end of June and early July. I put this in, because there is hardly any enforcement. Only restriction is on commercial harvest on the king salmon line until July 17th. The only with conservation is with commercial fishing using the king salmon line. The sports fishing in the past 10-15 years, there has been an increase in the level of sportfishing. If the commercial catch gets 2,000, then the sportfishing can retain some over 20". I don't know the current limit for the spawners. We all know jacks don't spawn. I think you said that the Nushagak kings were a stock of concern.

Tim S.: Nushagak kings are a stock of concern. We haven't said that about Togiak kings.

Togiak is not identified as a stock of concern.

Jimmy C.: this proposal is for Togiak kings.

Chairman Peter L.: You are telling us that Togiak king salmon is not a stock of concern.

Tim S.: It is a special status. That has not been determined for the Togiak River. I wanted to clarify that it is not for Togiak.

Moses: If it's not a stock of concern, why do we have the king salmon line until July 17th?

If they are not of concern, why do we have the line?

Tim S.: chairman question, or department?

Moses K.: It's for whoever put in the line.

Tim S.: If this is a Dept. question, please let me know. SOC is a special concern. With it comes an action plan and much more restrictions. The Togiak AC requested to put the line in to protect kings, but it was put in to conserve kings. We are not saying it is a stock of concern but it was put in to conserve kings.

Moses: years ago, when we put that line in, we were worried about our kings becoming depleted. It was drafted by ADF&G and we concurred to it, hoping that we would retain the number of the kings going

upriver. We've done that, and it has not changed much. The only ones that benefited were the sportfishing industry. If we still have the line, maybe we should talk with sportfish industry to eliminate so much of the take of the mature King salmon. I'm not sure what it would take, but we're looking at it, if you catch and release how many of them would survive? Any information?

Lee Borden: I can comment on that. I'd like to address that. We completed a catch and release mortality study that has a 6.6% mortality on catch and release. Sportfishing has decreasing over the last decade. Effort, harvest and catch have been decreasing over the past decade.

Moses: I'm not sure what the specifically is addressing. Conservation of the kings is very important right now. Yukon and Kuskokwim are closed to subsistence uses right now. That was a concern years ago, how to conserve the king salmon. A lot of kings were wiped out now, because of pike. I don't know to address that. How to address it more is my concern. What more do we need? State of Alaska doesn't have much money any more. Conservations is down the drain to address pike issues, and I'm wanting to adopt proposal 29, and I think we should get rid of the line, if nobody does anything on the kings. Its time to move it forward. Pretty soon, it will be a stock of concern like Yukon, Kuskokwim, and Nushagak.

Kevin L.: I've been on the river for 16 years from June 15th to Aug 1st, every day. It is my opinion, the run is down 85 to 90 percent. It is imminent that something get done IMMEDIATELY! Thank you.

Tim S.: I don't have anything to say. Lee B.?

Taryn: would be helpful to read it out load to prevent confusion.

Peter L.: I used to see lots of king salmon. Never had a shortage. We had commercial openers and never had shortages. Even if we did, we were allowed to commercial fish. Now there are no more kings. The processors buy kings here, but the other side buys at 1 cent per pound. It's basically just killing it. This decline in king salmon will be overfished, and extinct. We don't want to see that. We want something done on the sportfishing side. We have an enhancement line, and we as commercial fisherman are allowed to go inside on July 17th. It doesn't make sense, even with the line. I would rather see the sportfishing and commercial to minimize it. I don't know how to say that part, but they will be extinct if we keep this up.

Taryn: I'm willing to read it. Reads proposal.

Moses: with the thought of king salmon in Togiak. It's not only the numbers, its also the size of king. The size has dropped considerably. We need to somehow monitor the size that the sports industry is taking. Therefore, I'd like to adopt Proposal 29 and move forward. That's my opinion.

Chairman: Motion to adopt proposal 29 by Moses K., seconded by Joe A., Discussion?

Jimmy C.: with some help, I wrote this proposal to get some conservation by the sport fishing guides. Commercial side already has the king line to July 17th. The thought was to adjust the commercial side by all these records. There's nothing recorded on the sport fish side, like how many kings they catch. CPUE in Togiak river. Thank you.

Kevin L.: there was required logbooks to report for many years. That guides were requirements. That program was eliminated by ADF&G and directly impacted the recording of king salmon.

Jimmy C.: subsistence always collects numbers, about how many kings are caught during the season, and the only numbers being recorded are on the commercial fish tickets. The subsistence numbers are also recorded locally in Togiak.

Peter L.: vote? Roll call vote? Taryn?

Jimmy C: close comments before the vote.

Kevin L.: Oregon manages to protect the kings. Without data, we can't place any restriction on the spawning area. But there is a certain area to protect a certain area to protect certain area, like the kemuk, ongivinuk, or gechian. These tributaries should be closed to capturing king salmon. I've watched them for many years. These numbers are down. Once these salmon travel through, they flush in and out of the river, for about 3 weeks. The temperature effects their lateral line, and there isn't really any effort about pungurpuk river. The issues that jimmy C. brought up is good, but we need to look at where these

fish are spawning at, which is the best place to protect them.

Jimmy C.: I like the idea. The only place that used to fish is close to the river mouth. They were not fishing up by ongivinuk. They used to be fishing the first one mile of the river, and would like to restrict to the lower area.

Kevin L.: In regard to jimmy, he is absolutely correct. We guided 25 guests every single day. Our primary effort was from the mouth to 4.82 miles upriver. They go in and out in the tide, then go upriver. In the last 7 or 8 years, the decline has been so severe, the sportfishing has shifted upriver to find them. This could actually be on their spawning grounds.

Jimmy C.: how do we do this for proposal 29.

Moses K.: in light of jimmy and kevin were talking about, is there any way to revise this to include those effects? Before BOF happens? It is a 4-to-5-year process. Thoughts?

Moses K.: can the proposal be amended? Would that happen during board of fish?

Taryn: committee should probably amend it at this meeting.

Moses K.: do I recind, and then discuss, or what's next?

Taryn: the process, is that you currently have a motion on the floor. You will need to make a motion to amend proposal 29, include intent, get a second, and then vote on amendment, and come back to vote on the proposal as amended, if it carries.

Moses K.: we need to stand down and talk about how to amend the proposal I recommend a 15 minute break to see how to amend proposal 29.

Peter L.: 15 minute break to address proposal 29. Motion by Moses K., seconded J.C.

Session on amendment 29- Moses K., strike (1), keep language, on to 2 to keep, but strike (five) and insert (ten), #4 fishing is allowed for kings up to the Geshiak river, and nothing Above.

Chairman Peter L.: we are back in session, at this time, it will be voted by the advisory committee. The amendment portion.

Moses K.: we will go the amended part of the proposal. Jimmy C., made a motion.

Thomas D. seconds. Discussion? Signify by saying aye. Hearing none, motion carried

Roll call vote: Proposal 29 as amended 8 in favor. Zero opposed.

Jimmy C.,: we have on more proposal Mr. chair. It's proposal 48. Asked Taryn to read it.

Moses K.: made a motion to adopt proposal 48, and seconded by Thomas D., discussion?

Jimmy C.: I submitted this because of the issues that came during the fishing season after the 27th of July, because our runs are getting later. To protect fishery. Before we had the super-exclusive, we'd fish, and by the time we'd start fishing, could try to catch the remainder of the 2nd run, because Togiak is a small fishery, and Togiak has about 25 to 30 % below the poverty rate. Commercial fishing is the only access to income. That's why I wrote it.

Moses K.: The other things, is that when the other boats come in, we don't have very much protection or troopers. He's the only one that's really covering other parts of the bay and Togiak. He doesn't have time. When other fishermen come over, the illegal fishing gear is pretty hard, like that boat F/V Victory that was here for a while through the summer. When they come over here, illegal fishing is hyped up. We don't see illegal fishing. That's part of the reason why this proposal has come up.

Jimmy C.: I'm sure you can tell there was a lot of illegal fishing right after the 27th of July.

The only place they fish is on the line, whether it's blowing 25 to 30 knots. Togiak 28' Boats can't compete with the 32' fishing boats that are 16' wide. Even though other fishermen get over 100K lbs., they are competing with the local boats. That's my intend with this proposal.

Thomas D.: my concern with this proposal is that when we just starting to catch our fish,

the other bay fisherman come here and take our chances to make our living here. I concur with this proposal because it effects Togiak side. It's the primary income for Togiak here. Questions?
Chair Peter L.: All those in favor of Proposal 48, signify by saying aye. (Aye), (opposed, None.)

VII. Miscellaneous business-

Approval of minutes for submission. comments deadline is Monday.

Moses K.: We went through pretty much all the agenda items, and make a motion to approve the minutes of this meeting, because of the timeframe, we need to send them into Taryn as soon as possible.

Chair Peter L.: There is a motion by Moses K. to approve the minutes for submission.

Taryn: (requests clarification)

Moses K.: Taryn, you and Peter and Walter K. work on these and move forward from There.

Taryn: just to be clear: I can't draft minutes for committee. I can review for clarity.

Moses: Peter can call you tomorrow.

Taryn: Tomorrow is holiday. Can scan my notes to Peter today, and possibly email Audio.

Kevin: can work with Peter.

Taryn: I'll be in the office on Monday. If there is a draft of minutes. I can give them a look.

Moses K.: email your notes to Peter and Kevin. Kevin said he can look at your notes.

Taryn: Will download the minute shell and make changes. I'll give Peter a

Template to use. The other thing I'll need is the membership forms for those

Re-elected. Scan or email those for contact list.

Chairman Peter L.: item 2 discussion representation at BOG finfish meeting.

Taryn: State of Alaska has funding for one member to attend meeting. I would try to get them headed to ANC on Nov. 28th and return Dec. 4th.

Select representative for board meeting - The Togiak Advisory Committee selection is Peter L. as he is chairperson.

Chair Peter L.: last item: comments, additions, questions? Date & time of next meeting

Moses K: When is the next Nushagak Meeting Agenda?

Taryn: They will meet on Monday at 4:30, and again in January, but don't have date yet for the area M northern district proposals.

Date and time for next meeting open. Call of chair after Nushagak AC meets.

VIII. Adjourn 3:41 pm.

Alaska Board of Fisheries: Bristol Bay Proposals			
November 29 – December 3, 2022 Anchorage, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support/ Support as amended/Opp ose/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>			
29	Restrict the Togiak River king salmon sport fishery until a minimum king salmon commercial harvest is achieved.		
Support As Amended	9	0	<p>Motion to adopt by Moses K, Second Joe A.</p> <p>Motion to amend by Jimmy C, 2nd Thomas D.</p> <p>Strike “(1) In the Togiak River Drainage, Until the annual commercial catch in the Togiak River section has harvested 2000 king salmon, the following provisions apply:”</p> <p>Change bag and possession limit of kings under 20 inches to 10</p> <p>Close waters above mouth of Gechiak River to fishing</p> <p>Amendment carries unanimously Proposal as amended carries unanimously.</p>
48	Delay the date at which fishermen may reregister to or from the Togiak District.		
Support	9	0	<p>Motion to adopt by Moses K, 2nd by Thomas D.</p> <p>Carries Unanimously</p>

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>			
177	Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 17A		
Support	9	0	Motion to adopt by Moses K, 2 nd Joe A. Unanimous Support
187	Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemptions for the Central/Southwest Region		
Support	9	0	Motion to adopt by Moses K, 2 nd Joe A. Unanimous Support

Minutes Recorded By: Chairman Peter Lockuk
Minutes Approved By: Chairman Peter Lockuk
Date: 11/23/2022