

FAIRBANKS FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE / FISHERIES SUB-COMMITTEE
DRAFT minutes March 6, 2023 short version¹
Deliberations on BOF Statewide proposals
Zoom only

- I. Call to Order: 6:05 pm Gale K. Vick, FAC Fisheries SC Chair
Moderator: Kyle Campbell, Interior Region Coordinator, Board Support

- II. Roll Call – FAC members
 - 1 Gale Vick
 - 2 Virgil Umphenour
 - 3 John Siegfried
 - 4 Mark Richards
 - 5 John Wisniewski
 - 6 Chuck Derrick

- III. Fish and Game Staff Present:
 - 1 Andy Gryska, Tanana Drainage Area Manager,
 - 2 Klaus Wittig, Regional Management, Sports Fish
 - 3 Jesse Coleman, Yukon Area Resource Specialist, Subsistence
 - 4 Shane Ransbury, Assistant Area Management Biologist
 - 5 Sam Decker, Assistant Area Management Biologist
 - 6 Alida Trainor, Northern Region Program Manager, Subsistence
 - 7 Caroline Brown, Statewide Program Manager, Subsistence Research

- IV. Guests Present:
 - 1 Al Barrette, Board of Game
 - 2 Jim Simon, TCC
 - 3 Nancy Hillstrand, Homer
 - 4 Charlie Lean, Nome
 - 5 Olivia Irwin, Nenana
 - 6 Brooke Woods
 - 7 Eva Burke
 - 8 Chris Bye

- V. Approval of Agenda – consensus
- VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – NA
- VII. Reports

¹ See separate version that has full meeting report

Deliberations on Board of Fish Statewide proposals

Review of DRAFT recommendations from February 16, 2023 Fisheries SC meeting. (see minutes) Process – Fisheries SC deliberate on proposals and bring to full FAC meeting Wednesday, March 8th, for approval. Then forward, with minutes, to the Alaska Board of Fish for an RC (record copy) by March 10th. All recommendations were by unanimous consent. See discussion notes from February 16th meeting also.

Prop. 87 Define eel stock . Recommend SUPPORT

Prop. 153 Recommend no action

Prop 82 / RC56 Recommend SUPPORT

Prop 154 Recommend no action

Prop 155 Recommend no action

Prop 156 Recommend SUPPORT / housekeeping for Personal Use, aligns with sports fishing

Prop 157 Recommend OPPOSE

Chuck Derrick asked about use of boat with multiple permits in a limited entry. Gale Vick noted the issue is gear type not boat. You cannot have two gear types operative at the same time. You can use same boat in multiple fisheries but you have to have a permit for each fishery. Klaus read ADF&G staff comments. Calls for annual designation of main area where fishing was intended. The Dept is neutral but is concerned about additional regulations for a person to enter a new fishery. Chuck said if this goes through they should have an annual limit.

Prop 158 Recommend OPPOSE

Klaus noted Dept comments were same as for 157

Prop 159 Recommend SUPPORT

Prop 160 Recommend no action

Klaus noted Dept is opposed as the proposal would not likely reduce harvest of wild king salmon in THAs, but if there is a problem the Dept can use EO authority. Wild king salmon cannot be readily distinguished from hatchery kings. Virgil noted that he doesn't think there are any hatchery kings near a seine fishery. Klaus noted that Crystal hatchery in S/E might be applicable. Klaus, staff comments only present S/E numbers. Al Barrette asked the importance of flipping the adipose fin if can't distinguish a hatchery fish from wild fish. Virgil noted a coded wire tag in nose or thermal otolith marker. In PWS they would clip the adipose fin and stick in a wire tag so you knew what system that came out of. Klaus confirmed that was correct, to distinguish Gulkana, Upper Copper, etc. This proposal would rely on an external marker. Shane Ransbury noted they don't clip all the fish, maybe only 1/5 of fish. Virgil thinks it should be amended to require head returned to ADF&G to determine. Klaus noted they were sampling all the commercial catches. Al Barrette wanted to know if there was any regulation that requires tagging? Shane noted that it depends on the hatchery. It's a cost issue. The cheaper way to tag is otolith. Al noted now we don't know what is hatchery fish or wild fish. Shane noted that this is a national issue. Gale Vick recommended using this proposal as a basis for a future proposal regarding hatchery issues. I think we are talking about an entirely different proposal.

Prop 161 Recommend no action

Prop 162 Recommend no action

Prop 163 Recommend OPPOSE

Klaus – the genesis of this proposal may go back to Prince William Sound (Cordova meeting 2021) on guiding in Glenallen SubDistrict. Definition of “guide” is help in taking fish. This is another step to prohibit guide in personal use fisheries. Close vote in PWS. The Dept is opposed to this proposal. Chuck Derrick.. correction .. the vote in Cordova was just the subsistence fishery. The reason the vote got that way in the language of subsistence law it talked about non-commercial but there is no similar language in personal use. Al Barrette noted that the BOF in Cordova position on subsistence for this issue was taken out of context because they never defined C&T as bartering dollar for services.

Prop 164 Recommend OPPOSE

Klaus noted that right now there are no registration requirements for harvest reporting for businesses that provide outfitting, transporting, guiding. They have it for saltwater guiding using the saltwater log book so they can record and track harvest. In sports fishing we use to have a log book that went away in 2018. In sports fishing you are required to register as a guide. In personal use fisheries we have permits that stipulate reporting requirements. In Chitina, everyone (with a permit) has to report by October 31. The Dept is neutral on this proposal. Chuck Derrick this is very akin to require reporting within 5 days. The Dept consistently tells the Board that this detail on in-season reporting is not necessary because the fishery is managed on sonar counts. The reporting of a guide on how many fish a client gets is useless to the Dept; they will not manage the fishery on that information. Al Barrette noted that the information that a guide would add is not useful, why burden the transporter. Gale Vick noted the whole point that this would be insignificant to management. Chuck Derrick noted that in the Chitina fishery the requirement for post-season reporting stipulates that you cannot apply for a next year permit if you have not completed the current year report, which cut down considerably on the non-reporting problem. They do have good information at the end of the season. Klaus noted that if the Dept had a need for more real-time reporting, they could put that on the existing permit.

Prop 165 Recommend OPPOSE

Klaus noted the Dept was neutral but noted that the BOF may want to consider if this reduces fishing opportunity. Gale noted that should be obvious. Virgil said that because of the crisis on the Yukon, people are going to PU fisheries and need guide services to help them get fish. Al Barrette, people get into weeds about non-commercial, subsistence statute talks about what you do with the fish, not how you catch it. Should not apply to guide services. Chuck Derrick noted that the reason this was backed in the Glenallen SD was because the Ahtna community voted against the use of guide services. Al noted that guides could act as elders and teachers on where fish could be caught, passing on traditional knowledge.

Prop #166 Recommend OPPOSE

Gale Vick noted she was very strongly opposed to this, noted in February minutes. Chuck Derrick noted that he could see where BOF members might be concerned that a person could get their full permitted harvest from several different PU fisheries. Chuck talked with ADF&G and had got records, in 2022 there were 1700 households that got both a South Central and Copper River PU permit but only 1242 fished. (Chuck subsequently put a chart together to present to the BOF as an RC.) In 2022, the average harvest in both fisheries was 51 fish, so that meant they were right in the ballpark of 50 fish limit per household of 3.5 people for only one fishery. So there is actually no problem or reason to have a statewide limit. Chuck noted he will be at the meeting representing both CDA (Chitina Dipnetters Association) and the Fairbanks AC by Saturday for deliberations. Gale noted that her issue was the reality is all of this was not going to make any statistical difference. But the real issue is that all of the PU fisheries are still managed by escapement, so they are already managed. If people need to prosecute more than one PU fishery to feed their family, let them go for it. There has been some abuse of this system, but for the most part this is hard work. I am opposed to this proposal on many levels. Al Barrette noted that he would like to see statistics on the commercial side and how many permit holders have two or more permits and have an opportunity to harvest the same species under a different method and means. Gale said that raises the issue of home pack. That can be our counter commentary. If you do this, there should be an annual limit on homepack. Klaus said the Dept was opposed as an unnecessary restriction on individual ability to participate in PU fisheries and require new reporting methods.

Prop #167 Recommend OPPOSE

Klaus noted that the Dept opposes this proposal as unnecessary. The Dept already has authority to issue permits as applicable. This would place additional budget requirements. Al Barrette had a question about subsistence permits required on the road system vs. those not on road system. Shane noted that most of the subsistence permits are not on road system. Jim Simon noted that the AYK is largely without subsistence permit requirements but the rest of the state has permit requirements. Applying this proposal to the AYK is an unnecessary administrative burden. Mark Richards said that the 30 years he was on the upper Yukon (Kandik) . Jim Simon only in certain road systems areas. Shane noted that there is an Upper Yukon, Upper Tanana, Eagle permit system. There are seven permit areas in the drainage.

Prop #168 Recommend SUPPORT

Prop # 169 Recommend SUPPORT

Meeting Adjourned: 8:19pm

NOTE

Preliminary discussion FAC Fisheries Sub-Committee February 16, 2023

Final deliberations of FAC Fisheries Sub-Committee March 6, 2023

The attached Statewide proposal recommendations were approved unanimously by the full Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee March 8, 2023, to submit as RC (record copy) to Alaska Board of Fish on March 10, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries: Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues Proposals			
March 10-13, 2023 Anchorage, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support/Support as amended/Oppose/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>			
87	Define eel stick.		
	11	0	
153	Define escape mechanisms for collapsible 'slinky' groundfish pots.		
			NO ACTION
82 AS RC56	Modify the dates sinking of gillnets is allowed in the Yukon Area from October 1 to April 30.		
	11	0	
154	Allow the use of purse seine drums.		
			NO ACTION
155	Allow a person using a spear or speargun to take fish while swimming at the water's surface.		
			NO ACTION
156	Prohibit the use of felt soled wading footwear while personal use fishing in freshwater.		
	11	0	
157	Allow a person holding CFEC permits for multiple salmon net areas to commercial fish for salmon in more than one net area per year.		
	11	0	

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158	Allow a person holding CFEC permits for multiple salmon net areas to commercial fish for salmon in more than one net area per year.		
	11	0	
159	Close commercial fishing for a given species within one-fourth of a mile of any area closed to sport fishing for that species.		
	11	0	
160	Require surrender of proceeds gained from sale of wild king salmon caught in hatchery terminal harvest areas.		
			NO ACTION
161	Create and establish Alaska Board of Fisheries policy regarding the management of groundfish fishery resources in waters of Alaska (<i>To be heard at the Pacific cod meeting and deliberated during the Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues meeting</i>).		
			NO ACTION
162	Allow the Kenai River Special Management Area -DNR decal to serve as proof of ADF&G sport fishing guide vessel registration.		
			NO ACTION
163	Prohibit guiding in personal use finfish fisheries.		
	0	11	
164	Establish registration and reporting requirements for personal use guides and transporters.		
	0	11	The FAC noted that this proposal was irrelevant to ADF&G management needs and that the current post-season reporting on permits was sufficient as the Dept manages PU fisheries on escapement
165	Prohibit compensation for guide services in subsistence fisheries.		
	0	11	The FAC noted that because of the crisis in the Yukon, people may need access to PU fisheries that can provide guide services. Also that the subsistence statutes refers to the use of fish after caught, not how caught
166	Establish a statewide bag limit for personal use finfish fisheries.		

Alaska Board of Fisheries: Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues Proposals March 10-13, 2023 Anchorage, AK			
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	0	11	The FAC noted statistics from ADF&G that illustrate fish takes are not excessive even with dual permits. They also noted that all PU fisheries were managed on escapement.
167	Require inseason reporting of subsistence and personal use salmon harvest within 5 days of harvest.		
	0	11	
168	Extend emergency order authority to allow restrictions of sport fisheries in contaminated waters.		
	11	0	
169	Amend the list of banned invasive species.		
	11	0	

Minutes Recorded By: Gale K. Vick, Chair FAC Fisheries Subcommittee

Minutes Approved By: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Date: March 8, 2023