

STATE OF ALASKA

FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Kotzebue Advisory Committee

Kotzebue AC Meeting Minutes

01/29/2019

Northwest Arctic Borough

1. **Call to Order:** 7:02 pm by Vice Chair Alex Whiting
2. **Roll Call: Members Present:** Alex Whiting (Vice Chair/Secretary), Cyrus Harris, Karmen Monigold, Lance Kramer, Eugene Smith
Members Absent: Enoch Sheidt (resigned), Pete Schaeffer (resigned), Victor Karmun (resigned), Michael Kramer (arrived after elections)

Quorum established: 5 - Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 5
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve agenda with the inclusion of a bull caribou season change proposal - unanimous approved.
4. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** From meeting date 02/23/2018 – Motion to Approve minutes - unanimous approved.
5. **ADF&G Staff Present:** Alex Hansen, Brandon Saito, Hazel Smith, Brendan Scanlon, Kathy Sherman, Brynn Parr (on the phone)
6. **Federal Officials Present:** Hannah Atkinson, Justin Junge, Raime Fronstin (NPS), Susan Georgette (SNWR)
7. **Guests Present:** Hannah Loon, Hans Hansen, Shyler Johnson, Judy Stein, Scott Bjork (AWT) - Chad Sheldon (on the phone)
8. **Recognition of Retiring AC Members:** Will plan recognition for fall 2019 meeting
9. **Election of Advisory Committee Members:** Nominations for AC members included: Alex Whiting, Cyrus Harris, Karmen Monigold, Lance Kramer, Eugene Smith, Chad Sheldon, Hans Hansen, Aucha Kameroff, Hannah Loon, Shyler Johnson – A vote was held on the mistaken belief that there were 9 seats, all nominees were seated except for Hannah Loon who had the lowest vote number. ***This was corrected the following day when more research showed that up to 15**

members are allowed – Hannah Loon was subsequently notified that she was in fact seated on the AC. Members volunteered for terms, they are as follows:

1 year - expire June 30, 2019: Alex Whiting, Karmen Monigold, Aucha Kameroff

2 year - expire June 30, 2020: Cyrus Harris, Hans Hansen, Eugene Smith

3 year - expire June 30, 2021: Chad Sheldon, Shyler Johnson, Lance Kramer, Hannah Loon

Officers elected: Lance Kramer (Chair), Shyler Johnson (Vice Chair), Alex Whiting (Secretary).

10. **Old Business:** None

11. **New Business:** Review BOF/BOG proposals for support and comments.

The Kotzebue AC drafted proposal to delete the bull season closure (Oct. 14 to Feb. 1) and have bull caribou available for harvest the entire year from July 1 to June 30 in order to take pressure off of cow harvest in GMU 23, also adding calf harvest, was discussed and approved unanimously to submit for the Arctic Region call for proposals with a **deadline of May 1, 2019.**

Alaska Board of Game Southeast and Southcentral Regions Meeting			
March 15 – 19, 2019 Anchorage			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal
139	Reauthorize resident brown bear tag fee exemptions in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A.		
	9	0	This is desirable for the community.

11 a. Alex Hansen, ADF&G Caribou Biologist updated the Kotzebue AC on: the latest herd indicators, which in general are good; the challenges with collaring caribou on the Kobuk River the past couple of years; the plan to collar spring caribou using helicopters; calving ground predation studies – brown bears are the main predator; and the plan to attempt a caribou count this summer.

11 b. Brynn Parr ADF&G Wildlife Biologist Nome, discussed the ongoing muskox research on the Seward Peninsula.

12. **New Business Board of Fish:** BOF comment deadline passed so no action was taken on proposals, except Brendan Scanlon updated the group about the BOF meeting January 15-19, 2019 and that there was a lot of support from other regions for the 2 similar subsistence fish waste proposals, which included the sheefish waste proposal from the Kotzebue AC. He also spoke about the banner year for commercial chum salmon in Kotzebue Sound (2018 was 4th best at 695,000 chums sold) and the forecast for 2019 was 650,000. He also spoke about the low recruitment for sheefish on the Selawik stock, something that will need to be monitored closely moving forward.

13. **New Business Joint Board:** Proposals with the comment deadline of March 7, 2019, were discussed and the actions taken were as follows:

Alaska Joint Board Meeting March 21 – 25, 2019 Anchorage			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal
09	Change the name of Kotzebue Advisory Committee to Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee.		
9	0	It would be good to address this issue formally since there has been an inconsistent use of names over the years and the broader Kotzebue Sound name would be inclusive of camp communities near Kotzebue around Kotzebue Sound.	
11	Consolidate regulations addressing the creation of advisory committees.		
9	0	Good Housekeeping.	
12	Require members to reside within the committee's geographic area.		
9	0	Makes sense.	
14	Update the area of jurisdiction for westward area king crab to include the Kotzebue Fish and Game Advisory Committee.		
9	0	Good for future actions for the AC to have a role where this may come into play.	
15	Amend the emergency closure process to exclude advisory committees that have not meet within the last three years.		
9	0	Makes sense.	
16	Expand the functions of the advisory committees to encourage the involvement of youth and elders		
9	0	Encouraging more community involvement of all ages is good.	
17	Reorder and clarify the election procedures under the uniform rules of operation for advisory committees.		
9	0	Good housekeeping.	
18	Clarify the provision that advisory committees may not refuse membership to a nominee.		
9	0	Good rule to have.	
19	Simplify the process for removing advisory committee members for having unjustifiable absences from meetings.		
9	0	Good housekeeping.	
20	Amend the removal for cause provisions.		
9	0	Good housekeeping.	
21	Amend the advisory committee vacancy rules.		
9	0	Good housekeeping	
22	Allow advisory committee members to discuss and vote by email, excluding actions for antlerless moose reauthorizations or emergency order closures.		
0	9	Violates open meeting act.	
23	Provide guidance for advisory committee actions having abstentions.		
9	0	Good housekeeping.	
24	Add language to clarify advisory committee meetings are subject to the Open Meetings Act and modify noncompliant provisions.		
9	0	Good housekeeping.	

Alaska Joint Board Meeting

March 21 - 25, 2019 | Anchorage

Proposal Number	Proposal Description			
	Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal
25				Remove redundant provisions for advisory committee officer regulations and clarify duties of the secretary.
	9	0		Good housekeeping
26				Schedule certain requests for advisory committees to be acted upon by each board during regularly scheduled meetings.
	9	0		No comment.
27				Remove the concept of "active" and "inactive" committees.
	9	0		Good housekeeping.
28				Allow advisory committee representatives to be at the board table during deliberations for those proposals the advisory committee authored.
	9	0		Interest to participate in the deliberation process is supported in a way that is manageable for the Board.
29				Allow advisory committee representatives a seat at the board table during deliberations on proposals affecting their region.
	9	0		Interest to participate in the deliberation process is supported in a way that is manageable for the Board.
30				Provide a definition for board work sessions and allow submitters of Agenda Change Requests (ACRs) to provide testimony at work sessions.
	9	0		Provide clarity on definition and opportunity for submitters to testify.
31				Provide a definition for a board hearing of at least three board members with a public comment requirement.
	9	0		Support more formality of board hearings.
32				Repeal the provision for Board of Fisheries members attending advisory committee meetings to be in compliance with the statutory requirement for holding board meetings in specific areas of the state.
	9	0		Encourages information gathering by board members.
33				Amend the Joint Board's procedure for establishing fish and game regulations.
	0	9		The board needs flexibility to make proposals without too many restrictions, the current flexible process has benefited our area and others in the past.
34				Amend the Joint Board Petition Policy to correct a contradiction with the subsistence proposal policy.
	9	0		Good housekeeping.
35				Repeal and rewrite the Joint Board Petition Policy.
	9	0		Good housekeeping.
36				Allow a petitioner the opportunity to present information about the petition to the boards and establish definitions for unforeseen and unexpected events and situations.
				No action
37				Repeal the boards' Subsistence Proposal Policy.
	9	0		Good housekeeping.
38				Require the Board of Fisheries to schedule shellfish regulations for any that have been closed by emergency order for 24 consecutive months.
				No action

Alaska Joint Board Meeting

March 21 - 25, 2019 | Anchorage

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal
39	Update the regulations to correct errors and omissions.		
	9	0	Good housekeeping.
40	Amend regulations to align and clarify current practices for advisory committees and the process for adopting fish and game regulations.		
	9	0	Good housekeeping.

14. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Update on Arctic region ACs) – Zachary Stephenson: Was not available.

15. Dates of State Board of Fish, Board of Game, and Joint Board meetings:

- February 21-27, 2019 Board of Fish – Alaska Pen./Chignik/Aleutian Finfish Anchorage, AK
- March 8-11, 2019 Board of Fish – Statewide finfish & supplemental issues Anchorage, AK
- March 15-19, 2019 Board of Game Southcentral Region Anchorage, AK
- March 21-25, 2019 Joint Board on Advisory Committees Anchorage, AK

16. Select representatives to attend Board of Game, and Joint Boards meetings: TBD

17. Closing comments: Mike Kramer, Vice Chair of the federal Northwest Arctic RAC, spoke about the federal Special Action to keep federal lands closed for caribou hunting to all but Federally qualified subsistence users and the need for more local RAC members with a deadline of March 1st, 2019 to apply to be a member. AC member Eugene Smith, spoke about the disappointment of having to turn away interested community members wanting to serve on the AC – this is no longer an issue since it is now known that the Kotzebue Sound AC is permitted to have up to 15 members and all interested parties at or below that number will be able to be seated.

18. Motion to adjourn: 9:10 pm

Minutes Recorded By: 

Minutes Approved By: 

Date: 2-8-19