

Kodiak Fish & Game Advisory Committee
December 8th 2011-KNWRVC
Oliver Holm Chairman

Cliff Judkins
Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

December 2011

Subject:

Proposal 50; Review of discretionary hunt conditions and procedures.

Our committee unanimously opposes proposal 50.

We strongly support the Departments ability to use discretionary conditions applied to hunt conditions at the local level.

The Kodiak Advisory Committee has a long history of working closely with the Department, the USFWS, the Kodiak Aleutians Advisory(Federal Subsistence) Council, native villages and other affected user groups. We gather public input from our Islands communities to develop trust, consensus and compromise necessary for the best management of public resources. The discretionary ability of our local biologists to be able to "fine tune" allocative compromises frees us from the vociferous and occasionally mean spirited debate that occurs in other areas of the state. A good case in point is our mountain goat management plan which was applauded by both the Alaska Board of Game and the federal Subsistence Board as an exemplary strategy. It has been cited in game management classes at leading universities.

Local management accomplishments can be attested to by the relatively healthy populations of wild life in the Kodiak Management Areas and greater hunter success rates. Were strongly opposed to the board circumventing the public process by dissecting discretionary details from previously adopted regulations and management plans. Each regulation and plan needs to be reviewed in total context before deleting or amending discretionary permit conditions and procedures. Often a small detail for a permit hunt such as registration in a village or sealing skulls and hides before leaving the management area are the keystone of local compromise and allowed management plans to function successfully.

Sincerely ;
Oliver Holm
Chairman Kodiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Attn: Scott
AC Comments
BOG SW 2012

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**BOARDS
ANCHORAGE**

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(Minutes represent a paraphrased summary of the KAC, department staff and public comments and are not a verbatim transcript of the meeting. Tapes of the meeting are available for review by contacting the committee secretary)

Call to order: 7:10pm at Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center

Roll Call: Quorum achieved with 10 members . Oliver Holm, Don Fox, Paul Chervenak, Harvey Goodell, Pete Hannah, Rick Berns, Rolan Ruos, Robin Overall (for Curt Waters), Herman Squartsoff and Andy Finke.

Department staff: John Crye and Larry Van Daele.

Public Safety: Trooper Alan Jones.

Audience members: 15.

Correspondence: Two letters from the Kodiak/Aleutians RAC concerning the population increase in mountain goats at the south end of Kodiak Island. The subsistence council was proposing a possible spring subsistence hunt for Kodiak residents for goat. Chairman Holm said the committee should re-form the goat committee to address the issue.

Chair Announcements: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

- 1) **KARAC** member Pat Holms gave the committee an update on federal subsistence issues and stated the need for the Kodiak Fish & Game Advisory Committee to reactivate the goat committee to address a subsistence goat harvest.
- 2) **Statewide game proposals:** Larry Van Daele informed the committee members of the change of cycle for BOG proposals. Call for proposals due in April 2012 for the March BOG meeting that addressed Kodiak issues. Discussion and action on statewide game proposals.
- 3) **KAC member to BOG:** Paul Chervenak was selected to represent the KAC at the January BOG meeting with Don Fox as the alternate.
- 4) **Date of next KAC meeting:** February 28, 2012 at 7pm at the KNWRVC to discuss and act on Statewide Dungeness crab and Miscellaneous shellfish issues. Our annual elections will also be held.
- 5) **Goat committee:** Paul Chervenak selected to chair goat committee the 1st meeting will be held sometime in March 2012.

ADJOURN: 11:07pm

Kodiak Fish & Game Advisory Committee
December 8th 2011-KNWRVC
Oliver Holm Chairman

Statewide Game Proposals

Proposal #39

Action: Proposal Support 9-1(abstained)

Description: Modify the state falconry regulations and the Alaska Falconry Manual to comply with new federal standards.

Amendments: Two.

- 1) Delete the provision in Alaska Falconry Manual #9 in Table 1 requiring the sterilization of non-indigenous sub-species of goshawks.
- 2) Amend Alaska Falconry Manual #9 to allow for a lottery for a non-resident take of raptors for falconry. Non-residents would be allowed to take 3 gyrfalcons, 3 peregrine falcons(any sub-species), 3 merlins, 3 sharp shinned hawks, 3 redtailed/Harlan hawks and 10 Northern Goshawks.

Staff comments: The rewrite of the Alaska Falconry Manual #9 which is a part of proposal #39 was submitted at a late date. Past the comment deadline. Its large 42 pages and contains a lot of information.

Committee comments: Agree with staff comments on the lateness of the report. Both Proposal #38 the AFA version of Manual # 9 and the departments version in proposal #39 are similar but there are significant differences in a few areas.

Comment on amendments:

Staff comments: See no reason to surgically sterilize non-indigenous sub-species of goshawks. Very few are in Alaska and slim chance they will interbreed with an Alaskan Northern Goshawk.

Committee comments: KAC member Mr. Fox agreed with staff comments and noted that the only know European Goshawk was held by Don Hunley in Anchorage. Mr. Fox also commented that of the 15 states that had resident goshawk populations none that he knew of required the procedure. If the BOG adopts a non-resident take of raptors they may wish to exclude some areas to avoid conflicts with resident falconers.

Minority opinion: KAC member Mr. Hannah abstained feeling the proposal was too complex to vote on and that he didn't have a full understanding of the issues.

Proposal #40

Action: None taken.

The KAC amended proposal #39 to allow for a non-resident take of raptors.

Proposal #44

Action: Support 10-0.

Description: Modify the ADF&G discretionary authority for Governor's tags.

Staff comments: Department proposal. Extra permits are available for charitable organizations to auction off. Hunts take place out of regular season.

Committee comments: Guides donate their services since the hunts take place out of normal guiding activities. Would generate money for bear management on Kodiak through the Brown Bear trust.

Kodiak Fish & Game Advisory Committee
December 8th 2011-KNWRVC
Oliver Holm Chairman

Proposal #46

Action: Oppose 0-10

Description: Allow the sale of big game trophies.

Staff comments: Larry Van Daele stated that there were no biological concerns. This proposal comes close to creating a commercialization of hunts especially for sheep and bear. This is one small step away from doing that. There is definitely a market for bear trophies and that he gets calls from people wanting to buy a bear hide without hunting them.

Committee comments: Agree with and support staff comments KAC would like to reference them. KAC member Mr. Chervenak who is a registered guide said he could probably make more money by going out and shooting a bear if he drew a tag and selling the hide then he would through the difficult work of guiding.

Proposal #47

Action: No action

Description: Would allow the sale of trophies acquired through legal action such as divorce.

Committee comments: No action in lieu of action taken on proposal #46.

Proposal #49

Action: No action.

Description: Require logbook for taxidermists and provide authority to Alaska Wildlife Troopers to inspect taxidermy paperwork.

Committee comments: KAC members agreed with Mr. Chervenak that the taxidermists already have the paperwork they need.

Proposal #50

Action: Oppose 0-10

Staff comments: BOG proposal. Staff OPPOSED. Department at the local level supports strongly keeping our discretionary regulations. This proposal is the same as proposal #191 that applied to the SC Region that the KAC rejected last year.

Committee comments: The committee agrees with the staff comments and strongly supports the departments ability to use discretionary conditions that apply to hunt conditions at the local level. We submitted a letter to the BOG last year and will resubmit it again further explaining our reasons for our opposition to this BOG generated proposal.

Proposal # 51

Action: Support as amended 10-0

Description: Allow the ADF&G to require the latitude and longitude of kill locations on a harvest report for drawing and registration hunts.

Kodiak Fish & Game Advisory Committee
December 8th 2011-KNWRVC
Oliver Holm Chairman

Amendment: Latitude and longitude is not public information and is for state and federal wildlife and enforcement use only.

Staff comments: Probably won't use in Kodiak but it's a tool that could be used if needed. Recommend adoption.

Committee comments: Would want the ability to extrapolate later on a map and not at time of kill. Would support as long as it isn't public information. Mr. Chervenak felt that his guided clients would not want to carry a GPS in the field and that this proposal should be a regional and not a statewide one.

Proposal # 54

Action: Oppose 0-10

Description: Expand the definition of archery hunts to include crossbows.

Committee comments: KAC members are against including crossbows in archery only hunts. Crossbows are more efficient and would tempt hunters to take longer shots thereby risk wounding more animals. They should be in their own category and not compete with bows.

Proposal #57

Action: Oppose 0-10

Description: Allow archers to use mechanical/retractable broad heads for all big game.

Staff comments: Not allowed for brown bear, mountain goats or elk.

Committee comments: KAC members agreed with audience comments that they have too many moving parts and if you hit at a bad angle or wrong spot they may break. They're good for lighter game such as deer but not larger animals.

Proposal # 62

Action: Oppose 0-10

Description: Restrict the number of permits a resident may apply for.

Staff comments: Allocative.

Committee comments: Committee opposed because the proposal unfairly limits the number of permit choices the hunter may apply for.

Proposal # 63

Action: Oppose 0-10

Description: Increase the number of drawing permits for each species that a person may apply for.

Staff comments: Department proposal. Would double the number of drawing permits you may apply for each species. Have undersubscribed hunts in state. Would increase the number of people applying for these under utilized hunts.

Committee comments: Opposed. This should be a regional and not a statewide proposal.

Kodiak Fish & Game Advisory Committee
December 8th 2011-KNWRVC
Oliver Holm Chairman

Proposal #66-67-68

Action: Oppose 1 - 9

Description: All three proposals would limit non-residents to a maximum of 10 percent of permits.

Staff comments: In Kodiak we have a breakdown of 60-67 % of permits for brown bear for residents and the rest for non-residents(around 33%). The guided non-resident bear hunt is important to the economy of Kodiak very few residents hire guides.

Committee comments: There are currently lightly used non-drawing areas for brown bear in the state. The guided hunt industry in Alaska is a major economic benefit to the statewide and local economies. Sheep hunting is a \$20 million dollar industry in Alaska. In Kodiak where we have a large number of non-resident bear permits issued adoption of this proposal could be the death knell for our local guides especially in the villages. Very few residents use guides for bear hunts. Our allocation of non-resident permits works well for Kodiak no change is needed. This should not be a statewide proposal.

Minority opinion: KAC member Mrs. Overall felt that issuing so many non-resident permits makes it more difficult for local residents to obtain one.

Proposal #69

Action: Oppose 0-10

Description: Establish a bonus point/preference system for hunts.

Staff comments: A very expensive system to run they're usually contracted out.

Research shows that the persons chances don't increase that much . You can get more bonus points as you get older in some hunts.

Committee comments: Agree with staff comments. KAC member also felt that adoption would take away from youth opportunity to hunt.

Proposal # 70

Action: Support 10-0

Description: Allow non-resident deployed military personnel to defer drawing permits.

Staff comments: No biological concerns its not a large number of permits. We need to support our military they put their life on the line for all of us. We should allow them to utilize their permit at a future date.

Committee comments: The KAC agrees with and would like to reference staff comments.

Proposal # 71-72-73-74

Action: Opposed 0 - 10

Description: All four proposals would open hunts one week(7 days) for residents before non-residents are allowed to hunt.

Staff comments: Allocative.

Kodiak Fish & Game Advisory Committee
December 8th 2011-KNWRVC
Oliver Holm Chairman

Committee comments: Should not be a statewide issue. Regulations should be addressed regionally. There is enough opportunity as is for hunters. Most hunters prefer hunting later in the season. Works fine as it is now for hunter opportunity.

Proposal #75

Action: Oppose 0 - 10

Description: Open early youth hunt for all big game, ten days before other seasons; require hunter education.

Staff comments: Allocative.

Committee comments: Shouldn't be a blanket statewide proposal for all animals. On Kodiak we have a 5 month deer season as well a special end of the season road system hunt with primitive weapons for youth.

Proposal #76

Action: Oppose 0 - 10

Description: Open early youth hunt (10-17 years) for all big game statewide and require accompanying adult to forfeit bag limit.

Staff Comments: Allocative.

Committee comments: Would reference comments on proposal #75. We could be teaching a youth disrespect for the law(who shoots the animal). We need to teach our youth the traditional ways to hunt.

Proposal #77

Action: Oppose 0 - 10

Description: Require hunters to use only one type of method; either firearm or bow; require a tag.

Staff comments: No recommendation from department.

Committee Comments: A hunter should be able to use what ever method they want and not commit in advance. This proposal limits the hunters options if they elect to hunt with a bow then decide later to use a firearm. Would prohibit a hunter who wounded an animal with a bow from finishing the kill with a firearm.

Proposal #95

Action: Support 10-0

Description: Open several management area to the taking of small game by the use of falconry.

Staff comments: There were public safety concerns with these road accessible areas so they were limited to archers. There wouldn't be any conflict between falconer and archers.

Committee comments: Agree with and support staff comments.

Kodiak Fish & Game Advisory Committee
December 8th 2011-KNWRVC
Oliver Holm Chairman

Proposal #98

Action: Oppose 0 - 10

Description: Prohibit the use of hand held electronics in taking game.

Staff comments: Don't adopt. Would include safety devices, rangefinders and GPS.

Committee comments: Agree with staff comments. Adoption would be a safety concern.

Proposal # 99

Action: Oppose 0 - 10

Description: Hunters using a licensed transporter cannot harvest an animal on the same day being transported.

Committee comments: KAC members are opposed. Would affect the way most hunters hunt deer on Kodiak Island. It would mean a boat that anchored for the night couldn't drop hunters off unless they spent the night on shore and then hunt the next day. There are abuses but this proposal is too broad brushed.

Proposal #102

Action: Support 10-0

Description: Prohibit the use of pack animals other than horses while hunting goats or sheep.

Staff comments: Adopt. Pack animals especially llamas can carry diseases that could be spread into areas where sheep and goats are. This proposal would protect game stocks from infestation.

Committee comments: Agree with and support staff comments.

Proposal # 103

Action: Support 10-0

Description: Prohibit use of felt soled wading boots while hunting game.

Staff comments: Adopt. BOF has already passed would mirror that regulation.

Committee comments: Good preventive measure for spread of invasive species.

Proposal # 104

Action: Support 10-0

Description: Prohibit the use of deer or elk urine for use in taking game.

Staff comments: Department proposal to prevent chronic wasting disease.

Committee comments: Not used often in Kodiak but adoption of this proposal would protect our islands big game stocks.

Proposal # 105

Action: Oppose 0 - 10

Kodiak Fish & Game Advisory Committee
December 8th 2011-KNWRVC
Oliver Holm Chairman

Description: Clarify the definition of wounding as it applies to the restrictions to bag limits(mortally wounded).

Staff comments: No recommendation the proposal would insert the word **mortally wounded** and not recovered and would count against bag limit.

Committee comments: Would be hard to tell if a animal is mortally wounded or not. KAC opposed.

Proposal # 106

Action: Support 10-0

Description: Count wounded muskox, bison, sheep and goats that are not recovered as part of bag limit.

Staff comments: This is same as Kodiak currently has for bear and elk.

Committee comments: Proposal encourages ethical hunting practices. Because you must make every effort to recover a wounded animal. Discourages long range shooting and herd shooting thus eliminating poor hunting practices.

Proposal # 111

Action: Oppose 0 - 10

Description: Clarify the sex organs, or portions of, that must remain attached for proof of sex.

Staff comments: Don't adopt defer to public safety.

Public safety comments: Trooper Jones stated that what we have now in regulation works.

Committee comments: Agree with and support public safety comments.

Proposal # 112

Action: Oppose 0 - 10

Description: Eliminate evidence of sex regulation. Proposal would have DNA results instead of sex organs.

Staff comments: Don't adopt. Too costly to use and the time frame for getting back results is too long.

Committee comments: Agree with and support staff comments.

Proposal #128

Action: Oppose 0 - 10

Description: Establish a tag and fee to allow trappers to retain incidental catch.

Staff comments: No recommendation because the BOG doesn't have the authority to set fees.

Committee comments: Could be open to abuse by trappers targeting animals that are more valuable during a closed season for the species.