

Kodiak Fish & Game Advisory Committee February 13th 2013--- KNWRVC

(Julie Kavanaugh –acting Chair)

Auth: Frank/Mina
BoF Statewide
HC Comments

(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 public review by contacting the committee secretary)

Call to order: 7:00pm February 13th 2013 at the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center.

Roll call: Pat Holmes(for Andre Finke), Harvey Goodell(for Pete Hannah), Davey Jones(for Rolan Ruoss), Mitch Simeonoff(for Rick Berns), Oliver Holm, Don Fox, Julie Kavanaugh, Ron Kavanaugh, Jason Bunch, Kip Thomet(for a portion of the meeting) and Herman Squartsoff. A quorum was achieved with 11 members present.

Excused: Tuck Bonney, Lou Dochtermann, Curt Waters, Andre Finke, Pete Hannah, Rolan Ruoss, Rick Berns and Ronnie Lind.

Agency Staff; ADF&G- Geoff Spalanger, James Jackson, Jeff Wadle, Nick Salgalkin, Don Tracy and Tyler Pollum. USFWS-Matt Kees. Public Safety- Trooper Paul Fussey.

BOF: Board of Fish member Sue Jeffrey was there for the entire meeting.

Agenda: Approved unanimously.

Minutes of our February 5th 2013 meeting: Approved unanimously.

Correspondence: e-mail letter from KAC member Ruoss on the Department of Natural Resources rewrite of the Bristol Bay area Plan.

Chair Announcements: Julie Mathwayew gave a web address link to a survey for the FSMI.

Old Business: Pat Holmes had an update on Kodiak Area king and tanner crab subsistence pot regulations. He stated that the regulations passed by the BOF makes it difficult for subsistence users to fish for crab in their traditional ways. The RAC and KAC would be working with department staff on crafting new regulations to be submitted in the next board cycle.

New Business:

- 1) KAC member Holm said that he was filling the herring/salmon seat on the city/borough fisheries advisory committee and the KAC seat was vacant. Julie Kavanaugh was selected to fill the seat.
- 2) KAC will meet September 30th 2013 at 6pm at the new F&G building to discuss and take action on statewide cod proposals.
- 3) **Department Staff:** Wrap up of the 2012 herring season by Geoff Spalinger. James Jackson gave a presentation on the 2012 salmon season and projections for 2013.
- 4) **Statewide fin fish proposals:**
- 5) **Statewide sport fish proposals:**
- 6) Don Fox selected to attend the BOF meeting in Anchorage.

ADJOURN -11:00pm.

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Finfish proposals

Proposal #216

Action: 0-11 Oppose

Description: Require statewide adherence to salmon fishery management plans.

Committee comments: The KAC feels that adoption of this proposal could possibly circumvent the board and public process. Could open fishery management to public pressure. If we liberalize the commissioners powers the commissioner could possibly circumvent management plans in one area when escapement goals are not being met in another area that is under a different management plan.

Example: Kodiak experienced this scenario under an unnamed commissioner in the late 80's early 90's when the salmon fishing in the Shelikof Strait was shut down under intense pressure from Upper Cook Inlet fisherman to protect Cook Inlet bound sockeye stocks. The action was rescinded a week later but the damage to the Kodiak fishery had already been done. Through the **board process** a North Shelikof Strait Management Plan was adopted that set caps on sockeyes but still allowing for harvest of local stocks.. The management plan has been tweaked several times since **BUT ALL DONE THROUGH THE PUBLIC PROCESS.**

Proposal #218

Action: 0-11 Oppose

Description: Establish a sustained escapement threshold (SET) for stocks listed as yield or management concern.

Staff comments: Oppose.

Committee comments: Support staff comments.

Proposal #ACR243

Action: 0-11 Oppose

Description: Would add Pacific herring to the Forage Fish Management Plan.

Committee comments: Even though this is a BOF generated proposal committee members feel its being pushed by Sitka. There is an **exemption** for herring fisheries that could be removed or easily tinkered with. KAC members agree with Mr. Holm it should not be a statewide issue the proposal doesn't apply to many of the states herring fisheries. As written seems unnecessary and confusing. Herring fisheries should be evaluated on a region by region basis. There are many successful fully managed herring fisheries around the state.

Sport Fish Proposals

Proposal #215

Action: 0-11 Oppose

Description: Address allocations by percentages.

Committee comments: It shouldn't be a statewide issue.

Proposal #217

Action: 0-11 Oppose

Description: Mandate statewide priority for management of King Salmon.

Staff comments: Neutral on allocative aspects but **opposed** to conservation aspect. Would compromise the departments ability to maximize productivity of other species. Goals we have are best for Kodiak King Salmon stocks.

Committee comments: Agree with and support staff comments. Adoption for Kodiak could have dire consequences for other species an example would be over escapement of early sockeye bound for the Karluk River which has happened before several times. Fisherman could lose harvest opportunities for millions of returning pink salmon to achieve an optimum King Salmon escapement goal. The whole West Side Salmon Fishery could be sacrificed to achieve a minimum(minor) rise in King Salmon escapement.

Proposal #219

Action: 0-10 Oppose

Description: Define terms, including "maximum sustained yield", "optimum sustained yield", "sustained yield."

Committee comments: One committee characterized this as a stupid(dumb) proposal.

Proposal #226

Action: 10-0 Support

Description: Update regulations to accurately reflect changes to the Statewide Sport Shark Fishery Management Plan which allowed for an increase bag and possession limit of spiny dogfish shark and no annual limit requirement.

Staff comments: Housekeeping proposal which would standardize sport shark fishing regulations statewide.

Committee comments: Agree with and support staff comments.

Proposal #227

Action: 5-5 Fails on tie vote

Description: Would provide the department with EO authority to restrict sport proxy fishing.

Committee comments;

Proponents: Agreed with KAC member Mr. Holm that when runs come in weaker than expected adoption would let the department limit proxy fishing which is better than eliminating the whole fishery so that escapement goals may be achieved.

Opponents: Since you have to be 65yrs old or 70% disabled to have someone proxy fish for you it discriminates against some elderly people who have no other way to obtain fish.

Proposal #228

Action 10-0 Support

Description: Prohibit the practice of high grading by anglers.

Staff comments: Would reduce mortality on fish held for extended periods of time.

Committee comments: Agree with department staff that potential for mortality is too high if fish are held too long.

Proposal # 229

Action: 10-0 Support

Description: Specify harvest reporting requirements for additional sport fishing licenses and harvest records.

Staff comments: Department proposal aimed at loophole in regulations that allows for exceeding annual limits(for certain species). Would discourage practice of anglers getting a duplicate license to circumvent annual limits by requiring them to put all catch information on duplicate license.

Committee comments: Agree with and support staff comments.

Proposal #231

Action: 10-0 Support

Description: Define the term compensation.

Staff comments: Would establish definition of compensation other than food, fuel or bait.

Committee comments: Agree with staff comments and committee members felt it would make it easier for public safety to go after persons who are illegally guiding.

Proposal #232

Action: 10-0 Support

Description: Clarify use of sport caught fish as bait.

(Proposal #232-continued)

Staff comments: Housekeeping proposal which clarifies which parts of sport caught salmon you may use as bait. You can't use any sport caught fish with bag limits whole as bait.

Committee comments: Agree with and support staff comments.

Proposal #233

Action: 5-4-1 Support

Description: Create an exemption for the use of foot gear with felt soles for the disabled or handicapped fisherman.

Committee comments:

Proponents: Committee members felt that felt soles don't spread disease anymore than other shoes fishermen wear. They could be put into disinfectant before going to a different drainage.

Opponents: Agreed with KAC member Mr. Fox that allowing an exemption defeats the whole purpose of the regulation. It only takes one wader to introduce a invasive species that's coming from out of state or country.

Proposal #234

Action: 0-10 Oppose

Description: Ban use of lead weights in fresh and salt waters of Alaska in sport fisheries.

Committee comments: Not appropriate for statewide ban. May be better applied in certain heavily used waterways. If enacted should only be used for smaller sizes.

Proposal #235

Action: 0-10 Oppose

Description: Establish mandatory reporting system for sport fisheries statewide.

Staff comments: Already have a statewide reporting system for guided anglers. Unguided use a statewide survey. The department has creel and census data on specific drainages as funding allows.

Committee comments: Agree with staff comments and KAC members also felt it would put an unnecessary burden on the department and especially the angler on the water trying to fill out a report while fishing in inclement weather.

Don

I recently learned that during 2013 Ak. Dept. of Natural resources will be rewriting the Bristol Bay Area Plan that it revised and adopted in 2005 at the request of Gov. Murkowski. DNR is not undertaking this rewrite voluntarily, but as a result of a court challenge by Bristol Bay villages, commercial fishermen, and sport fishing groups.

Before the 2005 revision the Bristol Bay Area Plan classified the majority of State lands in the region as fish and wildlife habitat, a classification consistent with current and historical use. Under an Area Plan, multiple uses can coexist on State lands, if the uses are compatible. The previous BBAP recognized compatible historical uses by co-classifying lands for a variety of habitat, harvesting and recreation uses.

By its 2005 revision DNR reduced lands classified as fish and wildlife habitat by 94%, a monumental change. I haven't had time to research DNR's justification for this reduction, or if an explanation was offered. Notably, the 2005 revision made mineral exploration the only designated use on 80% of State lands in the region, a glaring bias in favor of allowing the development of the Pebble Project.

I propose that the Kodiak Advisory Committee coordinate with Bristol Bay Advisory Committee and the RAC to urge the Boards of Fish and Game to participate in this 2013 revision process to ensure that State agencies accurately classify land uses in the region.

DNR will be accepting public comment until early April and I encourage everyone to send letters. I will be back around March 15th and would be willing to write a letter for the KAC's endorsement.

Rolan Ruoss

*Requested this be included in Kodiak
Correspondence to the BOF Statewide
Comments for March 19-24 meeting.*

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