



King Cove Fish and Game Advisory Committee Meeting

Sunday, December 30 2012 at 10:00 AM

King Cove Harbor House

1.Call to Order

Chairman Grant Newton called meeting to order at 10:00 AM

2.Roll Call

Members Present: Grant Newton
Kenneth Mack
Edwin Bendixen
Bill Sager
Corey Wilson
Gary Mack
Warren Wilson

Members absent: Alvin Newman
Joe Hogan

Harbor Master and other interested members of the community were present.

3.New Business

A.Election-Floor was opened for nominations to fill 3 expired seats and one seat because of Joe Hogan resignation on the committee. Nominations were Kenneth Mack, Edwin Bendixen, Bill Sager, and Herman Samuelson. All nominations were unanimously confirmed.

B.Review of proposals before the Board of Fish at the Aleutian Peninsula (Area M) salmon meeting on February 26, 2013.

1Proposals 173-179 all deal with the Southeastern District Salmon Management in Area M. None of the committee members were familiar enough with the area to take any action on those proposals. A unanimous vote of no action.

2. Proposals 180-183 all seek to restrict the June fishery. The June fishery has a long history of harvesting mixed stocks of salmon migrating to all parts of the world. The local communities and fishermen have long counted on June's economic part for their survival. All of the past tagging and genetic studies and most recently the WASSIP study have shown once again a large percent of highly mixed migrating stocks. It has also shown a harvest rate of individual migrating stocks to not be high enough to be measured as a



conservation or management concern to those terminal stocks. In the past the board has used different restrictions in the June Fishery, and of those the later opening, shallow nets, and windows still remain. The fishermen have also recognized the chum concern and self regulated with chum pools and seiner stand downs. The lack of proposals from the Area M users to make changes in the June fishery is an indication that regulations since 2004 are working for us. We feel that any further restrictions in the June fishery would be allocative and that the restriction would hurt the June fishery far more than other fisheries would benefit.

3. Post-June Salmon Management proposals

184-support-Dept wishes to clarify regulation language-house keeping

185-support-management flexibility on immature salmon in Shumagins

186-no action-pink fishery in Stepovak Flats

187,188,189,190-amending fishing periods during July-Support fishing periods that start at 6:00 AM, most day light as possible, longer openings, fewer runs back and forth to port, designated periods all of July.

191-support-limit fishing periods in Bechevin Bay-Lack of escapement is possible with present plan.

192-oppose-ADFG change definition of closed waters of Christianson Lagoon-Concerned that the fishery will always be restricted to the outside beach, even if the exit channel is not diverted. ADFG is presently handling it with emergency order.

193-oppose-closed waters of Grub Gulch

194-No Action-distance between setnets in SEDM

195-support-allow drift gillnets in outer SW district July and August-This area is open in June. It is closer to King Cove and Sand Point which would save run time for short openings in July. It would allow more protection on some weather days.

196-oppose-allow monofilament gillnets-A can of worms.



4. Northern District Salmon Management proposals

197-oppose-change gear depth to 45 mesh-This would drastically reduce catch. It might cause over escapement in the Ilnik and Meshik Rivers. It would cost thousands of dollars to reduce the gear depth. Harvest rate data shows minimal impact on Nelson Lagoon stocks. The further away the north beach fishery is from the lagoon the less impact it would have.

198-oppose-no fishing north of Cape Seniavin after Aug 15-The coho catches north of Cape Seniavin are not of the magnitude to deplete the Nelson Lagoon run. The harvest of coho going to rivers north of Seniavin would be lost with no confirmed gain to the lagoon.

199-oppose-close north of Cape Seniavin before July 15-The harvest of Meshik and Ilnik runs would be forgone. The management would be difficult with pulse harvest. The further away the north beach fishery is from the lagoon the less impact it would have. Harvest rate data north of Seniavin shows minimal impact.

200-support-allow fishing in Cinder River section June 20-Cinder River sockeye escapement has been above the goal 10 of the last 11 years.

201,202-oppose-close Outer Port Heiden section-The Meshik River has been getting it's escapement which would indicate there are fish moving through the Inner Port Heiden section for the seven day a week subsistence fishery. Outer Port Heiden is open only 2 days a week and closed August 1 before the coho run peaks.

203-oppose-Changing boundaries and allow only Area T permits in new area of inner Port Heiden-The board should not create an Area T fishery in Area M. The Ugashik and Kvichak escapements have been healthy. There are management tools for addressing any escapement problems in the Ugashik. WASSIP does not show a harvest rate for any of the Bristol Bay rivers that could cause concern.

204-oppose-Allow Area T to fish Outer Port Heiden and super exclusive-The board should not create an area T fishery in Area M. Port Heiden has not had a commercial king or red fishery in many years. Area T can still fish Inner Port Heiden. There is no fishing allowed in Outer Port Heiden during



the coho run. The reason we fish Outer Port Heiden is to harvest the over escapement in the Meshik River.

205-oppose-create terminal areas around major rivers-The runs of the North Peninsula are small and dispersed over 100 miles of beach. The management has been successful since before statehood at allowing a slow and steady harvest and escapement of all the stocks in the area. This has been accomplished by spreading the fleet out and creating buffer zone around the rivers so the escapement can be more consistent and not pulse and run the chance of over escapement due to weather or a tide.

206, 207-oppose-mandated closures and area boundaries to conserve Nelson Lagoon sockeye and coho. There are already regulation closures in Outer Port Heiden. The Ilnik section is managed with the escapement in the Ilnik. Three Hills is managed by Bear River escapement. WASSIP shows no significant harvest rates of Nelson River sockeye in these areas. There is no fishing allowed in Outer Port Heiden for coho and the other two areas are managed by escapements for their respective rivers.

208,209-oppose-create terminal areas and reduce boundaries-The north peninsula has a long and successful history of being managed to protect the stocks throughout the area. The north peninsula's proximity to Bristol Bay has always included a degree of intercept. WASSIP showed small harvest rates of all Bristol Bay rivers. Kvichak sockeye are not a stock of concern.

5. Misc proposals

210,211-oppose-place holder for changes in June fishery/WASSIP-The WASSIP study indicates there are highly mixed migrating stocks in the June fishery. The harvest rates of individual stocks is minimal and not a conservation or management concern for those stocks. The mixture of stocks in June shows a lack of veins or pulses of a particular stock that could be over harvested. The June fishery has operated successfully under its present management plan within the parameters of past boards criteria. The present plan is working for all those involved in the fishery and accomplishing the goals of the plan.

212-oppose-restrict Sapsuk River king salmon fishery-The department has emergency order power to stop retention of kings as they did in 2012. This



proposal does not allow for a healthy king return and the possibility of conservative limits.

213,214-no action

C. Limited Entry consideration for state tanner crab and p-cod

Ken Mack felt that it was important for the communities of Area M to petition the CFEC for limited entry in the tanner and p-cod state fisheries. It was pointed out that the salmon fishery would be in a highly exploited state without limited entry. In today's fisheries the small quotas and ever increasing transient boats makes it tough to survive. Federal regulation in the p-cod fishery has hurt the majority of the small coastal community boats. The location of Area M is ideal for healthy stocks and competitive markets, but also located so as to be easily accessible for vessels fishing in the large Bering Sea fisheries. Ken made a motion to contact the CFEC and find out the necessary procedure to request limited entry for state tanner crab and p-cod. Motion passed

4. Adjournment-11:30 AM