

**Lower Bristol Bay AC Meeting
Minutes November 5, 2012 11:00 am
Teleconference/Face to Face in Port
Heiden, AK**

Roll Call:

Kim Rice

Eric Beeman

Hattie Albecker

Tim Enright

Roland Briggs

Myra Olsen

Meeting called to order at 11:20 am
by Susie Jenkins-Brito

Tom Bursch

Tracy Vrem

Bob Dreeszen

Mark Kosbruk

John Bragg

Mitch Seybert

Eddie Clark (called in around 12 pm)

Staff and Guests:

Susie Jenkins-Brito, ADF&G Support

Chuck McCallum, Lake and Peninsula
Borough Fisheries Advisor

Paul Salomone, ADF&G

Ted Krieg, ADF&G

Jason Dye, ADF&G

Joe Whitkop, F&W Troopers

Victoria Briggs, Ugashik resident

Frank Woods, BBNA

Gayla Woods, BBNA

Motion to Adopt Agenda By Hattie, 2nd By Myra Olsen

All in favor. 0 – opposed.

Motion to Table Minutes from Oct 31, 2012 meeting by Myra. 2nd by Roland.

All in favor. 0 – opposed.

Staff Reports:

Paul Salomone: Ugashik, Egegik Salmon season report. Paul plans to manage 2013 season similar to 2012 season if run develops in a similar manner. Ugashik was earlier than normal in 2012. Paul explain new MSY's put out by the Department but states these will have no real change in the management strategies. Mitch stated that he has noticed a larger number of late run sockeye when the Area M drift fleet is not able to fish in their Northern section areas. Mitch asked if the department noticed and had any concerns with late (July and early august) runs and the under managed smaller Ugashik system Sockeye stocks. (Ugashik Proper, Dog Salmon, & King Salmon Rivers) Paul stated that late run Sockeye are present in these river systems and management for these Sockeye is minimal. Paul said he did see good numbers of small Sockeye in late July and early August this year that he does not see normally, that are returning to many smaller systems of Dog Salmon and Ugashik Rivers. Paul stated that when managing Egegik and Ugashik escapements he tries to shuffle escapement and catch from year to year to get greater numbers of escapement at different times of the runs. He said that after the 26th of June with a large fleet fishing in the North Peninsula his management plan has fewer options for early fishing time for Ugashik .

Roland asked about OEG's being established, and had concerns with the new proposed escapement numbers. Roland wondered why the dept. would want more smolt being produced into poorer ocean conditions that are happening presently, and why tinker with the present Ugashik management plan that has a

very good track record. Paul explained that it is up to the Board to set OEG, Department will recommend for the MSY.

Mitch raises the Kvichak issue of different escapement methods and numbers that the department have tried over the last thirty years which seem to have had a negative effect on that system.

Ted Krieg: Gives Harvest data on Subsistence Salmon

Susie Jenkins-Brito: Brief introduction as the new SW Regional Coordinator.

Joe Whitkop: Salmon season overview of Troopers. it was noticed by the committee that the Fish and Wildlife Troopers are very creative and efficient with the limited resources they have to work with, however its obvious that they are stretched pretty thin at times with their workload in Bristol Bay and have almost zero enforcement in the Northern Area M salmon fisheries.

Jason Dye: Gives Sport Fish update understands that the lower economy has brought in lower numbers of sport effort. Discussions ranged from how management was seriously affected by the lack of funding for important data that is essential for true conservation management, about increased effort in certain areas that are possibly over targeting depressed stocks, and about allowing harvest without knowing anything about abundance, and ways to utilize local help to enhance the sports fish div. Bob Dreeszen states that for Sport Fish we need some Hard Data!

Nominations for Officers is Tabled until Port Heiden Village Seats are filled.

The nominations for interim officers are started. Eddie Clark will remain interim Vice – Chair, Tim Enright will remain interim Secretary.

Nominations for Interim Chairman:

Roland Briggs – Nom. By Eric Beeman, 2nd By Eddie Clark

Roland Declines Nomination.

Mitch Seybert – Nom. By Eddie Clark, 2nd By Eric Beeman

Myra Olsen – Nom. By Tim Enright, 2nd By John Bragg

Eddie moves to close Nominations, 2nd By Eric. All in Favor.

Roll Call Vote:

For Mitch: Roland, Eric, Hattie, Myra, Eddie, Tom, Mark (7)

For Myra: Tracy, Kim, Mitch, John, Bob, Tim (6)

Hattie moves to name Mitch Chair, Tim 2nd All in Favor.

Susie hands over control to Mitch who calls a 20 minute break at 12:40pm to reconvene at 1:00pm.

PROPOSAL 5-5ACC 65.020 Bag limits, possession limits and size limits for Coho in the Ugashik and Cinder Rivers salmon districts.

Motion made and seconded

Discussion: conservation concern for Coho in these systems is the main concern from user groups from this area. There has been a huge decline in Coho runs in this area for several years and not enough data available to safely justify the present large catch limits. Bob Dreezen and Tracy Vrem both expressed concern that if the Ugashik River drainages were to see a reduced size and bag limit for Coho when the Egegik and Cinder Rivers were not in alignment with these changes, it could lead to increased effort on the other systems.

Approved, all in favor.

PROPOSAL 16-5 ACC 06.331 Allow set gillnet gear to remain in place between fishing periods on consecutive tides.

Motion made and seconded.

Discussion: This proposal would allow fishing to occur on a closed period for a few fortunate fishers and to make it make less work for them. This proposal is unfair to all other fishers.

Failed, all opposed.

PROPOSAL 17-5 ACC 06.331. Gillnets spec. and operations.

Motion made and seconded

Discussion: This proposal is trying to address a loop hole that was created through a past board approved proposal from a different fishing district. Proper board process was not done for this allowed loop hole.

Approved, all in favor.

PROPOSAL 18-5 ACC 06331. Gillnet specs. and operations.

Motion made and seconded

Discussion: This proposal was made out of safety concerns from a new way of fishing in the Ugashik up river exclusive set net fishing area.

It was summited to address new fishing practices by one of our committee members from this fishing area, he states that he is able to navigate with no problems in this area and that present regs. Provide options that allow better opportunities for all fishers in this area. Tim, a life time resident of Ugashik and was around at the time of this section of development gave a firsthand account of how this area developed as a fishery in 1941. He stated that it was designed as a 25 fathom low impact fishery for fishermen wive's to support their families while their husbands were off at war. He said until a few years ago, all fishing has been done within fishing leases right on shore 400 ft. or less off the beach. He stated that to have nets and running lines that can go almost all the way across the river is a huge safety issue and this fishery was never created for these new practices.

In Response to Tim, Roland stated: The 11 setnet sites were not established until statehood when the fishing boundary was moved to Muddy Point. Before

that (during federal days drift fishing and setnet was allowed upriver in front of the village.)

Roland stated that current practices are NOT new, just unfamiliar to drifters who are on this board. It has been used extensively on the East side of the bay for 20 years; we have been refining bridle nets fishing in this area for 8 to 10 years.

The 25 fathoms portion is incorrect also as we have always, since '65, fished the full 50 fathoms.

Roland asked that the minutes reflect that when I requested of Hattie, one of the initial submitters of one proposal, that IF the safety issues, which she stated as the primary reason for submitting the proposal, were addressed would she withdraw it and she answered NO, she supported it as written. This is important as it questions the reasons behind the submitting it, which was a big discussion

Motion failed, 5 in favor and 5 against 3 abstained.

****Footnote offered by Roland on November 14, 2012:

During statehood Mr Matsuno and Mr Enright (Tim and Hattie's dad) petitioned Congress to get 11 sites in front of the village. It was granted. When my parents arrived in Ugashik village in 1965 they bought a site from the estate of Sasa Struck and Mr Matsuno family fished 5 sites Mr. Enright family fished 4 sites. I am not sure who fished the eleventh site in '65. The Matsuno and Enright families had about half their sites registered in their children names. So to say it was set up for wives of men off at war is totally incorrect.

PROPOSAL 19 -5 ACC O6331. Gillnet specs. and operations

Motion made and seconded

Discussion: After hearing the depts. comments of this proposal, and with all agreeing with them, that this proposal is a gear conflict reaction that reg's presently in use all ready address.

Motion failed, all against.

PROPOSAL 20-ACC 06331. Gillnet spec. and operations

Motion made and seconded

Discussion: Gear conflict, lack of public safety in this area is probably the reasons for this proposals, this proposal might go past legal board perimeters if adopted by the board. There are issues here that should be addressed but as written would harm the legal setnet fishery.

Motion failed, all against.

PROPOSAL 24 -5 ACC 06330. GEAR.

Discussion: We support the dept's comments on this proposal.

Motion failed, all against

PROPOSAL 25-5ACC 06330. Bristol Bay commercial Coho Salmon Troll Fishery.

Discussion: We support the dept.'s comments on this proposal.

Motion failed, all against.

PROPOSAL'S 32,33,34,35, -5 ACC 06.341

Motion made to combined as one for approval, seconded

Discussion: These proposals have been visit at every board cycle and debated without approval. These proposals would benefit very few well off fishers and burden the rest. Quality of the Bristol Bay pack is at an all-time high and improving every year and the fleet has no problems with not being able to harvest any abundant salmon with the 32 foot limit.

Motion failed, all against.

PROPOSAL'S 36,37,238 5ACC 06.333. Permit stacking.

Motion to adopt as one was made and seconded

Discussion: If approved and everyone had 2 drift permits it would eliminate half of the boats in the bay and might eliminate 9000 fathoms of drift gear. The economics for the boats left in the fishery would have a better chance considerably, however if changes are made with the two permit system now in place , would make it more difficult for new fishers to come into the fishery and could eliminate some crew positions.

Motion failed, 1 support, 12 opposed.

PROPOSAL 41 ,42 -5 ACC 06.331 gillnet spec's and operations.

Motion to adopt as one and seconded

Discussion: We support the current system in place because it makes it easier for new fishers to get in the fishery and helps people that have boat problems to keep being able to fish.

Motion failed, all opposed.

PROPOSAL 44 THRU 54 -5ACC Set net permit stacking

Motion to adopt as one and seconded

Discussion: The system in place has enhanced the setnet fishers that were having troubles before it was adopted, no sunset.

Motion passed, all support.

PROPOSAL 55 -5 ACC 06.331. Gillnet spec's and operations

Motion to adopt and seconded

Discussion: It was not the intent of the board to allow this when the dual permit system was adopted to allow what the proposal is asking for.

This will re allocate salmon and cause gear conflicts and make these set net sites too efficient

Motion fails no support

PROPOSAL 58,59,60,61, GENERAL DISTRICT.

Motion to adopt and seconded

Discussion: Our committee has never supported any general district. It is a mixed stock fishery that has potential to harvest stocks that could be weak or to harvest too much of the front end of runs that could cause escapement concerns.

Enforcement will have troubles trying to cover this big area. It is possible that other species might be harvested that would cause waste.

Motion failed no support.

PROPOSALS 63,64,65, ALLOCATION PLAN

Motion to adopt as one and seconded

Discussion: When this plan was adopted, all angles were truly discussed, average historical catch data were looked at and all agreed to by all participants. It would reallocate fish were they don't belong. The present plan has been working very well.

Motion fails, no support.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 3:10 pm.

All in favor