

# **Nushagak ADFG Advisory Committee Meeting**

November 20, 2012

Dillingham City Council Chambers

## **Minutes**

### **I. Call To Order: 8:50 AM**

### **II. Roll Call: Present in chambers**

Hans Nicholson – Chair

Frank (Woodsy) Woods – Dlg Vice-Chair

Dan Dunaway – Dlg Secretary

Glen (Skin) Wysoki – Koliganek

Lloyd (Tom) O'Connor – Dlg

Joe Wassily - Clark's Point

Curt Armstrong - Dlg.

#### **Attending by phone:**

Peter Christopher New Stuyahok

Jonathan Forsling – Togak

#### **Absent:**

Robin Samuelson – Dlg

Joe Chythlook – Dlg - traveling

Chris Carr – Portage Cr.

Louie Alakyak – Manokotak

\*\* George Taylor – Ekwok - unexcused

Quorum established.

### **IV. Approve Agenda:**

Approved by consensus.

### **V. Approve Minutes of November 1-2,2012 meeting:**

Joe W. . moved, Frank W. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Adopted by unanimous consent.

**VI. Introductions:** All people in attendance introduced themselves and who they represented. (See Sign-in sheet attached).

#### **ADFG Staff:**

Ted Krieg - Subsistence

Jason Dye - Sport Fish

Matt Jones- Com - Fish

Susie Brito - Boards

#### **Guests / Public**

Jerry Ball - fisherman DLG

Gayla Woods - BBNA Subsistence

### **VII. ADFG Staff Reports:**

Susie explained the AC packet contents and assured each member present had the handouts.

Asked for approval of minutes so they could be submitted to Board Support for possible inclusion in "The Book" for the Dec BOF meeting.

## VIII Overview of WASSIP

In response to several AC member comments saying they couldn't find the report, Susie said it was not yet released or posted and she wasn't sure why.

Someone said it might come out Wednesday Nov. 21.

Hans said he had attended a BBEDC sponsored meeting yesterday that had discussed preliminary data that is available. He outlined the study history and gave a brief discussion on Western AK chums. Generally preliminary data suggests that most Bristol Bay district fisheries are pretty "clean" as currently prosecuted except:

- \* ) the late Egegik red fishery may intercept some Ugashik fish and;

- \* ) the late Togiak red may intercept some Kuskokwim reds - but there are problems differentiating fish from these two places.

Overall, the study can't differentiate Western Alaskan chums to home stream very well.

The biggest concern is Area M where there is significant interception of Area T fish, possibly as high as 80%-90% in the Outer Port Heiden section and maybe other N. Pen. sections.

Dan D said he heard the presentation to the BOF October workshop and he understood the Ilnik of area M section may have 50% interception of Bay fish.

Several AC members very frustrated the WASSIP report, long promised to be available November 19, is not. At one time it was supposed to be ready long before now. We have no report to review today. We spent a lot of State money for this meeting and now we don't have the material to work with.

Frank W spoke about his participation in the BBEDC meeting yesterday summarizing that the current way the B Bay fisheries are run NOW is pretty clean among districts but there would have been more interception between Egegik and Kvichak under some of the older regulatory and management regimes.

Susie said as soon as she knew the WASSIP report was available she would try notifying all AC members. Some other Bristol Bay area ACs are planning meetings right during the BOF meeting.

Dan, we have the January meeting planned and we should have more time to digest WASSIP and address Area M.

## IX New Business:

### I. Board of Fish - Bristol Bay December 4-12, 2012 Proposal 57.

## Proposal 57

There was a discussion of this place-holder proposal and what to do with it.

ADFG says they have no plans to use it.

Concerns expressed for open-ended place-holders.

The AC does not want anything major "slipped" into the regulations under this.

More strong disappointment expressed for the failure to release the WASSIP study November 19.

**Tom O. Moved to take no action on 57. Dan 2nd.**

**No Action - Unanimous.**

## II. BOF - Subcommittee Overview of Proposals 74, 78, 79, 80.

### Proposal 74 Nushagak King Plan revised numbers.

Tim introduced. Place holder proposal until ADFG analysis could provide revised and updated numbers reflecting Didson equipment and new MSY analysis.

Tim reviewed history of the Nushagak King Plan.

ADFG says their recommended numbers are Net Neutral and designed to have no change to management.

Sands went through the Plan handout with the new numbers {new Didson number **bold underlined** and current [Bendix number to be replaced in brackets] listed below:

plan lines:

(b)(1) ..... **95,000** [75,000].....

(b)(1)(A) .....**55,000-120,000** [65,000].....

(c) .....**95,000** [75,000].....

(d) ..... **55,000** [40,000]..... **95,000** [75,000].....

(d)(2) .....**70,000** [55,000] but less than **95,000** [75,000].....

(d)(3) .....**70,000** [55,000]..... **55,000** [40,000].....

(e) .....**55,000** [40,000].....

Regarding potential subsistence restrictions allowed in the Plan, Sands said the AC could amend the plan to include the option of restricting the mesh size of subsistence nets to conserve kings if needed.

**Frank W Moved to adopt. Tom O. 2nd.**

Chair said he was in support of the Plan.

**Tom O. Moved to amend proposal 74 to include the ADFG recommended & revised numbers inserted into the Nushagak King Salmon Management Plan. Frank W. 2nd,**

Glen said he will support.

Frank supports after hearing ADFG's explanations during the Nov. 16 Sub Committee meeting. These new numbers and triggers should keep things simple instead of calculating for old Bendix equivalent numbers.

Hans said he had reviewed the recommended numbers and supported them.

**Vote on the amended language:**

**Support 8 Support, 1 Oppose.**

**Vote on Proposal 74 as amended.**

**Support 8 Support, 1 Oppose.**

Proposal 78 Wood R. Special Harvest Area Plan, revised numbers.

Sands introduced the and explained the WRSOA plan purpose and history. 1) protect Nushagak Red run, 2) Harvest excess Wood R. escapements in big runs.

Revision in part addresses the changes brought on by the new Nushagak Didson sonar. In addition ADFG re-evaluated and revised the sockeye escapement goal for the Nushagak River. About 35,000 of changed numbers is from the Didson equipment and remainders is from the ADFG revised MSY evaluation. He also explained how the OEG works when the preseason Nushagak red return is forecast less than 1 million fish. That portion of the new numbers affected by the new Didson sonar was calculated to be Net Neutral for no effect on management.

ADFG recommends the following numbers in **Bold**:

Nushagak River Reds Esc Goal **400,000** [340,000]

Nushagak R. Reds OEG **275,000** [235,000]

There was an extended discussion among AC members regarding the OEG, how ADFG used genetics to evaluate to revise the MSY and escapement goal.

Also discussed how new goals might affect implementing the WRSOA. The new numbers might put the fishery into WRSOA more often.

Several AC members were ok with the revisions made for the Didson sonar.

They are NOT ok with the use of genetics and revised brood tables.

Many objections to the new ADFG numbers because:

- \* ) many fishers don't like fishing the WRSOA and fear new numbers could make that happen more often.

- \* ) when the WRSOA is implemented many set netters can't / won't go there

- \* ) when the Ekuk beach closes it stops fish supply for one processor threatening its viability, threatens market for over 90 set net permits.

- \* ) some fishers think ADFG's numbers push the run / fishery into a shorter & shorter total time period. Concerned the revised numbers make things worse.

- \* ) object to the extra 22K fish included in the revision - significant to fishers income.

- \* ) some feel the spawner- recruit data doesn't support the new ADFG numbers
- \* ) boats & fishery in WRSOA may be bad for smolts coming out of Wood R.
- \* ) big escapements of 2006-07 appeared to produce poor return in 2012

Sands reminded AC that in 2006 ADFG efforts to revise Esc. Goals based on new MSY was halted outside the board process.

Several AC members spoke of only supporting only the changes related to the Didson sonar.

Dan supports ADFG numbers because: They are designed to provide MSY short and long term and are best for the fishery long term. We demand ADFG do good biology but then we don't let them. If we continue to reject their best efforts for two board cycles now, we might drive this run in the ditch.

Some want to raise the 1 million fish forecast OEG trigger - a discussion of how high ensued: 1.1, 1.2, 1.25, 1.3 all considered; 1.2 chosen.

A slightly higher trigger for the OEG should help minimize going into the WRSOA.

**Frank W. moved to adopt 78, Glen 2nd.**

Chair asked if there was a consensus amend to Didson correction only, Dan said no. Discussion on what numbers to put in an amendment.

**Frank W. moved and Glen 2nd: amend 78 to reflect only the Didson correction to current goals and to read as follows:**

- \* ) replace old Nushagak goal of 340,000 reds to 380,000 ( 1.11 x 340,000)
- \* ) replace the old OEG from 235,000 reds to 260,000
- \* ) and raise the 1 million OEG trigger to 1.2 million

**Support Amendment: 6 Support 3 Opposed.**

**Support 78 as amended: 6 Support 3 Opposed.**

Proposal 79 WRSOA - separate gear types.

**Frank W moved to adopt, Joe W. 2nd.**

ADFG concerned problem isn't clear and solution is too vague, complicates situation.

Extended discussion about purpose of the proposal, what problem it solves.

Concern is congestion/ competition within and among gear groups.

A few set netters monopolize the few prime sites; need a way to share those sites.

Wide variety of ways to address it were considered.

State won't do site lottery. DNR or ADFG. AC has lots of frustration for this position.

After a discussion AC rejects the idea of making an upper and lower section and allowing each gear group to fish 2 tides in upper or lower then switching:

- \*not enough room for drifters to operate in suggested sections no matter where divided.

- \*a set netter could camp out on a prime location in lower section, skip any openers in the upper section, and thus monopolize the site for the season - so no sharing opportunity.

- \* upper section too small for tenders to access, could be problems delivering fish.

Naknek River Special Harvest Area system (3:1) not likely to work in WRSOA, wouldn't stop the fish.

ADFG concerned that rotating gears, esp if set net only, not enough fish will be caught to stop excess escapement, or any gear rotation scheme suggested.

ADFG asks whatever AC recommends, give thorough clear guidelines on every detail.

**Key point:** ADFG can ALREADY open by gear type under the WRSOA plan.

## **Oppose Proposal 79     3 Support, 6 Opposed.**

### **Proposal 80   Separate drift and set fishing periods in WRSOA**

Tim introduced, much the same as 79. ADFG requests the real problem be identified.

There was a discussion of short, even 3 hour openers, for separate gear groups.

ADFG is willing to conduct that experiment as long as fleet understands it would be an experiment and AC needs to provide complete and detailed guidance, tide stage, who gets higher high tide and when, It could tie ADFG's hands, they need flexibility.

General agreement that it was the same problems as for 79 and we should take no action.

**No Action   By consensus.**

## **X. Other Business:**

AC representation at December BOF in Naknek: Chairman Hans Nicholson.

Announcement that there is local funding for some people who want to attend.

Other AC chairs will be attending, most plan to stay for full meeting.

## **XI. Date of Next Meeting**

Topics for next meeting:

Area M proposals

## Moose Management Plan

### Board of Game Proposals

ADFG Wildlife available the week of January 7 prefer Jan 7 or 8.

Chair will try to arrange meeting for one of those days if at all possible.

## XII. Announcements:

Chairman Hans Nicholson announced that he will step down as chair and member of the Nushagak AC on December 31, 2012. He has served on the AC for about 20-21 years. He is proud of the respect the Nushagak AC has maintained with the Board of Fish, Board of Game, other agencies and the public. He thanked the other members, staff, and Federal agencies for their cooperation, hard work and support.

Several AC members thanks Hans for his hard work and leadership.

## XIII. Adjourn

Joe Wassily moved, Frank W. 2nd. Approved Unanimous

1:42 PM November 20, 2012