

Nushagak ADFG Advisory Committee Meeting

November 1 & 2, 2012

Dillingham City Council Chambers

Minutes

I. Call To Order: 9:09 AM

II. Roll Call: Present in chambers

Hans Nicholson – Chair

Frank (Woodsy) Woods – Dlg Vice-Chair

Dan Dunaway – Dlg Secretary

Robin Samuelson – Dlg

Chris Carr – Portage Cr.

Jonathan Forsling – Togak

Glen (Skin) Wysoki – Koliganek

Peter Christopher New Stuyahok

Joe Chythlook – Dlg

Louie Alakyak – Manokotak-

Joe Kazimirowicz – Ekwok

Attending by phone:

Lloyd (Tom) O'Connor – Dlg

Joe Wassily - Clark's Point – joined meeting at 1:03 PM

III. Seat Village Representatives

Joe C moved, Frank W 2nd to seat Village Reps. Adopted by unanimous consent.

IV. Approve Agenda:

Joe C move, Frank W 2nd to adopt agenda. Chair suggests altering agenda to skip Area M proposals for another meeting after Nov. 19 when the WASSIP results are available.

Adopted as amended by unanimous consent.

V. Approve Minutes of March 20 meeting:

Robin S. moved, Jon F 2nd. Adopted by unanimous consent.

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

Chair introduced & welcomed Susan Jenkins-Brito, the new ADFG Board Support Coordinator for SW Alaska Region. Susan outlined her background and experience with ADFG, and current activities related to her Board Support position. She also pointed out that all Board Support positions are currently filled after some extensive vacancies. Several AC members expressed relief and approval that Boards is fully staffed. There were observations that Ms Brito seems to have hit the ground running and has already shown a lot of productive effort and public support.

VII. ADFG Staff Reports:

Commercial Fish

Area Commercial Biologist Tim Sands presented his report on **Togiak Herring**: Main points were: 16 seiners, 18 gillnetters. At some point the gillnetters plugged their tenders. There was a lot of bad weather. The seiners were shut down for 1.5 days to help get the harvest allocations balanced with the gillnetters. ADFG closed seine fleet May 22 because processors stopped gillnetters – and to balance allocation. ADFG never restricted harvest by gear type after May 23 as no processors were plugged or stopped by 1 gear type. By the end of the season seiners had harvested 86.6% of their quota, gillnetters 63.67 % of that quota. Word is the price was better than expected and final value may be about \$4 million. For 2013 ADFG forecasts there will be 30,000 tons available for harvest. There were a number of comments and questions on how ADFG managed the for the allocation, how the forecast is developed, expected actual 2013 harvest. Tim outlined past and present herring management budget – explained that as value of harvest has declined, so had mgt budget.

Salmon: Nushagak red return since 1988 and lowest escapement since 1977. Using the Wood River Special Harvest Area (WRSHA) allow more harvest while achieving the minimum escapement goal . Age composition of the return was discussed as well as various forecasting models.

Nushagak Kings: Planned to fish only if escapement info allowed, no directed king openings and waited for red openers until 100K reds escaped into the Wood R. Unusual early Wood R. red run and few early commercial openings resulted in achieving the Nushagak R king esc. goal by the end of July – a rarity for king stocks across Alaska.

Sands related day-by-day Wood R red escapement and management decisions starting June 25 onward. Escapement was unusually low. Regulations direct when to open for set-nets and they can serve as a test fishery. ADFG decided to go for the low end of the escapement goal to balance some of the huge escapement of previous years and for economic benefits to fleet. The slow escapement caused Sands to have short openings. At the end of the season drift netters produced 67% of the catch, below allocation. Frequently the drift fleet had slightly exceeded its allocation – this year the situation was reversed.

Pink Fishery: Effort was strong catch was about 960K pinks caught and escapement was large; 100,000 coho caught and estimated 300,000 escaped into the Nushagak R. The general program of openings was discussed. Fishing time had to be restricted to protect coho escapement. The sonar ran into August allowing management decisions and escapement estimates. With the very cold spring of 2012 ADFG is uncertain what to expect for the 2014-15 returns. A federal survey of juvenile salmon in the Bering Sea in 2009 found low numbers.

There was a Q&A and comments. Sands discussed some juvenile king feeding research, how recent wet summers might affect juv salmon. One comment that the short openings were hard on the drift fleet. Peter Christopher observed that in the 50's & 60's there was lots more snow in the area, lots of high water and there weren't problems with salmon

back then. Concerns were expressed about Bering Sea trawl by-catch. There was a question if any studies have been done on under-ice predation on juvenile salmon and wondered at the large number of large Dolly Varden caught during the salmon fishery.

There was a discussion on the tide stage at the start of openings, especially in the WRSHA. Sands offered that catches this year might have been reduced in the WRSHA as the low numbers running had most fish close to the banks and not scattered all across the river as in some past seasons. Sands emphasized several times that in the last 10 years the Nushagak fishery has experienced some of the highest returns ever recorded and that a more historically "normal" run would seem poor by comparison; "we can't expect to have a 7 million harvest every season".

Another comment was that of wide variety of regulations to the fishery over the years, the recent gear allocation might be the most significant and have a significant impact; the AC should take action on this aspect.

There was a question as to how there was such a large coho escapement. Sands explained that he had 12 hour openers as that was what he understood the processors could manage, that the openers were targeting pinks, the processors wanted pinks not coho and were encouraging fishers to use smaller mesh pink nets. Then the processors left by Aug. 8 while the sonar counter continued until August 15 or so – counting more fish.

Sands pointed out that the gear allocation plan is a real help to him, allows him to have a few openings that can be expected to be of low impact. Without the allocation plan he couldn't open one gear type at a time and it would make the district much harder to manage.

12:00 Noon Lunch Break.

1:03 Meeting resumed. Joe Wassily, rep for Clarks Point joins by teleconference. More salmon fishery discussion.

There was a question about the ADFG's revisions to the king and red escapement goals in Bristol Bay. Sands explained that in the case of sockeye, the Dept had analyzed their historic collections of scale samples genetically and had used the data to revise their brood tables and hence their escapement goals. Generally the central point of the goals didn't change much but the lower and upper ends tended to move, some stocks more than others and frequently the upper escapement goal went up quite a bit. In the case of Nushagak kings, the escapement counts are now done with a Didson sonar that counts differently and more fish (but not all) and is set up to count a larger portion of the river's width – but not all of it. So old Nush. King Esc. goals were converted from Bendix numbers to Didson numbers after running the two systems side by side to develop a conversion model. ADFG feels Didson counts better but not all fish, just a higher proportion of them, especially kings that are thought in some cases to swim along the bottom in the middle of the river. The Bendix machines are now "dead" gone and no longer useable. Sands said to get the very best assessment of the Didson's effectiveness requires a huge expensive mark recapture study with weirs on main tributaries and a lot of personnel etc.

Sands explained that ADFG is required to review their escapement goals every 3 yrs to meet the directive of determining "what number of spawners is needed to produce the maximum sustainable harvest". He said he had just received the table of revised and update escapement goals.

A discussion of the meaning of BEG - Biological Escapement Goal vs SEG- Sustainable Escapement Goal. Sands says it is difficult to set a BEG where there is a mixed stock harvest.

Robin S said these new numbers means we'll have to fix the trigger numbers in the Nushagak Chinook Salmon Mgt Plan. Sands indicated a place-holder proposal had been submitted by ADFG [74]. Sands added his concern, that as written, the "king plan" might require closures to subsistence users yet the commercial fishery could remain open. He inquired if a adding the option for a mesh restriction to the subsistence fishery would be an acceptable approach.

There was a discussion on the meaning of OEG- Optimum Escapement Goal and how it can be used.

Sands discussed counting towers vs sonar counters and why ADFDG doesn't put sonars into the Wood, Igushik and Togiak Rivers. The towers work well. When sonar was tried on the lower reaches of the Togiak there were apportionment problems and other difficulties.

Robin S said he wanted to make a motion on the proposed new escapement goals.

MOTION

Robin Samuelson moved that under sockeye salmon management, the AC oppose ADFG's new escapement goals for the Igushik, Wood, Nushagak rivers. Frank Woods 2nd.

In discussion there were numerous complaints of the lateness of ADFG's suggested new goals. Robin expressed concern for the apparent significant changes to the escapement goals. He thinks ADFG should vet the information more completely, that other AC's have expressed their concerns even opposition, and therefore he is opposed to the Departments new goals. We should go for OEGs instead. Kurt A asked who sets OEGs. Sands: BOF. Other comments: these new goals could really hurt fishermen in these recent poorer season. We don't believe putting more fish up the rivers will help. ADGS needs to take more time and do more analysis. Robin Samuelson requested a letter from ADFG explaining the process for the new goals. We need more time and would like more input.

Sands regretted not having more information to explain the new goals but said a large committee, possibly including fisheries scientists from the Univ. Washington participated, reviewed data and conclusions. It wasn't done lightly.

Someone commented we get micromanaged while Area M doesn't have to meet the standards anywhere near those imposed on Bristol Bay fisheries.

Adopted unanimous.

Troopers FWP

Due his flight schedule Trooper Scott Quist was invited to give his report before the remaining ADFG staff.

Trooper Scott Quist, now based in King Salmon presented some information on the FWP activities and wanted to speak to 4 proposals.

The 2012 summer fisheries enforcement program was very similar to the previous several years. FWP continues to work to have crew and equipment positioned at key points and times throughout the season. There were 18 troopers and 11 civilian workers deployed for a total of slightly less than 10,000 man-hours of work. Patrol vessels Stimson and Woldstad were used. A total of 4,800 contacts were made, 280 warnings issued, 218 citations issued, 615 vessel boardings of which 106 were in the Nushagak District. FWP vessels also coordinated with the Coast Guard for courtesy checks and inspections.

Quist said there were no significant or out-of-the ordinary issues found. Common violations were boundary violations, especially on the Johnson Hill line and the south boundary of the Nushagak.

To a question of measuring nets Quist explained that he was aware of rumors of nets of illegal depths, that they measure net depth at midpoints as well as at the ends and so far haven't found any violations despite ongoing rumors.

Sport & Subsistence Fishing Enforcement: FWP personnel assigned to sport fishing enforcement made 1,700 sport contacts, issued 65 warnings and 45 citations. Though a person in attendance expressed concern that enforcement cited a subsistence user, Mr. Quist was unfamiliar with the situation and was unaware of any other enforcement issues related to subsistence fishing.

FWP comments on Proposal 23 cork marking: FWP Opposes 23 as it could be too easy to remove 1 or 2 corks at the ends of nets and leave a "ghost net" to fish. FWP worked hard to get the current marking rule, believes its a good one and hope it stays in place.

A fisher asked Quist about discretion officers have regarding enforcement of net lighting, boundary line, and definition of drift net fishing regulations. Complained that in the WRSHA fishery, a drift boat was clearly fishing for an extended time while grounded and that officers present seemed to ignore the situation. A trooper reprimanded a fisherman for a net light that wasn't shining due to conditions insufficient to activate the on switch - though it was shown the light was functioning and would activate once it was dark enough. Quist said he was unaware of the situation and would look into it.

FWP comments on Proposal 31 dual set / drift boat markings: Quist explained if a boat is used for set netting, FWP really needs it to be marked with the set net permit number and marks must clearly identify the permit used, as well a properly marked for drift fishing. This is an occasional problem for some B Bay boats that are also used for drift fishing.

FWP comments on Proposals 32-35 Vessel length & refrigeration: Quist said FWP saw serious enforcement problems if its related to the equipment onboard. Equipment may or may not work or be used, would require boarding to know the situation.

FWP comments on Proposals 58-61 General District: FWP has concerns how boundaries might be drawn and if adopted hopes boundaries are straight easy to identify, not curved. It should be easy to comply and enforce.

Trooper Quist departed the meeting shortly after giving his presentation.

ADFG Commercial Fisheries Staff Reports Continued:

Matt Jones, Nushagak / Togiak assistant area biologist: Togiak Salmon 2012. For much of the season the water was high but did not affect tower counts. Total Togiak run was 10% above forecast of 750,000 for a count of 829,000 sockeye. Harvest was 626,000 above the 20 yr average of about 500,000. There was an increase in drift effort compared to recent seasons. About 203,000 sockeye were counted at the tower, slightly above the escapement goal. The king harvest was 4,600 fish, well below the 20 yr avg of 8,500 and the 2012 coho take was 13,000 fish. Catch Per Unit Effort for coho was good. A total of 72 drift permits participated in the Togiak salmon fishery. The set net permit count wasn't available. Mr. Jones pointed out that at the last BOF meeting there was a proposal to terminate the Super Exclusive status of the Togiak fishery but that it was not adopted.

There was a question regarding the status of Kulukuk kings. Com. Fish staff pointed out they have concerns and therefore don't open the area commercially. Sport Fish biologist Dye said guide log book data shows an estimated 204 angler days in the drainage, and a total sport harvest of 8 kings. Dye also said that the Kulukuk sport fishery is not big enough to produce useful data in the Statewide Sport Fishing Harvest Survey.

Bristol Bay Sport Fisheries presentation, Area Biologist Jason Dye:

Mr. Dye handed out a graph of the Nushagak king and coho sport management for the seasons 2010 through 2012 as well as copies of the Nushagak River Management Plans for chinook and coho salmon. Dye provided a briefing on the management actions taken in the sport fishery for the 2012 king season. June 28 the seasonal and daily bag limits were reduced due to low sonar counts. Statewide low returns of king salmon added to the Dept.'s cautious management on the Nushagak R. By July 2 escapement improved and the seasonal bag limit was restored to 4 kings; on July 7 the daily limit was restored to the normal 2 over 28 inches. The 2012 sonar count was 107,786 kings, and rough estimate of total run is about 136,000 kings (Bendix equivalent), the biggest total run since 2006. The very slow sockeye escapement into the Wood R. and cautious management of the commercial fishery appears to have greatly aided the strong escapement of Nushagak chinook – one of the very few good 2012 king runs statewide.

A sport fishing guide expressed frustration that ADFG Sport Fish cannot issue Emergency Orders during a weekend. Weekend clients coming from Anchorage are a key to his business and he wished the restoration of bag limits could have been done more quickly and as soon as the sonar counts were available. He went on to say that 4 days in the peak period of the Nushagak king run can make all the difference to his business.

To a question on sport catch (fish released + kept) and harvest (fish kept) of Nushagak kings, Dye said the 2012 data won't be available until spring 2013 but recent historic catch averages 35,000 to 40,000 kings and harvest has been about 6,000 kings killed. Dye said based on a Kenai River study the mortality on kings released by sport anglers might be around 3,000 fish.

At this, Dye explained that during the October 2012 Board of Fish workshop, the board decided to submit a proposal to restrict the Nushagak king fishery to single hooks and prohibit use of bait from May 1 to July 31.

At the time of this discussion the full text of the proposal was not yet available from the State. Ms Brito said she'd been told the proposal was supposed to be on the ADFFG website by November 4.

Some in attendance expressed disappointment at the short notice and unavailability of the Board generated proposal.

Dye then mentioned that ADFG Sport and Commercial divisions are working together on a study to assess the number of kings not counted by the new Didson sonar. The new sonar does not cover the entire width of the river / river bottom.

Motion: Chris Carr moved, Jon Forsling 2nd : to oppose the new numbers recommended by ADFG in their process to update the SEGS for Nushagak River chinook, chum, coho and pink salmon. **Motion carried unanimous.**

ADFG Bristol Bay Subsistence presentation. Ted Kreig:

Ted said his office is working on collecting and summarizing the 2012 season subsistence data and that it isn't done yet, please send or call in your salmon information asap. He encourages people to provide the most accurate information possible, date, location catch and species. Sarah Evans continues work on the Togiak subsistence spawn on kelp study and hope to have the report read by the December BOF meeting.

USFWS Togiak Refuge, Andy Aderman wildlife biologist.

This presentation was taken at this time to allow biologists to resume field work. Andy discussed the Nushagak Peninsula caribou herd: The herd seems in good shape, 86 animals taken during the 2011-12 hunt, 2 in the fall remainder in late winter, 3rd highest harvest since hunting began, 120 permits issued, Togiak took 15; population estimated to be 859 in fall of 2011.

So far in 2012-13 season, 902 animals counted, 30 hunt permits were designated for this fall, 26 were issued 9 animals killed so far. The refuge expects to issue more permits this year than last as the herd goal is 750 animals. The unused permits issued this fall are good thru the spring 2013 portion of this season. The fall hunt runs August- September and the winter spring hunt runs from November thru March – essentially the “old season dates”.

There was a short discussion of the Kilbuk caribou, that they use the northerly portions of the Togiak Refuge but aren't known to mix with the transplanted animals that make up the Nushagak Peninsula herd.

ADFG Board Support presentation Susan [Susie] Jenkins-Brito:

Susie spoke a little of her background, is now the Board Support Coordinator for SW Alaska, all Board Support positions are filled statewide for the first time in a while.

Brito apologized that she hadn't sent out previous meeting minutes or packets to all AC members as she was missing addresses, phone numbers, email address and even names of who sat on the committee from some communities. During the vacancy of her position, and the Bethel position, a lot had been lost or changed. She has attended training, dug thru local and Juneau files and consulted with people previously filling the position to reconstruct membership lists, term expirations etc. Its been a big job and she thanked all who have helped her.

Several AC members thanked her for her hard work, acknowledged that they were aware of her extensive activities during the short time she has been on board. AC members also expressed their approval and relief that Board Support is fully staffed, especially in time for the important coming Board meetings.

Brito went on to remind all present that written comments for the December Bristol Bay BOF meeting are due in Juneau or her Dillingham office November 19 to be published in the "BOF BOOK". She said that written comments can be submitted right up to when the Board addresses a proposal but they won't be published in The Book. Brito said all BOF members will be issued iPads for this coming meeting to assist them in their work.

WASSIP: Brito: the complete WASSIP genetic salmon study is supposed to be released Nov 19. A place-holder proposal has been inserted into the proposal books to allow the information to be used in regulations formation. While WASSIP will be discussed in the Bristol Bay meeting, it is expected that most of the data, discussion and actions will be done during the Area M portion of the BOF meeting.

OTHER AGENCIES

BBNA – Bristol Bay Native Association: No formal presentation. The various BB groups are planning to send a group of people to the Board of Fish meeting in Naknek i early Dec. Contact BBEDC office if you want to go.

Choggiung Ltd: Rick Tennyson Chog. Land manager attended the meeting as their representative but had no report.

USFWS Togiak National Wildlife Refuge: Superintendent Paul Leidberg announced that he planned to retire in a couple months and thanked the AC for working with Refuge staff on various issues. He announced that his assistant, Tevis Underwood would be acting head

while a new person is recruited for the top spot. Several present expressed their appreciation of how Leidberg had worked with local communities and other agencies in a congenial and constructive manner.

Federal Subsistence, Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council report, Dan Dunaway:

Dunaway sits on the BBRAC as well as Nushagak AC. He discussed the RAC actions at their October 24-25 meeting: Reviewed and approved the current the Tribal Consultation policy document; voted to approve FP13-12 Chignik subsistence methods and means and FP13-13 approved, opening some currently closed areas in Chignik for subsistence after extensive and somewhat contentious discussion between the 2 reps from the Chignik area; Review and approved the draft MOU between the Federal and State governments for subsistence, reviewed RAC charter, received agency reports, welcomed attendance and comments from FSB chair Tim Towarak, encouraged members and audience to bring up potential fisheries studies for federal funding.

AC member Frank Woods mentioned that it would be nice to get a joint AC(s) / RAC(s) meeting to discuss and coordinate caribou season where the range of the herd covers a wide area. It might be easier to keep regulations consistent for large areas.

3:30 PM Brief break

PROPOSAL REVIEW AND DISCUSSIONS, BOF Proposal book 2012/2013

Proposal 1 Allow for a weekend subsistence schedule in the Nushagak District:

Robin S move Chris C 2nd.

Many locals have M-F 8-5 jobs. The current 3 day per week schedule from July 2-17 is a burden as there is no full weekend day open. Its very hard for people to tend their gear under the schedule, especially with the tide cycles. Current three day per week schedule is 9AM Mon- 9 AM Tues, 9AM Wed-9AM Thurs, and 9AM Fri-9AM Sat. This proposal seeks only to change the Fri-Sat period to 9AM Saturday to 9 AM Sunday. NO change to gear length.

Support Unanimous.

Proposal 2 Special Provisions, seasons, bag, possession, size limits, methods and means in Bristol Bay. Enlarge nonretention and no bait area for rainbow trout in upper Nushagak drainage.

Robin S move Joe C. 2nd.

Current regulations in Nushagak R. upstream of Harris Cr were to address concerns for rainbow trout where a new guide operations had significantly increased effort catch and harvest in the area. But above the area, regulations were left liberal for the few locals who used the area. One attendee reminded the AC that the special rainbow trout regulations Bay-wide had been done using criteria set out in the Bristol Bay Rainbow Trout Management Plan. Concerns remain for upriver villagers who might want to harvest a fish

or two while in the area of the proposal. There was some discussion of amending the proposal but none motions.

Opposed Unanimous

Proposal 3 Special Provisions, seasons, bag, possession, size limits, methods and means in Bristol Bay. Require barbless hooks in unbaited single hook, artificial fly waters... .

Frank W move Robin S 2nd

Sport Fish, Dye, pointed out there is only one such designated water in the Nushagak AC area – the Agulupak River. When asked what ADFG’s position is on barbless hooks, Dye explained analysis shows limited to no biological advantage to barbless hooks while enforcement can be problematic.

Opposed Unanimous

Proposal 4 Methods and means in general provisions- Finfish. Prohibit putting fish parts in water where use of bait is prohibited...

Frank W move Glen W. 2nd.

ADFG Dye, said this may be more of an issue on the east side of Bristol Bay and addresses what is known as chumming and thought it mainly pertained to throwing out salmon eggs. Places like Igiugig, Alagnak or Naknek rivers. Dunaway said he wondered if it would be enforceable. What if a kid is fishing downstream of a cleaning table, or if one angler unknowingly is fishing below someone cleaning fish? How far below a subsistence cleaning table would it be illegal to fish under this regulation? ADFG Brito said that at another AC meeting Troopers suggested enforcement could be difficult.

Opposed Unanimous

Proposal 5 Robin S. suggested no action as not addressing Nush AC area.

No Action

Proposal 6 Special provisions, seasons, bag, possession, size limits, methods and means in Bristol Bay. Clarify king salmon bag limit in waters from Cape Constantine and C. Newenham.

Robin S move Joe C. 2nd.

ADFG Dye explained that this addressed an oversight in the current Codefied regulations from when they removed the regulation matrix and to match the original intent of the BOF actions; Props 7&8 also address this issue but 6 covers the waters more completely. Frank W. said he’d support if bag limit for Togiak was reduced to 1. Jon Forsling from Togiak said the Togiak AC took no action on 6&7 and amended #8 to add all waters described in this proposal. Consensus was that Prop 6 is mainly House Keeping but could follow Togiak’s lead.

Opposed Unanimous

Proposal 7 No Action see Prop 6 and 8

Proposal 8 Special provisions, seasons, bag, possession, size limits, methods and means in Bristol Bay. Reduce king salmon bag limit in the Togiak and Kulukuk rivers ...

Frank W move Robin S 2nd.

Amendment Jonathan F. moved, Frank W 2nd: amend to add all waters described in Proposal 6. **Amendment Supported Unanimously**

See discussion in Prop 6. And

Dunaway asked what sport king catch and harvest and king escapement is for this area. Dye, very low esp Kulukuk. Togiak average of 956 sport harvest, with a sport catch of 6,762. Dye noted sport effort has been declining. Com. Fish, Matt said the Togiak king escapement has not been strong and is a source of concern. Subsistence users of Togiak concerned about all non subsistence take of kings.

Final Support Unanimous as amended.

Proposal 9 Special provisions, seasons, bag, possession, size limits, methods and means in Bristol Bay. Limit guide access to rivers....

Frank W move Robin S 2nd.

Dan D. said proposer needs a better more thought-out proposal before trying to apply for the whole of Bristol Bay and needed to be more clear if he only meant for the Naknek R. Chris C. this limits up-and-coming guide opportunities tho it might help local nonguided anglers. Reminded meeting of the balloon effect. Hans agreed with Chris. Peter C. said he wanted to show support for Naknek locals who are concerned for their king stocks. Frank W said the whole fish guiding industry is getting more restricted and displaced and he supports Chris Carr's concerns.

Oppose Unanimous .

BOF Proposal [finally listed as 239] Special provisions, seasons, bag, possession, size limits, methods and means in Bristol Bay. Limit sport and guided sport fishing for king salmon in the Nushagak R. drainage excluding the Wood R to unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures from May 1 - July 31.....

Before there was any motion, there was a long spirited discussion . Chris Carr (Nushagak fishing guide and boat rentals, services) was quick to object to the bait restriction but might support the hook restriction. Locals use bait. Prohibition of bait would eliminate any sort of scent.

ADFG was uncertain whether single hooks would significantly affect mortality rates but might reduce handling / release injuries.

Rick Tennyson said he would be supportive of the hook restrictions but not the bait prohibition.

Joe C said we could make a motion to support Chris C.'s position. Chris Carr 2nd.

Robert H. asked if there was any data on the efficiency of bait, bait + single hook vs bait + treble hook. He then brought up the Fish Alaska Magazine article that claimed 80-100/ day kings caught. Can you just prohibit bait for guided anglers?

Chris Carr said the sport fishery has changed and effort / catch is greatly reduced, far fewer anglers, lodges, guides on the river. Cancelling bait will have a significant impact on boat rentals other service providers on the river and in Dillingham, possibly Naknek. He said with the existing King Plan we already have lots of rules to protect Nushagak kings: keep caught fish in the water, daily and seasonal bag limits, lowest jack bag limit in the state, a very cautious and restrictive plan with numerous triggers.

Ken Wilson asked how this would affect the locals and small guides in Ekwok. While Ekwok locals may use sport gear its more like subsistence for them if they don't want to use a net.

There was a comment that its frustrating the BOF chose to make this proposal with short notice and the exact text isn't available to the AC.

Joe K. Ekwok AC rep. agreed with Chris Carr, allow bait, I'm one of those new young local guys trying to start a guide business.

Robert Heyano, why then is the Nushagak R one of the last places in Alaska where bait can be used for kings?

ADFG Dye, other rivers around Bristol Bay often have bait prohibitions to protect rainbow trout – Naknek, Alagnak and those rivers have much smaller king runs.

4:30 PM Chair asked to table the discussion until the actual proposal language might be available tomorrow. [SEE RESUMED PROPOSAL 239 DISCUSSION AND ACTION FURTHER IN MINUTES].

Tim Sands ADFG departed meeting.

Proposal 10 Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan. Allow unharvested Togiak stocks to be reallocated to Dutch Harbor Food & Bait....

Robin S move Frank W 2nd.

Robin: The DH F&B fishery harvests other stocks besides the Togiak Herring. He is opposed as they are just trying to take more herring from Togiak.

Jon F: Togiak AC opposed this, taking more from Togiak, keep local harvest local, the local village has partnered with a fish company and hopes to be buying herring and spawn-on-kelp in Togiak in a couple years. He said this proposal raised very strong feelings in Togiak where spawn on kelp is a subsistence concern as well as commercial one.

Oppose Unanimous

Proposal 11 Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan. Remove the necessity for maintaining the herring catch allocations among gear types by EO....

Robin S move Frank W 2nd.

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Oppose Unanimous

Proposal 11 Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan. Remove the necessity for maintaining the herring catch allocations among gear types by EO....

Robin S move Frank W 2nd.

A very long and wide ranging discussion ensued. Robert Heyano, author was asked to explain. He said he was trying to write a proposal that would in his view, replicate what ADFG actually does in-season vs his understanding of the directions in the plan. He said 2012 season was an example where he felt ADFG should have restricted the seine harvest earlier and not let them get so far ahead on the catch vs the gillnetters allocation.

Someone said the 2012 season problems may partly have been a processor situation.

Robert said there needs to be some wording to address processing capacity and to reflect what ADFG is actually doing. He feels ADFG is not following the plan as he understands it. He didn't want to totally remove the 70/30 allocation.

Frank W: ADFG needs to clarify their management system.

Hans N: Maybe managers need to be more aware. Asked about how the fishery boundary was extended to "the reef" but still made no fish available to the gillnetters. If this proposal was enforced, it would assure more opportunity for gillnetters. He is concerned the current plan puts little pressure on ADFG to assure the harvest allocations are reached by each gear group.

Robert H: The Plan makes allocation mandatory but if fish aren't in Kulukuk where the gillnetters like to be, and are available to the seiners elsewhere, the seiners get a big head start. Its not a processor issue at the start but when they become plugged it becomes one. He doesn't like that ADFG has the latitude to get outside of the plan and where the allocations get out of balance.

Curt A: Last season, would the seiners have had to sit on the hook for a couple days if this proposal had been in effect?

Hans: it would open the door for seiners to take 50% of the quota and leave the gillnetters out in the cold.

Robert H: NO, my proposal says until they reach 50% of the quota of 70/30. Keep both gears. He repeated that he would like to see the plan language reflect what ADFG really does now. They let seiners keep fishing even where there's no fish for gillnetters, then try to catch up late in the season when fish size and ripeness is more variable.

4:55 PM Meeting recess

November 2, 2012, 9:03 Dillingham City Hall, meeting resumes.

On teleconference phone, Joe Wassily, Tom O'Connor.

On site: Curt Armstrong, Louie Alakyak, Joe Chythlook, Hans Nicholson, Peter Christopher, Jon Forsling, Joe Kazimirowicz, Frank Woods, Dan Dunaway, Chris Carr, Glen Wysoki.

Robin Samuelson arrived 9:07 before any action.

ADFG Staff present Tim Sands.

Resume discussion on Proposal 11:

ADFG Tim Sands explained how the Dept manages the Togiak herring fishery to achieve the 70/30 gear allocations. He understands Proposal 11 would removed the 50% trigger from the current plan.

There was more discussion on processors, whether gillnetters would have the opportunity to achieve their allocation. Some feel the current management plan is the only assurance that gillnetters get even some fishing time. The fishery is more market driven than anything. Also in recent seasons the poor weather favors the seiners over the gillnetters.

There was some discussion of would it be possible to make a regulation requiring processors to buy gillnet fish. Several doubted that it would be legal to try this avenue.

The old days of A and B fleets of gillnetters and how there used to be very strong markets, lots of gillnetters and seiners. Now with a reduced market and very limited processing capacity, the processors control the fishery.

Final Action Proposal 11:

Opposed 13 Oppose, 1 Abstain

Proposal 12 **Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan.** Change Togiak Herring gear allocation to 50 /50

Frank W move Jon F 2nd.

Frank W Moved, Jon F 2nd: amend percentages in the proposal from 50/50 to 35/65.

Amendment Adopted 12 Support, 3 Opposed.

Togiak AC amended and supported as amended. The community of Togiak is very concerned about the herring and so submitted a variety of proposals from total closure to moderate changes to current management. Some feel the fishery is bad for the ecosystem and contributes little to the local economy.

Robin S. Opposes proposal, few locals participate, processor driven fishery, creating an allocation battle.

General discussion that a 50/50 split has been sought since 1980 without success. If successful it might help local fishermen. Someone suggested making fishery Super Exclusive.

A member of the audience pointed out that the herring fishery is only allowed to take 20% of the biomass, far less than for salmon and that environmental concerns by Togiak don't seem reasonable. He believes the proposal would hurt locals more than help.

The chair pointed out that going from 30% to 50% is radical, look at the difficulty we had in 2001 going from 25% to 30%. He has doubts for 50%, how about asking for 35%?

Final Oppose As Amended 6 Support, 7 Oppose, 1 Abstain

Proposal 13 **Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan.** Close Togiak herring fishery through 2016...

Frank W move Jon F 2nd

Dan D asked if closing the Togiak fishery would open the quota to the Dutch Harbor Food & Bait fishery.

Pete C expressed environmental concerns for Togiak, close herring, no outside industry support Togiak people.

Jon F said some in Togiak feel the herring is worth more to leave in the water, have subsistence & environment concerns.

Audience comment: closing the fishery for a while will kill all your markets, its a big mistake. Its not the market its the processors that are the problem.

Audience comment: I would like the minutes to reflect that it appears Togiak is sending conflicting messages. We just heard Togiak is working with a fish processor and plans to start buying herring in the next year or two. And here they say they want to shut down the state's largest herring fishery? I can't believe you guys!

Chris Carr said closing the fishery is a bad idea and he is opposed.

First Vote Support Support 8 Support, Opposed 6.

Short Break

In early discussion on Proposal 14, Frank W who initially voted in the affirmative above, **moved to reconsider Proposal 13** . Chris C 2nd.

Motion to reconsider 13 passed 12 Support, 2 Opposed.

Final vote on proposal 13 as written.

Opposed on reconsideration, 3 Support, 11 Opposed

Proposal 14 Closed waters in Bristol Bay Area. Extend closed waters area in Togiak Bay.....

Jon F move Frank W F 2nd.

An extended discussion: Ask for what you want of the BOF, doing otherwise risks all credibility. BBNA staff explained that this proposal, while directed toward the commercial fishery, seeks to address a subsistence issue where Togiak residents are having concerns for their spawn-on-kelp subsistence harvest.

Jon F moved and then withdrew an amendment to only close the described waters to seiners.

There was a discussion as to whether the area is over exploited. Locals used to load skiffs with lots of spawn on kelp in a short time.

Robin S. Moved, Joe C 2nd: Amend to move the closed waters boundary line such that it passes from the regulatory marker at the east side of Ungalikthluk Bay to Quigmy River outlet.

More discussion of various boundaries.

Frank W. Moved to change the proposal from a Commercial fishery proposal to a Subsistence. There is supposed to be new subsistence data available at the BOF meeting. **Motion DIED** for lack of second.

Robin spoke to his motion that there used to be a lot kelp closer to Togiak.

Glen W said we need to help the subsistence users of herring spawn-on-kelp.

Chair emphasized that the intent of this proposal and amendment is to provide a subsistence are for roe on kelp.

Robin's Amendment Adopted 13 Support, 1 Opposed.

Final Support 14 as amended, 11 Support, 3 Opposed

Proposal 15 Gillnet specifications and operations. Allow set net anchors and running lines at registered sites to remain in the water during closed periods...

Robin S. move Frank W F 2nd.

Tom O. set netter is opposed as there are a lot of the Igushik sites that are not leased and this would be a hardship.

Robin, there may be other sites not leased in the Nushagak district.

Oppose, Unanimous

Proposal 16 Gillnet specifications and operations. Allow set net gear to remain in the place during closed periods....

Robin S. move Frank W F 2nd.

There is no such regulation in the Nushagak district. This may refer to the Naknek Special Harvest Area.

Curt or it may be in the Kvichak where set nets have to be pulled on a closure only to have it re-open just 2 hours later. But I know how to get my nets in and out.

Too generic,- as written applies bay-wide.

Oppose, Unanimous

Proposal 17 Gillnet specifications and operations. In the Nushagak District, prohibit a permit holder from operating a set gillnet seaward of another set gillnet ...

Dan D. move Robin S. F 2nd..

Tom O. said he supported it as a set netter.

ADFG Tim Sands explained the situation how one set net might be placed seaward of another set net.

Support, 13 Support, Opposed 1

Proposal 18 Gillnet specifications and operations. Shorten the distance a set net can be set from the high-tide mark in the Ugashik District...

Robin S. move Joe C. 2nd. **No Action by consensus**

Proposals 19, 20 No Action by consensus

Proposal 21 Identification of gear. Require name of permit holder on stationary gear...

Robin S., Move Joe C. 2nd.

ADFG Tim pointed out that this is already in the statewide regulations for set net gear and name is required on buoys. Several set netters said they do it already.

Jon F. we do this in Togiak.

Oppose, Unanimous

Proposal 22 Identification of gear. Change height of marks...

Joe C. Move, Robin S. 2nd.

General agreement that current system is good enough.

Oppose, 1 Support, 13 Opposed

Proposal 23 Identification of gear. Identification markings on driftnet corks...

Robin S., Move Joe C. 2nd.

Several opposed based on the Troopers opposition and concern for potential of easily dropped ghost nets.

There was quite a bit of discussion about the current practice there may be several different numbers on a single net if its been sold, loaned or shared among fishers. How can FWP prove who belongs to a net or is actually fishing it if they find one with multiple numbers? What if a fisher arbitrarily puts someone else's number on a net and leaves it out to get them in trouble?

Curt A. Moved, Frank W 2nd to amend: amend proposal to require marking each shackle of gear for both set and drift nets.

Amendment Opposed 2 Support, 12 Oppose

There was a discussion whether the amendment should clarify what constituted a full shackle of gear, 200f, 100f, 50, 25?.

Discussion pointed out that current regulations require marking every xx fathoms regardless of shackle length or other description.

Its not that hard to mark the corks.

Final Prop 23 as originally written Opposed, 2 Support, 12 Opposed.

12:25 Lunch Recess

1:30 Resume meeting.
Sport Fishing

Proposal 239 put back on table by unanimous consent.

**** RESUME discussion from page 12:

BOF Proposal [239] Special provisions, seasons, bag, possession, size limits, methods and means in Bristol Bay. Limit sport and guided sport fishing for king salmon in the Nushagak R. drainage excluding the Wood R

Chris C. Move, Glen & Robin 2nd.

Right after lunch Brito announced that the much anticipated final wording of the BOF generated proposal to restrict bait and hooks on the Nushagak drainage king fishery was still not posted for the public.

Chris Carr: this just isn't sufficient public notice prior to the December meeting; nobody knows about it.

ADFG confirmed they have the power to restrict bait in the king fishery, only under the terms of the Nushagak Chinook Salmon Management Plan.

Chris C. The sport fishery is a real economic boost to the area and provides economic opportunities for locals who don't have commercial permits. Supports the single hook portion but no prohibition of bait.

There was much concern / frustration expressed regarding the unavailable language of the actual BOF generated proposal.

Chris C Move, Robin S 2nd: **Amend proposal to only restrict tackle to barbless single hooks. Remove all references prohibiting bait.**

Amendment Adopted, 12 Support, 1 Opposed

A lodge operator in the audience expressed concern how the proposal would impact the villagers in Ekwok, New Stuyahok, Koliganek who may use sport gear but consider themselves using it for subsistence. Advocated if anything is adopted it should only apply downriver from Ekwok, maybe just downstream from the Iowithla R. That's where the problem is.

Final on 239 Support as amended; 12 support, 2 opposed.

Back To Commercial Proposals

Proposal 24 Gear. Allow use of seines in Bristol Bay...

Robin S. Move, Chris C. 2nd.

Don't add a new gear group.

Curt A said he would support on the basis that its a fish quality issue.

Oppose, 1 Support, 13 Opposed

Proposal 25 Create a Bristol Bay coho salmon troll fishery.

Robin S. Move, Joe C. 2nd.

Robin opposes on basis that coho fishery is just coming back, don't add a gear group.

Dan D opposes as this would likely occur on mixed stocks as well as adding a new gear group.

Opposed Unanimous

Proposal 26 Closed Waters. Amend closed waters in Togiak District...

Robin S. Move, Chris C. 2nd.

ADFG has concerns for the coordinates listed in the proposal; they aren't right for the area described. **No Action by consensus**

Proposal 27 Closed Waters. Change boundary description for closed waters at mouth of Igushik R... Joe C. Move, Robin S. 2nd.

ADFG has been doing EOs to address the issue. This would put boundary back to old Marker site, would allow an historically occupied set net site that may have been inadvertently excluded when Dept went to GPS boundaries.

Support Unanimous

Proposal 28 Closed Waters. Change closed waters at mouth of Togiak R. in Togiak District... Robin S. Move, Chris C. 2nd.

ADFG; correcting a marker issue. The new [gps?] boundary line accidentally opened more area near mouth of Togiak R. ADFG has been addressing w EOs each season.

House keeping.

Support Unanimous

Proposal 29 Closed Waters. Create buffer zone at mouth of Togiak R. .to protect kings only... Robin S. Move, Chris C. 2nd.

Jon, Togiak seeks to move the commercial fishing away from the mouth of the Togiak R during the king season to assist escapement and subsistence. Only for protection of kings.

Longitude cited in proposal appear to be a typo mistake; should read 160 degrees NOT 161.

Jon F Move, Joe C 2nd: Amend: make closure effective through June 30.

Support Amendment Unanimous.

As amended more accurately addresses location and time of concern while not unduly restricting the fishery for the remainder of the season.

Support as amended, Unanimous

Proposal 30 Landing Requirements: Allow set net caught salmon to be transported through Snake River Section....

Robin S. Move, Glen w. 2nd.

Tom O. explained that he thought the proposer seeks a safer route to transport Igushik caught fish, to be used occasionally.

Some expressed concerns there might be inaccurate reporting of catch area.

ADFG expressed no concerns as they have not allowed a permit holder to register in 2 areas of the district.

Several commented that this one individual is the sole advocate and most others have done fine without this option. One comment; what about safety/ In bad weather that can be a dangerous place?

Oppose, 4 Support 10 Opposed

Proposal 31 Vessel ID. Exempt vessels from permanent dual marking.....

Robin S. Move, Chris C. 2nd.

ADFG indicated this would probably create an enforcement issue.

Troopers said they opposed this.

There was speculation that the author may participate in drift and set fishing.

Opposed, Unanimous

Proposal 32 Vessel specifications and operation. Increase vessel length to 42 feet if processing.....

Robin S. Move, Joe C. 2nd.

Chair thought he heard that Troopers were neutral on vessel length for the Bay but supports enforcement concerns that the equipment portion of this plan would be very problematic. Also, we already have huge new boats that are 32 Long and 18.5 wide fully capable of carrying plenty of equipment.

Robin opposed to longer boats due to local economic & capitalization limitations and difficulties local smaller boats would have around much larger boats in the congested fisheries along the lines. He recalled the intimidation and collision/ damage problems back when boat bow lengths were allowed to stretch beyond the 32 foot limit.

A handout showing the Bristol Bay Native Association resolution(s) opposing this proposal.

Opposed, Unanimous

Proposal 33 Vessel specifications and operation. Increase vessel length to 36 or 39 feet if processing with equipment is present

Robin S. Move, Chris C. 2nd.

Opposed Unanimous Given action taken in 32.

Proposal 34 Vessel specifications and operation. Increase vessel length to 36.....

Robin S. Move, Chris C. 2nd

A member of the audience advocated for 36 feet so it would be easier to carry ice and have a good payload of fish. I've quit icing due to loss of payload.

Curt supports 36 feet, always wondered why 32 foot was established. We already have a huge disparity of boat sizes from the little Rawsons to these huge new boats. What about trying it for 3 years with a sunset clause?

Several other AC members disagreed and said its been shown that icing, chilling, and bleeding can be done economically on current 32 foot boats.

Opposed, 1 Support, 13 Opposed

Proposal 35 Vessel specifications and operation. Increase vessel length to over 32 feet..... Robin S. Move, Chris C. 2nd.

Robin, I'm opposed for same reasons as #34.

Joe C. I'm opposed as we have been discussing.

Opposed, 1 Support, 13 Opposed

Proposals 36, 37, 38 Requirements & Specs for using 200 f nets..... Allow a single permit holder who holds 2 drift permits to fish 200 fathoms.....

Robin S. Move as a block, Frank W. 2nd.

One in the audience supports this idea while several others were vocally opposed.

Audience: fishing 200f lowers quality of fish at the outer end of the net from dragging.

Audience: Another supporter said that set netters are doing it let the drifters and it would reduce effort.

Curt A. I support the current dual permit system and have experience with it working as it was intended.

Frank W expressed his opposition of any the dual permit systems current or proposed.

A roll call vote was requested.

Curt Armstrong -N

Louie Alakyak - N

Joe Kazimirowicz - N

Dan Dunaway - N

Jon Forsling - N

Joe Chythlook - N

Peter Christopher -N

Chris Carr - N

Glen Wysoki - N

Tom O' Connor - N

Joe Clark - N

Frank Woods - N

Robin Samuelson - N

Hans Nicholson - N

Final Props 36, 87, 38 Opposed, Unanimous.

Proposal 39, 40 Requirements & Specs for using 200 f nets..... . Allow dual drift boats to use 200 f when the NRSHA opens.

Robin S. Move as a block , Joe C. 2nd.

Robin said he is opposed.

Hans is opposed.

ADFG says the current regulation was designed to keep all D boats from converging on the Nushagak when the NRSHA opens.

Opposed, Unanimous

3:05 PM Louie Alakyak departs meeting.

Proposal 41, 42 Requirements & Specs for using 200 f nets..... . DIS-Allow dual drift permit stacking.....

Robin S. Move as a block , Chris C. 2nd.

Frank Woods explained he is opposed to how the D Permit stacking system has worked out. He doesn't think it worked out like anticipated. Seems like it helped nonlocals more than locals.

Curt A sais he has see the D permit work as intended and he is in support.

Robin supports this; he has 2 permits and thinks it worked well last season where there weren't many fish. But outsiders are really taking advantage of the opportunity. He would like to go back to 3 nets per boat.

A member of the audience said this is the one of the few ways to help a new local person work into the fishery.

Comment: there are no set net permits on the market because of allowing double ownership.

If we end D permits lot of folks will just keep the permit and buy a boat, might enlarge the fleet.

Supported, 10 support, 3 oppose.

Proposal 43 Requirements & Specs for using 200 f nets..... . DIS-Allow dual drift permit stacking In Togiak

Robin S. Move, Chris C. 2nd.

Jon, Togiak AC adopted this; Togiak has a small run; when the district opens to other boats (super exclusive period ends) the incoming D boat overwhelm the locals in their mostly small boats. Jon feels Nush AC should support this given the action on proposals 41 & 42.

If this proposal is opposed then we should make the transfer date in August.

There are 90 locally held drift permits & 90 locally held set net permits.

Supported, 11 Support, 0 Oppose, 2 Abstain.

Proposals 44-54 Gillnet specifications and operations..... Repeal sunset clause for dual set net permits.....

Chirs C. Move as a block, Frank W. 2nd.

This would make dual permits /permit stacking permanent.

To oppose it would restore regulations to the 2009 situation.

Curt A. This has not worked as intended and he favors going back to the way it was. If this were to pass it would make it harder to retain the status quo with the drifters and their dual permit status.

Glen, keep in mind where this came from. It was supposed to help locals but it hasn't. It backfired.

Hans agrees. Some set net operations have become gigantic and they overwhelm the locals.

Audience comment: Vote carefully, a yes vote keeps the double permit system; Not meant to do away with the double set permits.

Jon F. Togiak AC opposed this proposal.

Opposed, 0 Support, 12 Oppose, 1 Abstain.

Proposal 55 Gillnet specifications and operations..... Allow 2 set net permits holders to fish 100 f on a single site.....

Frank W. Move, Robin S. 2nd.

This currently isn't allowed anywhere and shouldn't be.

Opposed, Unanimous.

Proposal 56 Registration and re-registration..... Registration required for Ugashik and Egegik

Frank W. Move, Robin S. 2nd.

This proposal seeks to remove rule that allows boats to move around in the early fishery..

Intent of current regulation was to eliminate foregone harvest in early weeks.

Has not worked well, disruptive.

Support, Unanimous

Proposal 57 Regulatory changes and or management plans pertaining to chum and sockeye salmon in the Bristol Bay Area. Placeholder proposal for possible regulations changes related to WASSIP results.....

No Action at this time. Wait for Nov 19 release.

No information available until November 19, same day as comment deadline.

People can propose regulation changes individually and submit to BOF.

Note to Board of Fisheries: The Nushagak Advisory Committee is dismayed that the WASSIP results are not available to ACs or the public until it is too late to make constructive and timely comments.

Proposals 58, 59, 60, 61 Fishing districts and sections..... Create two new general districts / create general district

Robin S. Move as a block, Joe C. 2nd.

Robin, opposed due to historic problems and due to anticipated data from WASSIP. Would be inconsistent to support when we expect to request WASSIP based restrictions , terminal fisheries, for Alaska Peninsula fisheries.

We finally have good district boundaries and don't want to create local mixed stock, non-terminal fishery.

FWP said they were concerned they'd need way more assets and clearly defined boundaries for proper enforcement.

Oppose, Unanimous.

Proposal 62 Restructuring process. Develop a process for addressing future proposals deemed as Bristol Bay salmon industry restructuring

Robin S. Move, Chris C. 2nd..

Frank: We need a guide to deal with "restructuring proposals".

Hans: currently there is not a clear process to identify and deal with restructuring proposals.

Joe C.: BBNA has provided us with a copy of a resolution supporting this proposal.

Robin: BBEDC did due diligence on this proposal. The BOF may not have taken all issues into account when restructuring, such as economic effects on watershed communities.

Support, Unanimous

Proposals 63, 64, 65 Bristol Bay Commercial Set & Drift sockeye salmon management and allocation plan Increase percentage allocated to set net harvest....[by various amounts]...

Robin S. Move as a block, Chris C. 2nd..

Robin opposed as original allocations base on historic take before allocation. While some were originally opposed to the allocation, now they feel its brought stability to fisheries. He

feels the system is work. We could seek to remove the allocations but doesn't seem a good route.

Audience comment: One real problem is that when instituted, Igushik was given 6% of the whole Nushagak harvest when in reality they only ever fished one stock – the Igushik run. This hurt Nushagak drifters and needs to be fixed.

Pete C.: I've always been against this allocation. Doesn't make sense. Set netters are making it every year but it hurts drifters. Drifters only got 63% this year; just do away with allocation.

Audience comment: I (drifter) probably lost \$30,000 since the allocation came. I used to get a few drift periods in Igushik early in the season. Now we can only get there late in the season. I object to Igushik [set??] fishing 24/7 trying to get their allocation.

ADFG: When asked Tim Sands said in most seasons the set netters usually don't quite get their allocation.

Robin agrees that Igushik might have been given too much of an allocation.

There were several comments that late in the season, drifters get shut down waiting for the set netters to catch up on their allocation but with a lot of set netters out of the fishery, those remaining can't catch enough fish to fill the allocation.

Dan asked if the coming WASSIP data might be used to address Igushik allocation and historical harvest?

ADFG – Sands has doubts the study has fine enough resolution to tease out Igushik fish from other Nushagak District stocks.

Final on 63, 64, 65 Oppose, Unanimous

**** Sometime in the course of discussing the previous several proposals, 3 AC representatives had to depart for their plane or left teleconference for other business. Approximately 3:30- 3:45 pm Eleven AC reps remained to participate.

Proposal 66 Naknek-Kvichak Dist drift / set allocation plan Remove set and drift allocations.....

Frank W. Move, Joe C. 2nd.

Curt, a Kvichak set net operator is afraid to totally do away with the allocation even though some years things "feel out of whack". Allocations may need tweaking but don't throw it all out.

ADFG – This isn't a tool to address bay-wide issues – doubtful this one could be amended to add Nushagak allocation issues.

Robin (drifter) has heard complaints that the Kvichak section has essentially become a set net only fishery and he supports this proposal.

Support, 6 Support, 3 Oppose, 2 Abstain

Proposal 67 Naknek-Kvichak Dist drift / set allocation plan Stagger fishing periods through run...

No Action based on action on 66

Proposals 68, 69 Naknek-Kvichak Dist management and drift / set allocation plan / Alagnak River Special Harvest Area.....

No Action, leave this to Naknek-Kvichak AC

Proposals 74 & 78 Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Mgt. Plan. Revise king salmon reference and trigger points. / **Wood River Sockeye Special Harvest Area Plan** Revise sockeye salmon reference and trigger points

ADFG Tim, explained these proposals are designed to revise the reference and trigger points based on the new Didson Sonar counter numbers since the current regulations use the old Bendix sonar counts. The two systems produce different numbers but ADFG is will be recommending Didson numbers that should be net neutral for these proposals.

The chair expressed concern about the Didson numbers being higher than the old Bendix ones. He went on to say that we could oppose, support the proposal or authorize a subcommittee to work with ADFG to insert Didson numbers in these proposals when numbers are available from ADFG.

AC Consensus to form and authorize a subcommittee:

Chair delegated Robin Samuelson, Dan Dunaway, Frank Wood, Joe Chythlook for the subcommittee.

All other AC members are welcome to attend and participate.

The subcommittee meeting will be announced publicly and public is welcome to attend.

Proposal 75 Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Mgt. Plan. Increase king escapement into the Nushagak R. by restricting the drift fleet.....

Robin S. Move, Frank W. 2nd..

Chair is opposed to this based on the existing plan. Robin, commercial and subsistence fishers are already taking a hit. The commercial fishery has had no directed king openers recently. If more conservation is needed limit the days in the sport fishery. He feels the sport fishery is not bearing its share of the burden of conservation. We need hard numbers from the sport fishery.

Choggiung Land Manager spoke to their records for land use in the main part of the sport fishery: In 2007 the peak year, they had 10,000 man-use days. It has declined since then to about 4,500 man-use days. There is a considerable decline in activity around the lower river fishery.

Chris C. pointed out that guides must maintain a detailed log book and submit data regularly. Sport anglers have been frequently restricted in-season in recent years.

Oppose, Unanimous

Proposal 76 Fishing Periods. Restrict commercial fishing to no more than 3 tides in a 48 hour period Frank W. Move, Glen W. 2nd..

Talks about Naknek area but as written could apply Bay-wide.

Proposal is ridiculous and overlooks extensive management practices, regulations and protections already in place.

Oppose, Unanimous

Proposal 77 Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Mgt. Plan. Restrict [Nushagak] commercial fishing to no more than 12 hours in any 24 hour period.....

Robin S. Move, Frank W. 2nd..

Comments: Commercial fishers have already taken drastic measures and the sport fishery should be limited now.

Dan suggested to amend 77 to use a proposal from the last BOF cycle that had a more reasonable option to put the commercial fishery into the WRSWA under certain circumstances to protect kings when needed and to provide harvest on Wood R sockeye.

Robin emphatically unwilling to see ANY more restrictions to the commercial fishery.

Oppose, Unanimous

Proposal 79, 80 Wood River Sockeye Special Harvest Area Mgt. Plan. Allow separate drift and set periods in the WRSWA, remove all set gear when closed.

Frank W. Move as block, Glen W. 2nd.

Glen thinks this is a good idea.

Audience comment: A good tool to adjust allocations, hope it passes.

ADFG We need more language in it to address allocation and rotations. Needs to be spelled out for managers, including tide stage for openers.

Could provisionally approve and put into the subcommittee for refining.

Put into the subcommittee and invite Tom O'Connor as a member.

To Subcommittee.

4:55 PM Robin Samuelson departed meeting.

Proposal 81 Wood River Sockeye Special Harvest Area Mgt. Plan. Allow up to 150 fathoms on board drift boat in the WRSWA.

Chris C. Move, Frank W. 2nd..

There was a discussion of the practice of rotating nets.

Some oppose, some support the practice of net rotation.

When ADFG opens WRSWA, the intent is to catch most of the fish.

Net rotation is common in Naknek Special Harvest Area

This proposal seems to align the WRSWA with practices allowed in NRSWA.

Support 8 Support, 1 Oppose

5: 10 Upriver Village Reps depart for their plane: Joe Kazimirowicz, Peter Christopher, Glen Wysoki.

Alternate AC rep Ken Wilson was seated to participate for the remainder of the meeting. Total AC reps participating 8-9.

Proposal 82 Wood River Sockeye Special Harvest Area Mgt. Plan. Allow up to 200 fathoms on board in the WRSHA. Chris C. Move, Frank W. 2nd.

As long as nets are bagged.

Allow boats to quickly transition to and from WRSHA.

Support Unanimous

Proposal 83 Wood River Sockeye Special Harvest Area Mgt. Plan. When there is an opener in WRSHA allow set netters to remain in the Nushagak District with only 25 fathoms of net.

Chris C. Move, Curt A. 2nd..

Not every set netter can get into or participate in the WRSHA.

This would reduce congestion in WRSHA.

Reduced set gear in Nushagak Dist offers some protection to fish out there.

This may help set netters catch up on their Nush Dist. allocation.

Allowing set netters to remain in the Nushagak Dist. might extend the need for using the WRSHA.

Curt: This was partly written to help keep some set net markets open: One processor [Ekuk?] has few tenders and depends on nearby set netters for product. In past when all of the fishery went into the WRSHA, they didn't have fish to process – can't stay open in those conditions.

Dan supports, recalls the market discussion when this proposal was written and doesn't recall any major objections from ADFG.

Oppose 3 Support, 4 Oppose 1 Abstain

Proposal 84 Wood River Sockeye Special Harvest Area Mgt. Plan. Allow dual set netters to have up to 50 f on board and fish 2 sites in the WRSHA.

Frank w Move, Jon F. 2nd..

Frank is opposed, its already too congested and would make things worse. Drifters can't use dual option in WRSHA, set netters should not be allowed to either.

Oppose, Unanimous

Proposals 85, 86 Togiak River King Salmon Mgt. Plan. Create a Togiak River King Mgt Plan similar to the Nushagak River King plan.

Frank w Move as a block, Jon F. 2nd.

Brito, as written proposal is too vague for BOF to address.

Jon, Togiak AC adopted.

ADFG Jones: Dept. is likely to oppose and suggest Togiak AC invite all user groups to work out a plan.

ADFG Jones: Dept. opposes as it has no in-season stock enumeration system to enable or support such a plan.

The Nushagak AC sympathizes but takes no action at this time.

One rep had an additional concern: there has been no "Amount Needed for Subsistence" established.

No Action

Proposal 87 Togiak District Salmon Mgt. Plan. Change the waiving period to July 24 if escapement is projected to exceed 175,000 sockeye before July 27.

Frank w Move, Joe C. 2nd..

Designed to align transfer waiver date with the 3 days of protection added at last BOF meeting when transfer period was moved from June 21 to 24.

Essentially a house keeping proposal to fix and oversight.

Support, Unanimous

--- Bristol Bay Fishery Proposal work completed for this meeting. ---

Other Business:

Board Support: Brito announced that late afternoon, the Dept of Law had publicly posted the legal notice of the Board of Fish generated Proposal to restrict hooks and bait on the Nushagak drainage: Proposal 239 Online.

Joint Board Proposals Due

Brito quickly explained that the Joint Board is reviewing the process for removal of members for cause beyond what is in Roberts Rules.

Proposals can be submitted for restructuring Advisory Committees – submission deadline ins November 30, 2012.

Old Business

Moose Management Plan presentation, signing.

USFWS Togiak Refuge Biologist Pat Walsh briefly discussed the history of the Moose Management Plan for the Togiak Refuge. Substantial work completed in 2004 but stalled at

the draft stage without getting signed by all agencies and groups. Since then, moose management has followed the draft plan, the moose population has grown and spread substantially and the draft needs revision, updated data and thresholds reviewed. It is out of date. It would be good to complete the signing of the 2004 draft, then begin the revision and updating with all parties participating. The Nushagak AC is invited to provide a representative to a work meeting in December.

The hope is to get the plan caught up and fully signed in a reasonable time.

Frank Wood asked for consensus of the AC to allow chair to sign the draft plan and move ahead on revision. **Approved by consensus.**

Date of Next Meeting

November 20, day after the WASSIP materials are available for review.

To develop positions on Area M and Game Proposals.

Brito will advertise. Meeting.

The Nushagak AC might be able to have 2 more meetings, the November one and one in January?? For Area M, Game, and statewide proposals.

Announcements:

Board of Game meeting is the first week of February 2013.

BOG proposal deadline is January 18, 2012.

Board of Fish Area M meeting is the last week of February 2013, first week of March 2013.

BOF, M meeting comments due February 12, 2013.

BBEDC will be offering a training meeting to understand the WASSIP data.

Adjourn 5:57 November 2, 2012