

Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee

Monday, March 18th 2024 at 1:30 pm | Located in the Nagozruk room at the UAF NW campus
Join Online: [Zoom link](#) | By Phone: 253 215 8782 or 888 475 4499 | Meeting ID: 856 2316 7880

Minutes

- I. Call to Order: 2:00pm
- II. Roll Call
 - I. Members Present: Charlie Lean (chair), Pat Knodel, Drew McCann, Kevin Knowlton, Louis Stang, Johnson Enigowok, Davis Lincoln, Tom Grey, Luis Brisuela (Nome alternate).
 - II. Members Absent (Excused): Brandon Ahmasuk (vice -chair), Jacob Mannix (Secretary)
 - III. Members Absent (Unexcused): Clifford Seetot, Henry Ollanna, Jack Fagerstrom, Elim?
 - IV. Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 7
 - V. List of User Groups Present:
- III. Fish and Game Staff Present: Com. Fish.; Chuck Brazil, Kevin Clark, Luke Henslee, Patrick Landback.
Wildlife; Sara Henslee, Alicia Carson, Brynn Parr
- IV. Guests Present: Tommy Obruk, Anthony Fernandez
- V. Approval of Agenda, Knowlton-Knodel
Amended to include three proposals related to crab under New Business. Crab before wildlife updates.
- VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes, tabled
- VII. Reports
 - I. Chair
April 10 shellfish proposal deadline. Still no support person for the area.
 - II. Others, none
 - III. Public Comment, Fernandez- Too many muskoxen near Shishmaref. Wildlife staff to communicate with him.
- VIII. Old Business, none
- IX. New Business
 - I. Discussion of ideas for fisheries proposals
 - a. Raise commercial legal size of NS red King Crab from 4.75 to 5 inches. Knowlton-Knodel.
Kevin Clark- this would require escape mechanism adjustments. It is allocative not biological in nature so Department comments would be on administration of the

regulation. The legal male size is generally based on one year beyond sexual maturity, but this is not the case in NS where it is several years beyond sexual maturity so that is a moot point.

Grey- finds the current abundance of nice crab is the result of recent commercial closures, this may help.

Knowlton- does not believe there would be much change in catch rate.

Unanimous support.

- b. Delay the summer commercial NS Red King Crab opening from June 15 to July 1.

Proposal by Adem Boeckmann. Knowlton-?

Kevin Clark- Department would not manage for two districts on the same stock, this may be opposed in Eastern NS.

Discussion of poor meat fill in June. May result in better market conditions.

7 for-1 against

Knowlton left meeting 2:53

- c. Change the winter commercial hard opener of Feb. 1 to an opening by emergency order at the discretion of management. The intent is to consider ice and weather related handling mortality conservation actions. Knodel- McCann

Discussion of winter handling mortality. Discussion of size structure.

Henslee- report in development on handling mortality due out soon. Functional mortality under study. Exposure by commercial fishers of sub legal crab averages about one minute or relatively a short time- minimum impact.

7 for- 0 against. Connectivity problems on-line.

- II. KOTZ BOG meeting on Western Arctic Caribou action,

Sara Henslee- Briefly went thru the results of the BOG meeting at Kotzebue. The WACH harvest limits ate 15 caribou per year, only one of which maybe female. Some surprise at the WACH working group recommendation not being used.

Small increase in nonresident bear permits in GMU22.

- III. GMU 22 moose tier I or II, This had no action but needs to have a much more well considered hearing. Several ideas thrown around. May warrant a dedicated meeting. Browse evaluation is now being conducted for several years. This could have an impact on moose management.

- IV. muskoxen survey/status. Muskoxen Numbers seem to be increasing better info in June. The Shotgun hunt requirement to be dropped with the hunter orientation requirement to be retained. Trophy destruction is being re-evaluated and the decision is to be made in fall.

- V. Other miscellaneous business, 22E Moose are being taxed by Nome hunters. This is something being monitored.
- X. Set date of next meeting , next fall.
- XI. Committee comments
- XII. Other, Gene Sandone looking for support to be on BOF
- XIII. Adjourn 4:15

ADJOURN

Signed:

Charles Lean, Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CL', is written over the printed name 'Charles Lean, Chair'.