

August 1, 2013 Meeting

Members Present:

Frank Neumann	Georg Jacoby	Kevin Taylor	Mike Priebe	Zach Stubbs
Joel Doner	Robert Caywood	Grant Klotz	Vince Baldauf	Jim Stubbs
Kevin Sparrowgrove	Bruce Morgan	Robert Peck	Mark Campbell	

Members Excused:

Sasha Ruesch Matt Rogero Joel Wagner

Meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM by Chairman Bruce Morgan at the fish hatchery, a quorum was established of the members present

The agenda for the night's meeting was approved.

Public Testimony on the recent issues over the Cook Inlet and Kenai River red and king fishery.

Robert Peck- He thanked everyone for coming. His concerns on the inlet fishing issue are from a sportsman's perspective that there needs to be equilibrium for user groups as far as the fish are concerned. Paul Mickelson asked him if he believed that the commercial fisherman own the fish as they claim and he said no. Robert just wanted to be an equitable solution to the problems after this season.

Rod Arno- Executive Director of the Alaska Outdoor Council. He stated that the legislator gave the allocation of the fish to the BOF. There are 8 criteria for the allocation: The history of the user groups is one and the importance of the criteria is the use of the words (may not or shall). Paul asked if a \$10.00 donation to license fees to the AOC would help and it was noted that only the legislature could allocate fees.

Paul Mickelson- he is sport fisherman and has a place on the river. He questions the over escapement statement. The commercial users are driving down property values and there are no silvers up in the Mat-Su Valley right now. Something needs to be done.

Pete Doner- he is setnetter on the east side of the inlet. He noted that the 36 hour window is for setnetters only and not the drift fleet. He sees no problem with the fishery other than over escapement.

Roger Frank- he is a sport fisherman. He has fished a long time on the Little Su River and other streams in the Valley and he just does not see the silvers getting back in those streams like they used to. The dept. keeps lowering the escapement goals for the rivers in the valley. He has not caught a silver yet by the first of August and has usually down so by the middle of July. Jim Stubbs asked if what continues the Little Su River should be a stock of concern for silver's and Roger said yes that he felt it was needed.

Jorge Alvarenga- Sport fisherman and personal use fisher. He believes that the department needs to do something as the fish are definitely not there like they use to.

Gary Thiel- Director of the Alaska Outdoor Council. He said that the BOF needs to shut down the Kenai River for Kings for the next 3 to 5 years in order to get the fish numbers back up. He also said that we need to show up at the BOF meeting in January for Cook Inlet and let our voices be heard. The resources have to come first to survive.

Roger Hayes- He has been sportfishing for over 25 years and there is definitely no fish. He had no solutions other than closing the river for a number of years.

Eric Jameson- He is a sport fisherman. He was down there when the pulses of fish came in and it was good fishing but nothing after that. We need to worry about the resource and not about who is making money from it. He said that maybe there needs to be a review of the department and Joel commented about our letter to the Governor about that issue.

Les Gara- Legislative Representative and sport fisherman and dipnetter. He said that we have a problem when the department states that we have a high escapement but no fish are coming in. it is all about information and good data and information. We have a problem when most people say they had the worst dipnetting season ever on the Kenai River. He stated that people need to be involved at the BOF meeting in January to get our voices heard.

Terry Umatim- A sport fisherman. He said the fish numbers are down and we need to save the kings as they are dying out on the peninsula. He said that people need to get involved and go to meetings and get informed. The solution for now is not to fish.

Matthew Nikolai- A delegate to AFN from around Bethel. He said that we need to get political with the BOF and the NPFMC. We need to pressure our 3 Congressional delegates to target the high seas bycatch issue of the trawlers. We have a fish problem statewide that needs to be fixed soon or we will run out of fish.

Bill Wielechowski- a State Senator and sport fisherman and dipnetter. He suggested that the department could manage the escapement with dipnetters and in river fisherman. He doesn't think that the fishery is being managed properly.

Dave Sanders- Sport fisherman and dipnetter. He sees obvious mismanagement of the fishery and it needs to be changed.

Mike Dunlevy- Mat-Su Legislator and sport fisherman. He said that he ran for office in the Valley mainly because of the fish issues and problems in the Valley. He is going to keep on the BOF on these issues and the department's management of the fisheries in Cook Inlet. He will definitely keep in touch with the AC as the new session starts up and help to keep it informed.

Joe Caswell- Sport fisherman. He said that the commercial fishermen are well organized and the sport and personal use people are not. We need to stay together and get organized to go to the BOF on these issues. The king fishery is specialized all over the state and needs to start with conservation of the resource. He suggested putting a referendum on the ballot for people to vote on.

Joe Lindsey- Sport fisherman. We need to revive and save the king run on the Kenai River because we can't lose that fishery.

Scott Duby- He used to live in Anchorage but now lives on the lower Yukon River. He said that commercial take advantage of the situation given them by the state. The department is dishonest in its management and information. He asked if we are being responsible citizens in allowing this to happen.

Joel was hoping that something would have come from the meeting but it was more like a venting meeting.

Joel motioned to send the letter that was written to all of the legislators and the Governor. It was seconded and passed unanimously by the vote taken.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 PM.