

Kenai-Soldotna Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting minutes of November 6, 2013.

Members present Crawford, Ermold, Speakman, Hamrick, VanDevere, Maher, Carmichael, Joseph, Brandt, P.Shadura, Roberts, Corr

Unexcused members C.Shadura, Bucy,

Excused members Dykema, Erkeneff

Jeff Selenger and Carol Kirkvliet from ADFG were present. Also Steve Miller and John Morton from the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge were also present.

Steve Miller presented the refuge argument to close both the brown bear hunt and the predator hunt on Skilak loop. Miller stated that current harvest levels were not sustainable. When questioned on the fact that the public did not want to sustain the level of bears it was not in the refuge management plan. Morton backed up the refuge stance. Sellinger stated that the department did not agree with the refuge on the closure. Miller stated that refuge had right to institute its own wildlife management plan when state plan was not in step with refuge. Members of the public made comments. All were in favor of keeping the hunt open. AC was not behind refuge on this issue.

Kirkvliet from ADFG presented proposals for the lower Cook Inlet BOF meeting. Committee agreed to wait for upper Cook Inlet meeting to discuss proposals that would be considered at both Cook Inlet meetings.

PROPOSAL 46

0/11 against

Committee felt that this would allow for people taking advantage of this rule. This would not be in the best interest of fair chase and sport fishing ethics.

PROPOSAL 51

0/10/1 against

ADFG stated that mortality is not as high as stated in proposal. Coho are usually not released in the marine fisheries. Most anglers stop fishing for Coho once a limit is reached. Would this outlaw release of Coho that are caught incidental to fishing for other species?

PROPOSAL 58

2/9 against

Majority feels that if conservation measures are needed ADFG has EO power to close fishery. Putting closure in place, when hopefully the King Salmon runs return to healthy numbers, seems too permanent.

PROPOSAL 59

11/0 Support

ADFG proposal. Mostly Kings present in this closure period. Few if any other species of salmon present. May prevent some anglers from retaining illegal Kings.

PROPOSAL 60

10/0/1 Support

This reverses rule change from 3 years ago. No biological concern. Most of these waters close by freezing over this time anyways. May allow a little more opportunity for the small number of anglers tough enough to fish this time period. Abstention was for lack of info.

PROPOSAL 64

8/3 Support

This is our proposal. Majority felt that using sport caught Pinks for bait would not be a conservation concern. Pinks are usually caught while fishing for other species. Release mortality on pinks may be

Kenai-Soldotna Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting minutes of November 6, 2013.

high. Pinks are high quality bait for other species of fish. All daily limits should apply on Pinks. Will make regulation consistent across the south central coast. This is already in regulation in PWS waters. Opposition felt that Pinks are a valuable resource. Pink salmon can currently be purchased for use as bait, that have been caught in commercial fisheries.

PROPOSAL 65

10/0/1 Support

While we had never heard of using dogfish for bait, we had no problem with the proposal. There is a large abundance of dogfish.

PROPOSAL 74

0/10/1 Against

Majority felt that there was not a conservation concern. This is a remote fishery in a difficult location to access. No reason to restrict access to this fishery at this time.

PROPOSAL 82,83,84

Unanimous Support

Will help provide an orderly fishery. Resolves confusion

Set next meeting for the 13th of November.

Meeting adjourned