

Seldovia Fish & Game Advisory Committee meeting minutes of November 7, 2013

Meeting began at the Multi-Purpose room at 7:05 pm.

Members Present: Robert Purpura, Buck Brown, Dave Chartier, Matt Gallien, Keith Gain, Alvin Swick, Walt Sonen, Kelly Brennan, Allison Miller

Members Absent Excused: Bryan Chartier, Michael Opheim, Layla Pedersen, Mary Klinger

Public Present: Jordan Cameron, Keith Swick, John Viksiva, Jeane Merchant

Elections were held with the following results: Warren Brown and Keith Swick as one year alternates, and Keith Gain, Mary Klinger and Jordan Cameron as three year members.

Jason Herreman provided a report on wildlife populations and harvest records to date.

Sherry Wright provided a report on the Joint Board meeting.

BOG Interior Region proposal discussion

#	Action Requested	AC Vote to Support or Oppose, any amendments and committee discussion
130	085.045 (13) Re-authorize the antlerless moose season in a portion of Unit 15(C).	8 – 0 Support Department is interested in some targeted area hunting, due to increased road kill of moose.
175	Defines which ACs will have jurisdiction on the antlerless moose reauthorizations.	Will discuss at another meeting.

Carol Kerkvliet provided a report on the stocking program.

BOF Lower Cook Inlet proposal discussion

#	Action Requested	AC Vote to Support or Oppose, any amendments and committee discussion
43	PROPOSAL XX - 5 AAC 28.36X. Cook Inlet Area State-Waters Groundfish Trawl Management Plan; 5 AAC 28.46X. Kodiak Area State-Waters Groundfish Trawl Management Plan; and 5 AAC 28.53X. Chignik Area State-Waters Groundfish Trawl Management Plan. Create state-waters groundfish management plans for trawl vessels less than 58 feet in the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik management areas. <i>(This proposal will be considered at the Chignik, Lower Cook Inlet, and Kodiak Finfish meetings.)</i>	0 – 8 Oppose Can't support any kind of trawling in state waters.

44	5 AAC 28.36X. Cook Inlet Area Pollock Management Plan; 5 AAC 28.46X. Kodiak Area Pollock Management Plan; and 5 AAC 28.53X. Chignik Area Pollock Management Plan. Create state-waters walleye pollock management plans for Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik management areas. <i>(This proposal will be considered at the Chignik, Lower Cook Inlet, and Kodiak Finfish meetings.)</i>	1 – 7 Oppose Support a Pollock fishery and would like to see a removal of Pollock in order to regain shrimp and crab populations. Mid-water Pollock fisheries are often prosecuted along the bottom. Would still like to see a plan. Trawling is not something they could support.
45	5 AAC 28.4XX. New Section; 5 AAC 28.5XX. New Section; and 5 AAC 28.5XX. New Section. Require 100 percent observer coverage on groundfish trawl vessels in state-waters of the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik management areas. <i>(This proposal will be considered at the Chignik, Lower Cook Inlet, and Kodiak Finfish meetings.)</i>	8 – 0 Support In the federal trawl season, vessels can still go within three miles and under federal law, they are only required to have % coverage. If they go into state waters, we would support 100% observer coverage.
46	5 AAC 58.0XX. New Section. Allow party fishing in Cook Inlet saltwater sport fisheries.	0 – 8 Oppose This used to be legal, then illegal and now a request to make legal again. This was so abused by deck hands to ensure people got their limits, that is why it was made illegal. If it was specific only to small children there would be some support. All others get their own.,
48	5 AAC 56.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 57.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 58.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 59.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 60.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 61.XXX. New Section; and 5 AAC 62.XXX. New Section. Designate all waters where catch-and-release fishing occurs on salmon as single, unbaited, barbless-hook waters. <i>(This proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings.)</i>	7-1 Support If this can lower the mortality rate of people playing with the fish, it will benefit. Other states have barbless areas for catch and release fisheries. If the amount of time it takes to release a fish is a factor in mortality, it makes sense that a barbless hook is a better method. When an area has been designated as a catch and release area, there is a mortality related to the plague upon those fish. Areas have already been declared a problem, which is often why they become catch and release. Opposing view heard from the biologist that it doesn't make that significant difference and had several years of experience, agrees that the placement of the hook is the main mortality. Sport fishing hooks are pretty small compared to the commercial hooks.
54	5 AAC 56.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 57.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 59.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 60.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 61.XXX. New Section; and 5 AAC 62.XXX. New Section. Prohibit sport fishing in major spawning areas where spawning fish are present in Cook Inlet salmon waters. <i>(This proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings.)</i>	8-0 Support Seems like the only way from hooking fish and filleting them out is to close specific areas of the river. Witnessed video of people on Willow Creek using trout gear and hooking the kings over and over, dragging them out on the beach and releasing them. They were having a good old time and figured since they had trout gear on their poles they were good. This is just wrong.

55	5 AAC 56.124. Harvest record required; annual limits for the Kenai Peninsula Area; 5 AAC 57.124. Harvest record required; annual limits for the Kenai River Drainage Area; 5 AAC 58.024. Harvest record required; annual limits; 5 AAC 59.124. Harvest record required; annual limits for the Anchorage Bowl Drainages Area; 5 AAC 60.124. Harvest record required; annual limits for the Knik Arm Drainages Area; 5 AAC 61.124. Harvest record required; annual limits for the Susitna River Drainage Area; and 5 AAC 62.124. Harvest record required; annual limits for the West Cook Inlet Area. Decrease Cook Inlet king salmon annual limit to two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, of which only one can be from the Kenai River. <i>(This proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings.)</i>	0- 6 – 2 Oppose This proposal is unclear if they intend to include the winter fishery and for that reason oppose. This is a mixed stock fishery.
56	5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. Decrease the Cook Inlet saltwater king salmon bag and possession limit to one king salmon and reduce the annual limit to two king salmon. <i>(This proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings.)</i>	0 – 6 – 2 Oppose Same reasons as Proposal 55, two fish if pretty restrictive.
57	5 AAC 56.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 57.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 58.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 59.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 60.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 61.XXX. New Section; and 5 AAC 62.XXX. New Section. Limit amount of sport-caught fish that may be exported to 100 pounds of fillets. <i>(This proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings.)</i>	1-7 Oppose This has come up before at Seldovia AC meetings. They are concerned with the amount of fish that seems to be shipped out of the state. The question of what about halibut came up. What does a person do with the remainder of the fish. If a person catches the fish, they should be able to keep it. Observance at the airport of many people that would travel to Alaska annually and return (financing their trip by the amount of fish they caught). Also people have observed so many people leaving at the airport with the biggest coolers and almost everyone at the airport carrying the same. It should be regulated from the how much you can catch end, not how much you can take out.
63	5 AAC 58.0XX. New Section. Allow use of sport-caught pink and chum salmon for bait in the salt waters of Cook Inlet.	7-1 Support The fishery doesn't need any more pressure. It would come out of their catch of the day.
65	5 AAC 58.0XX. New Section. Allow use of sport-caught spiny dogfish shark for bait in the salt waters of Cook Inlet.	8-0 Support Would like thin them out any way possible.
71	5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area and 5 AAC 58.060. Lower Cook Inlet Winter Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan. Decrease the Lower Cook Inlet winter saltwater king salmon bag and possession limit to one fish, and establish an annual limit of two king salmon.	0-8 Oppose There is no justification for this. There are very few fish caught during the winter fishery.
73	5 AAC 77.545. Kachemak Bay Personal Use Dip Net Fishery Management Plan. Require personal use-caught salmon in the China Poot dip net fishery to be marked.	7-0-1 Support This is to align this fishery with the other dipnet fishery regulations. There will still not be a permit required. In the spirit of making the regulations consistent it would be good for

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		them all to be the same. There have been complaints about a free for all there. There are skiff loads of fish going out of there and no enforcement.
74	5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. Decrease lingcod bag and possession limit in Cook Inlet from two to one.	6-2 Support The charter industry may have a better idea of what is going on in the fishery as they are out there daily. 20 years ago nobody was catching ling cod in this area. Seems like their populations have increased in this area. If the limit is still 36 inches, would tend to believe there are still lots of little fish on their way. Having fished ling cods, there are always so many of them. Consideration that the Homer charter fleet is catering to their customers and if they are asking to self-police, they may have good reason. Prefer to be proactive.
76	5 AAC 01.560. Fishing seasons and daily fishing periods. Clarify open periods for subsistence salmon fishing in August in Seldovia Bay.	8 – 0 Support This will clarify which days are open for subsistence fish. This is housekeeping.
79	5 AAC 21.350. Closed waters. Close waters to commercial fishing within one statute mile of the terminus of any anadromous fish stream in Cook Inlet as measured from mean lower low tide, not mean high tide. <i>(This proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings.)</i>	0-8 Oppose This is an anti-commercial fishing proposal.
80	5 AAC 21.350. Closed waters. Amend waters closed to commercial fishing in Lower Cook Inlet.	Tabled at the meeting for Robert to obtain further information. Robert spoke to Glenn Hollowell, relayed his information to the members and we are all in agreement of support for Proposal 80. This is the fourth time that we discussed this issue. They are just trying to clarify where these boundaries are. They started with visible markers, then went to GPS long/lats. Each time they changed the way they marked the fishery, the fishery moved. The regulatory marker disintegrates and a variety of things. People assumed things were going to be business as usual but they weren't. The committee would like to get more information on this. Did anyone put boots on the ground to see where those coordinates actually are? Tabled to get more information and will poll the committee.
81	5 AAC 21.331. Gillnet specifications and operations; 5 AAC 21.332. Seine specifications and operations; and 5 AAC 27.410. Fishing seasons for Cook Inlet Area. Establish various management measures to address decline in returning king salmon to Cook Inlet, including requiring net gear be certified as avoiding king salmon interception and closing commercial herring fisheries. <i>(The finfish aspects of this proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet meetings. The king and Tanner crab aspects of this proposal will be considered during the Statewide king and Tanner Crab meeting.)</i>	0-8 Oppose There is no such thing as a certifiable set net gear that avoids king salmon. This is another anti-commercial fishing proposal.

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82	5 AAC 21.XXX. Tutka Bay Lagoon Salmon Hatchery Management Plan. Create a management plan for Tutka Bay Lagoon Salmon Hatchery to determine harvest priorities within the special harvest area (SHA) and describe the location of the Tutka Bay Lagoon, Paint River, and Halibut Cove Lagoon SHAs.	8 – 0 Support Support the hatchery's cost recovery prioritization. This is similar to how they operate PWS. Believe the Cook Inlet Aquaculture puts a lot of thought into their work.
83	5 AAC 21.377. Port Graham Salmon Hatchery Management Plan. Modify management plan for Port Graham Salmon Hatchery to determine harvest priorities within the special harvest area (SHA) and describe the location of the SHA.	8 – 0 Support Same comments as Proposal 82.
84	5 AAC 21.373. Trail Lakes Salmon Hatchery Management Plan. Create a management plan for Trail Lakes Salmon Hatchery to determine harvest priorities within the special harvest area (SHA); describe the location of the Bear Lake, China Poot and Hazel Lake, Tutka Bay Lagoon, and Kirchner Lake SHAs; and define fishing seasons within the SHAs.	8 – 0 Support Same comments as Proposal 82.
87	5 AAC 28.371. Landing requirements for Cook Inlet Area. Modify offloading requirements for groundfish.	Kelly Brennan had to leave 7 – 0 Support This gives you some leeway so if a processor is unable to take care of everyone within 24 hours. This eliminates the need to ask for that exemption.

(The committee approved to send Robert Purpura as their representative to the BOF LCI meeting.)

Next meeting will be Thursday, November 12th at 6 pm at the Multi-purpose room to finalize LCI proposals (Prop 81), determine if a representative will be attending the BOF LCI meeting in Anchorage and begin discussion of UCI BOF proposals.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 pm.