

**NOATAK & KIVALINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING & ELECTIONS**

**Unit 23**

**BOF Proposals**

**Kivalina, Alaska**

**February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**7:45 pm**

Finalized Noatak and Kivalina Advisory Committee

Minutes 2.18.13

**I. Call to Order, *Chairman Enoch Mitchell***

**A. Roll Call / Establish Quorum**

Enoch Mitchell  
Melford Booth  
Thurston Booth  
Frank Onalik  
Janet Mills  
Enoch Adams  
Stanley Hawley  
Raymond Hawley  
Joe Swan Sr.

**B. Public:**

Margaret Baldwin  
Alice Adams  
Wayne Hall-Red Dog  
Stanley Hawley  
Melford Booth  
Frank Onalik Sr.  
Joseph Luther  
Raymond Hawley  
Thurston Booth  
Austin Adams Sr.  
Enoch Adams Sr.  
Janet Mills  
Replogle Swan  
Brenden Scanlon  
Carmen Daggett

**II. Introductions**

**III. Approval of Agenda:**

Motion:

Second:

Motion carries

IV. Elections/Endorsement review of new AC members

Nominate: Austin Swan

Raymond Hawley

Stanley Hawley

Alice Adams

Total Number of Ballots: 6 votes

Votes for Austin Swan: Member

Enoch Adams Junior: Member

Raymond Hawley: Alternate

Stanley Hawley: Member

Enoch Adams: Member

V. Approval of past Meeting Minutes

Correction adding comments musk ox: Paul Norton Sr.

Motion to approve meeting minutes: Frank Onalik

Seconded: Raymond Hawley

VI. Reports

A. Aqalukpik (Dolly Varden) & Sii Fish

i. Brendan Scanlon (Fish and Game-Sport Fish)

**Dolly Varden presentation**

Trout are really important to people up here. Need to be in fresh water to overwinter. I haven't been able to get up here as much as I would like. We got this design from research done on whale sharks. We put these tags out and if anyone finds one it would be good them back. About 30,000 trout are harvested second only to bearded seal and they have to come into the freshwater during the winter time because it gets too salty. In the Wullik River there are only 3-5,000 fish.

There have been Dolly varden anywhere Pollock have been caught. However, trawlers don't go up into the Chukchi Sea. There were about 100,000-200,000 Dolly varden that come in during the winter time. We're looking at temperature, depth and location. We used satellite tags that are located on the outside of the fish. On a programmed date the tag goes to the surface. We seined 20 of the largest fish we could so that the tag would not hit the tail of the fish. We put the fish in a cradle with water moving, we didn't need to anesthetize the fish they held pretty slowly. We wanted to look at the popup locations. We tagged 20 fish in 3 days 30-36 inches we got data back from 18 of the fish. The fish has to be in saltwater in order to get information from the tag because it allows the mount to corrode.

Between June 15-30<sup>th</sup> in the Wullik got a fish

Some fish were in the Russia waters

One of the fish moved to a Russian river in a lagoon

Some of them were in the Chuckchi sea

One of the fish died and the tag was released.

River residence time

Ocean Entry-can tell by the temperature of the water proxy of ocean entry

Marine Transit: doesn't vary depth too much

Marine Feeding: dives regularly

Shows fish dove almost constantly between until between noon and 3 pm and began diving again.

The four fish off the Russian coast 0-5 meters was the average depth of the diving of the fish in that region.

All of the fish stayed in the river for 3-4 weeks after we tagged them.

The fish swam constantly for five days and then spent 50 days just diving for food. Most of the fish stayed around the Kotzebue Sound area.

The tags are \$4,500 each and we can refurbish them for \$900 so we like to get the tags back.

For the first year we staggered the pop up dates. This is the first documentation of them using the Chukchi Sea during the summer. We did not see them occupying the area for the oil and gas leases. They spend a lot of time on the surface they could be susceptible to oil and seismic boom exposure they may experience some affects from drilling.

To you the fish that you are eating come from a lot of different places, there are enough of fish from other sources of those fish. They do a lot of oil exploration and there is a spill there it may affect your fish here.

Hopefully we can put out more tags this year we got enough money to put out 28 tags this year.

We are going to go up river this year to get more information

Genetic research has been done before. We don't have any genetic information from Russia.

We are planning on coming back June 13<sup>th</sup>. They start coming up from the last part of May.

### **Brendan Scanlon: Sheefish Presentation**

Satellite tagging

Sheefish don't mature until they are seven or years old

We did some work on the Kobuk River looking at spawning, if males do different things than females, etc.

Inquiry about how a radio tag works.

Brendan Scanlon: Explains how a radio tag works.

There are Sheefish in the Kuskokwim, Yukon, Selawik, Kobuk and there are 29,000-45,000 fish spawn, but we now know that fish don't spawn every year. We never had any of the fish go from the Kobuk up the Selawik River or vice versa. They had underwater tracking stations in the winter and noted that there was a lot of mixing during the winter time. In 2008 and 2009 we put the tags out in the Kobuk River with two tracking stations in the village of Kobuk. The tags about the size of my thumb. The tags are internal; there were only about 22 that died out of 300 fish. We had school kids tracking the sheefish and we used a satellite modem. In the village of Kobuk there is about a 40 mile stretch where they spawn they do not go up the tributaries rivers they are really concentrated between the Paw and the Selby Rivers just below the place called Kalla. The sheefish spawn at night, they swim up to the surface and release their eggs. They travel up river in the fall end of July they are all on the spawning grounds in mid-August. They

fish are all out by October 11<sup>th</sup>. The length of fish under the ice caught in Hotham Inlet are smaller. There about 40,000 fish that spawn every year. It appears now that Sheefish are high on the population level we are trying to keep track of what is happening in the thaw slump. It is too early to tell what affect the thaw slump will have on Sheefish in the Selawik River.

Brendan they don't spawn on the Noatak.

Why don't the Sheefish go further north?

Brendan Scanlon: probably because of water temperature.

I'll see you guys next fall. If there is someone who would like to work with us next fall we would like to hire local and get you guys to take us out to get the fish.

## VII. Proposals

### **Statewide Allocation, Management Plans and Policies**

#### **Proposal 215**

Motion: To abstain from voting on proposal 215

All Support

Opposed: None

Discussion: N/A

**Motion Result: Abstain from voting**

#### **Proposal 217**

Motion: Motion to abstain from voting on proposal 217

Seconded

All Support

None Opposed

Discussion:

The state of Alaska is coming up with a management plan for kings. The relationship has to do with how the currents go and there are cycles.

The gentleman who submitted this is a commercial fisherman down in Kodiak.

**Motion Result: To abstain from voting on proposal 217**

#### **Proposal 218**

Motion: Motion to support proposal 218

Seconded:

All Support

Opposed

Discussion:

Brendan Scanlon: This group is mostly dealing with Yukon Kings and the Lower Yukon

Carmen Daggett: Explains escapement goal range movement.

Brendan Scanlon: Explains escapement goals.

Stanley Hawley: I would tend to side with the Bering Sea Fisherman's because they are closely associated with our group.

Motion Result:

**Motion carries to support proposal 218**

### **Proposal 225-Permit Stacking**

Motion to abstain from voting on proposal 225

All Support

Opposed

Discussion: I don't like this proposal at all.

Brendan Scanlon: This won't change anything about sport fishing.

I don't want to touch this proposal at all.

Motion Result: AC abstained from voting on proposal 225

### **Proposal 227**

Motion to abstaining from the proposal 227

Support:

Opposed:

Discussion: This is a sport fishery proposal; it wouldn't affect subsistence fishers at all.

Questions about catch and release. There is about a 10% catch and release mortality. On our river it is getting worse with catch and release. Do you think a lot of it is hunters who just bring fishing rods with them? Every year it is increasing with sport fishers here, because they hear about our big trout that we can get.

Brendan Scanlon: Explains that it costs a lot of money to get out here. Explains that there is a guiding service that operates for just French people. They are casting where our caribou route crossing is. I told many of them to move, and they said they would and when I go back out there they are still there.

Carmen Daggett: you may want to approach the Unit 23 user conflict group.

Brendan Scanlon: Explains the number of harvested trout on the Noatak River ~420 fish were caught out of the Wullik. We have a mail out harvest survey and a guide book.

Public Comment: I wonder how many of the fish were released. That should be on the form

Brendan Scanlon: I would bet that most of the people that come out here and catch fish and release them.

Public Comment: Explains that it is concerned about the catch and the release death rate. We find all kinds of white stuff on them. We take the fish home we don't release them.

Public comment: Sometimes we go up river and people have been catching a releasing and the fish don't bite and then we just wasted our gas getting there.

Brendan Scanlon: The statewide harvest survey is online you can get information about sport fisherman to the statewide harvest survey estimates.

Public Comment: Would like to get the data of released fish.

Resident discussion versus in state permits. Guides cannot issue proxy permits.

Public Question: Inquires about residents and non-residents and who would be affected by this permit.

Brendan Scanlon: I don't think it is going to affect you guys at all.

We have too many regulations bothering us.

**Result: Abstained from voting on proposal 227**

**Proposal 228**

Motion to support proposal 228

Seconded

All Support

None opposed

Discussion:

Brendan Scanlon: Gives an example of high grading

Focused towards the sports fisherman?

Brendan Scanlon: yes

**Motion Result: Motion carries to support proposal 228**

**Proposal 229**

Motion to abstain from voting

All Support

None Opposed

Discussion:

Brendan Scanlon: Explains an example of losing a fishing license and the stamps that go with it.

**Motion Result: AC abstained from voting on proposal 229**

**Proposal 230**

Motion to abstain from voting on proposal 230

All Support

None Opposed

Discussion:

Brendan Scanlon: Almost exactly the same as the one we had before accept it is proposed by a different group.

**Motion Result: AC abstained from voting on proposal 230**

**Proposal 232**

Motion to abstain from voting on proposal 232

All Support

None Opposed

Discussion:

Brendan Scanlon: Explains an example of this proposal.

**Motion Result: Abstained from voting on proposal 232**

**Proposal 233**

Motion: Motion to support proposal 233

All Support

Discussion:

Carmen Daggett: Explain the reasoning behind felt bottom soled boots

None Opposed

**Motion Result: Motion carries to support proposal 233**

**Proposal 234**

Motion to support proposal 234

All Support

Discussion:

We do use a lot of lead weights though.

The size of weights is what is important

None Opposed

**Motion Result: motion carries to support proposal 234**

**Proposal 235**

Motion to support proposal 235

Seconded:

All Support

None Opposed

Discussion:

Brendan Scanlon: Right now the information that we get from sport fishing is from the sport harvest surveys. This would improve the data for number of fish caught by sport harvest.

Explains where the Native Village of Eyak is.

This is a statewide proposal.

**Motion Result: AC supported proposal 235**

Time and Date of Next Meeting: