

**Upper Kobuk Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
2.21.13 Kobuk School 6 pm-9:45 pm**

Roll Call Quorum:

Marvin Joe Cleveland
Henry Horner Sr.
Elmer Ward
Billy Custer
Frank Downey

Not Present:

Melvin Lee-
Glenn Douglas
Warren Douglas

Introduction:

Carmen Daggett-Boards Support
James Saveride-Sport Fish Biologist

Per diem discussion:

AC members: discuss cost of traveling to meetings and what it costs to travel up river, gas is \$10 a gallon, we can't buy food for travel, and would like to have per diem issued even if travel status is less than 12 hours.

Carmen: I brought food for you guys, so make sure you guys get some.

Carmen: Explains how amount of mileage is determined and how it is used to reimburse meeting attendees.

Carmen: Explains 12 hour rule with per diem and reimbursement for mileage.

Joe Cleveland: We need more money to travel.

Carmen: Explains that you could fly and then you wouldn't have to worry about paying for gas if you can't afford it.

Joe Cleveland: Inquires about how per diem works.

Carmen Daggett: Explains per diem distribution and how it is distributed if you are out beyond 12 hours. Gives example of how per diem works.

Elections:

Henry Horner: Inquires if the individual has to be present
Carmen Daggett: Individual should be present
Motion to table Kobuk elections to the next IRA meeting.

Seconded

Motion carries

Elections: Tabled to take place at the Kobuk Annual meeting for 2 Kobuk seats and one alternate.

Minutes Approval:

Motion to approve meeting minutes

Minutes approved

Agenda Approval:

Motion to approve agenda

Seconded:

Agenda

Proposal 215

Motion to support:

Joe Cleveland: Me I would support this proposal

Motion to support proposal 215

Seconded:

Motion carries

Proposal 217

Discussion:

It is hard for us to make a decision for us to support or not support, because we are not from the area.

Carmen Daggett: if you feel uncomfortable with making this decision, you can abstain from voting.

Joe Cleveland: inquires about local escapement goals. There are not escapement goals in Kotzebue there are in Nome.

Carmen Daggett: Explains possible local significance.

Joe Cleveland: The lower end is at the mouth?

Carmen Daggett: Explains the lower end referred to is the lower end of the escapement goal range.

Motion to support proposal 217

Seconded:

All support

Motion carries

Proposal 218

Joe Cleveland: Inquires about what the proposal is about.

Carmen Daggett: Gives an example of escapement goals and how the SET applies to it. Inquires with James Saveride about SETs

James Saveride: Eventually when we do escapement goals sometimes gives us a mark for having poor data on a specific location. We are guaranteeing that there is going to be this much fish out there no matter what.

Joe Cleveland Motion to support proposal 218

Seconded:

All Support

Motion Carries

Proposal 225

Henry Horner: Motion to support

Seconded:

Discussion:

Inquiries for how permit stacking works

Carmen Daggett: Explains how permit stacking works

All support

Motion Carries

Proposal 227

Carmen Daggett: Explains proxy fishing.

Joe Cleveland: motion to support 227

All Support

Motion Carries

Proposal 228

Joe Cleveland: Motion to support proposal 228

All support

None Opposed

Motion carries

Proposal 229

AC Member: inquires about who the proposal applies to

Carmen Daggett: Explains residency and gives examples of one day fishing licenses

Motion to support

All support

Motion Carries

Proposal 230

Joe Cleveland: Motion to support proposal 230

Second

All Support

Motion Carries

Proposal 232

Joe Cleveland: Motion to support proposal 232

Second

All Support

Motion Carries

Proposal 233

Carmen Daggett: Explains why felt bottom soles were banned.

Joe Cleveland: Motion to support proposal 233

Seconded:

All support

Motion carries

Proposal 234

Motion to support proposal 234

Seconded

All support

Motion carries

Proposal 235

Joe Cleveland: Motion to support 235

Seconded

All support

Motion carries

North Pacific Fisheries Management Council Letter

Joe Cleveland: Inquires if we are the only one's commenting on this.

Carmen Daggett: It is not just you guys' comments, they requested it distributed across the state.

Joe Cleveland: Motion to support the letter

Seconded:

All support the letter

Motion carries

International Circumpolar Council Food Security

Informative flyer

Ray Hander Presentation on Sheefish

Information

James Saveride-Sheefish presentation

Apologized for not being there in person

I have been working in the Kobuk area since 2008

It kind of culminated with Ray Hander's work in the Selawik

The fish that live in the Kobuk and the Selawik

Fish and Game are estimating spawners in the Kobuk

We don't have a lot of information about the juvenile sheefish

I am going to cover the information from my presentation

Gives outline of the talk with background of sheefish in Alaska: Radio telemetry data & data summary

There global range goes from the Mackenzie River to the White Sea of Western Russia. In Alaska their range is pretty much in the Yukon, Kuskokwim, in the Selawik and the Kobuk. The fish in the Selawik and the Kobuk are the oldest and largest and size. The Selawik fish average to be 8-9 years old.

Explains otolith aging with annual rings like a tree. They are a long lived species as old as 43 years old 30 -40 fish have been observed in the Kobuk and the Selawik. There are 25,000-35,000 fish and there are few more going up the Selawik River and they mix in Kobuk and Selawik lake. They don't go up the river

until they are 6 or seven years old. Spawners don't have to spawn every year. That complicates figuring out the actual population. For those reasons in general is the reason why we decided to come to Kobuk to do a telemetry study. We are trying to get more of the knowledge. We are trying to get an idea of spawning frequency. There is not much energy investment for males there is for females. We suspect we would see an every other spawning strategy. If we had 100 Kobuk and 100 Selawik spawners we suspect we would see half of each group spawning and coming in. We went upstream in the Kobuk River to use the radio telemetry techniques to try to figure out spawning frequency.

We thought we could come in late fall and we could use sonar and get a total population estimate. All of these pictures each one of the fish was radio tagged we tagged 150 sheefish in 2008 and another 150 in 2009. For the people who live in Kobuk you have probably seen me. I was in the village a few years with a station and another station up river and we used to track the fish. We did get help from the Cleveland's and the Ward's. We surgically plant radio tags in sheefish because they are multi-year spawners. We use clove oil to sedate them and make sure they recover.

In 2008 and 2009 students from the school were used to keep track of the tower in Kobuk and they took charge and learned to build a run time curve. The office of subsistence management tries to include outreach to the communities.

Showed a slide with the distribution of sheefish up river to spawn, the red dots are from 2008 and the yellow dots are from 2009. The spawning area spans from Beaver Creek to Kalla. The local knowledge has been telling us that for as long as we know and the data supports that. As you go down river there is more turbulence and it is more tannic. The Paw River fork has lots of sheefish it is a bit more tannic but the substrate is perfect.

Explains the migration timing of the radio tagged sheefish. We started to see them at the end of July maxing out at 30th of August to the end of September. You can see from 2008 and 2009 50% of the sheefish left by the 29th of September. The traditional knowledge says that the sheefish come in slow and leave really fast and the data that I collected supports that traditional knowledge. The females are larger than the males; this is the data that supports that. The pattern is repeated in the Selawik, Yukon and the same pattern is in the Kobuk. The Kobuk River spawners are definitely a large sized population. We know a lot about adults and not much about juveniles. I paid the fisherman to keep track of the size of the fish that they were catching through the ice on Kobuk Lake and they caught a wider range of age classes during the winter.

In 2008 that returned in 2009 most of them were males and some were females. Now that we have skipped a year more of the females have come back. The resources available to sheefish available in the Kobuk River area nothing is limiting their spawning. This year we are going to keep flying and tracking fish. We will estimate what proportion of the fish are spawning to get the total population size. I want to reiterate that the support from the Ward's and the Cleveland's is much appreciated.

Next meeting Date & Time

Joe Cleveland: It seems like there aren't a lot of regulations discussions about this region. The regulations must be pretty good.

Carmen Daggett: That is not necessarily true. It is possible that people haven't been using the process to make changes. It would be good to share things with IRA and city council meetings to get a wider amount of changes.

Carmen Daggett: Kobuk and Shungnak need to have elections and I have had a hard time making head way with it.

Henry Horner: There has been a lot of turn over lately.

Joe Cleveland: Is there a possibility of have alternates in addition to the representatives assigned.

Carmen Daggett: Explains use and elections/alternates for appointments. They are good to have a go to person for when people aren't able to make meetings. It also helps with making quorum.

Henry Horner: Inquires with the number of seats for Kobuk.

Carmen Daggett: There are two seats from Kobuk.

Joe Cleveland: There are three from Ambler, three from Shungnak or Kobuk?

Carmen Daggett: Explains the undesignated seats.

Joe Cleveland: Motion to Adjourn

AC would like to meet with the Lower Kobuk AC.

Discussion about Louie Commack as the alternate for Ambler.

Motion adjourned 9:45 pm