

Craig Advisory Council meeting January 29, 2015

Quorum in attendance:

Chuck Haydu
Ellen Hannan
Kirk Agnitsch
Steve Stumpf
Fred Hamilton
Bill Farmer
Doug Rhoades
Brian Castle
Stu Merchant

Members Not Present:

Mike Douville
Steve Merritt

Public in Attendance:

John Ryan
Dave Creighton
Jeff Reeves
Craig Schwanke

Meeting called to order @ 7:05PM

Meeting agenda approved

Minutes approved from last meeting on December 2, 2014

Board members and seats up for election:

Fred Hamilton-Subsistence
Steve Merritt-Troll
Ellen Hannon-Hunting
Mike Douville-Longline
Kirk Agnitsch-Sportfishing

All members and seats were retained by unanimous vote

Ellen Hannon was nominated and sustained as chair

Dave Creighton was nominated as an alternate to the board

Bill Farmer Report on Southeast crab, shrimp and misc. shellfish meeting Jan 21-27: Only 14 public people in attendance. Meeting went quickly. Communities asking for areas close to their towns closed where there would be no commercial shrimping and crabbing. All were denied except for Hoonah and Angoon since they had solid representation at the meeting. Bill gave recommendations for the city of Hydaburg since they had no representation. Shrimp reductions and no answers on

how to fix it other than reporting requirements. Freezer boats to record size and weight of shrimp caught and put in categories. Status quo for the next 3 years. One change was only up to 140 commercial pots and no subsistence pots per vessel. Required mandatory reporting process for sport caught shrimp out of Juneau due to low stocks in a closed commercial area. Approved a non-commercial tourism operation in George inlet to check up to 2 crab pots per boat for up to 3 boats, release crab and go back to the lodge and have a crab dinner from commercially purchase crab. ***“Written comments book”*** gives boards advice on why they like, don’t like or have no comment on the proposals we are going over in our meetings. We need to request this information if it is available prior to our meetings.

Stu Merchant report on Board of Game meeting January 9-13: Estimate POW wolf population at 221. Only reached 30% harvest level twice in recent years. The Craig AC supported reducing to 20% harvest of the wolf population. Stu reported seeing a lot of wolf sign in his travels. Taking beavers with a firearm may go. However, there was some opposition due to shooting on water. General consensus was to not extend the deer season to the elderly. The Board agrees that trappers should check their sets frequently however; they acknowledge that weather is the biggest factor. GPS coordinates on bear bait stations. They felt it was important to keep hunters responsible for what they put out. Allow transfer of harvest tickets to 2nd degree of kindred. Stu feels the Board may support it.

New Business:

BOG or BOF	Proposal Number	Proposal Description	
Supports or Opposes	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments/Discussions, Amendments to proposal
BOF	144	Repeal mandatory retention of non-pelagic rockfish	
	8	0	The current law does not offer discretion. It forces anglers to keep rockfish regardless of size and their ability to survive.
BOF	143	Require a deep-water release mechanisms for all anglers, not just charters.	
***	9	0	As a conservation issue it makes sense for everyone to have a device to help save rockfish.
BOF	155	Allow party fishing on vessels	
	2	5	2 abstained votes. May help reduce mortality on certain species that have to be released by “limited out” anglers. Can also open the laws up for more abuse by bringing people along on fishing trips just for their limits.
BOF	156	Allow harvest of salmon with bow	
	0	9	

BOF	157	Reduce king salmon size limit to 26"	
	0	9	Limit has been 28" since the 1970's. There is no reason to change it.
BOF	158	Set bag limit for Nonresidents anglers at constant limit for entire season.	
	0	9	Conflicts with the King Salmon Treaty and takes away opportunities to market early season to non-resident anglers.
BOF	159	Set annual limits for nonresident saltwater anglers	
	1	8	No conservation issues on species stocks. Difficulty keeping up with fish harvested by signing licenses. Recording and safety issues.
BOF	160	Set annual limits for nonresident freshwater anglers	
	8	1	Non-residents camp on rivers for weeks on end and keep daily limits and process their fish so there is no possession limit. Trooper Ryan noted there is some abuse on POW streams (Hatchery Creek, Red bay, Sarkar, and Neck creek) Fish and game did say they don't have a lot of information on in-season escapement for wild stocks.
BOF	170	Allow use of bait after Sept. 15 through Oct. 15	
	1	8	Could lead to higher mortality on trout and fall steelhead. Could lead to anglers targeting female fish for eggs to fish eggs. By allowing bait it would take pressure off of wild runs where you currently can fish eggs.
BOF	171	Allow use of bait after Sept. 15	
	1	8	Same comments as 170
BOF	150	Close certain portions of the Klawock River drainage to subsistence salmon fishing with seines and gillnets.	
	9	0	Important to close off the mouth of the Klawock river above the bridge to protect fish entering the river.
BOF	181	Establish a Neck lake special harvest area	
	9	0	

***** Stu Merchant arrived late and joined the board at this time.**

Bill Farmer previewed the following proposals prior to the Feb. 3 meeting:

Proposal 222 Spring hatchery troll fishery. Wording changed from hatchery fish to Alaska hatchery fish. Designating Alaska hatchery fish will only give trollers access to areas where **Alaska** hatchery fish make up more than 20% of the catch. He opposes it.

Proposal 230: Restrict access to chum fishery in 15-C on July 1 by trollers. Trollers have been able to access this area and make a living catching chums. Gillnetters are

claiming trollers are catching too many small kings. He says the gillnetters want these fish all to themselves. He sees it as a way for trollers to make a living and take some pressure off the general outside season. He opposes it.

We discussed allowing our representative at the Board of Fish Meeting to have the ability to drop any of our proposals on the Klawock River. We currently support proposal 151 and are not so sure of 149, 150 and 152.

Meeting Adjourned At 9:30pm