Wrangell Fish and Game Advisory Committee
December 18, 2014
Wrangell Fire Hall
Southeast and Yakutat Finfish, Feb. 23–March 3, 2015
Alaska Board of Fisheries

I. Call to Order: Seven PM by Chris Guggenbickler

II. Roll Call: Members Present: (12)
Chris Guggenbickler, Chairperson
David Rak, Secretary
Marlin Benedict, member
Bill Knecht, member
Janice Churchill, member
John Yeager, member
Tony Guggenbickler, member
Brian Merritt, member
Robert Rooney, member
Jason Rooney, member
Winston J. Davies, member
Scott McAuliffe, alternate

Members Absent: (5)
Brennon Eagle, Vice-Chair
Tom Sims, member
Otto Florschutz, member
Alan Reeves, member
Mike Bauer, alternate

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: Eight
List of User Groups Present: NA

III. Approval of Agenda: Board of Fish Finfish Proposals

IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

V. Fish and Game Staff Present:
Tom Kowalske (DFG) Wrangell
Troy Thynes (DFG) Petersburg
Patrick Fowler (DFG) Petersburg

VI. Guests Present: Dan Rudy, Wrangell Sentinel; Katarina Sostaric KSTK Radio; Dennis Reed

VII. Old Business: No old business

1. New Business: Chris reported on the recent SSRAA Meeting Report and other business.

Southeast and Yakutat Finfish, Feb. 23–March 3, 2015 Alaska Board of Fisheries			
Mandatory- Please Summarize Your Proposal Comments in this Form			
BOG or BOF	**Proposal Number**	**Proposal Description**	
Supports or Opposes?	**Number Support**	**Number Oppose**	**Comments/Discussion (list Pros and Cons)/Amendments to Proposal**
BOF	**130**	**Create a commercial fishery for spiny dogfish in Southeast Alaska using pot gear.**	
X☐ **Support** ☐ Support as Amended ☐ Oppose ☐ No Action	10	2	The Wrangell AC supports the development of a directed fishery if there are too many dogfish. The AC generally favors decreasing the amount of dogfish in the water. Pots for dogfish should not be allowed in areas that would conflict with gillnet and seine fisheries. It was noted that currently there is no commercial fishery for dogfish, and there have been requests for the past two board cycles. Persons wishing to take dogfish could apply for a Commissioners Permit for an experimental fishery. Currently dogfish cannot be retained and sold as bycatch. (Dogfish cannot be placed in the same hold with other fish due to excretion from their skin.) In the past a fishery near Yakutat did allow dogfish bycatch, but no take was reported on the fish tickets. Some dogfish can be retained in the power and hand troll fishery in SEAK. If the proposal passes, the management cost for a new fishery should be small. Some members are against even one more hook in the water.
BOF	**131**	**Allow pots in commercial sablefish fishery.**	
X☐ **Support** ☐ Support as Amended ☐ Oppose ☐ No Action	11	1	It is assumed the proposal would open up new areas for the pot fishery. If the pot fishery is allowed in SEAK, it should be allowed only in Clarence Strait, not Chatham Strait or outside waters. A quota is needed for black cod harvest and then the decision for the gear type: pots vs long line. Small boats that long line fish would not be able to run pots which generally requires larger boats.
BOF	**136**	**Establish 50 fish harvest limit for personal use sablefish fishery.**	
X☐ **Support** ☐ Support as Amended ☐ Oppose ☐ No Action	11	1	The Wrangell AC feels this is a reasonable proposal if it is OK with Federal Subsistence. Currently there is no limit. Favorable elements include: allowing 4 permits per vessel; and commercial vessels can be hired for the fishery.
BOF	**138**	**Require groundfish fishermen using dinglebar, mechanical jig, or hand troll gear to report the specific location of fishing operation by latitude and longitude in logbooks and clarify the reporting of amount of hooks fished to be consistent with that information requested in the logbook.**	
X☐ **Support** ☐ Support as Amended ☐ Oppose ☐ No Action	11	1	The Wrangell AC supports the proposal for research as a tool that would improve management of the lingcod fishery. Department managers need good and accurate information to better manage lingcod. The information in the ADG&G data base could be available to other fisheries as well.

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Supports or Opposes?	**Number Support**	**Number Oppose**	**Comments/Discussion (list Pros and Cons)/Amendments to Proposal**
BOF	**139**	**Define mechanical jigging gear separate from dinglebar troll gear and establish limits on hooks to be used.**	
X☐ **Support** ☐ Support as Amended ☐ Oppose ☐ No Action	12	0	The Wrangell AC supports this proposal because as there is a difference in between the gear it would help to differentiate between them in the regulations.
BOF	**140**	**Increase minimum commercial lingcod size limit to 30 inches from tip of snout, or 22.75 inches from front of dorsal fin, to tip of tail.**	
☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended ☐ Oppose X☐ **No Action**			The proposed change would result in not much difference to the fishery because small cod are not kept.
BOF	**141**	**Allow commercial salmon fishermen using troll gear in Sitka Sound to retain up to two lingcod per trip for personal use.**	
☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended ☐ Oppose X☐ No Action			Proposal is for the Community of Sitka. Trollers are not allowed to keep fish within the LAMP. The proposed change could result in increased harvest, which could result in conservation issues.
BOF	**142**	**Repeal Sitka Sound Special Use area lingcod regulations.**	
☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended ☐ Oppose X☐ **No Action**			Proposal is for the Community of Sitka. The proposal would make the Department regulations match the current more restrictive practices being used.
BOF	**143**	**Require all anglers releasing nonpelagic rockfish to release them at depth, and require at least one deep water release mechanism on board vessels used by sport anglers.**	
☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended X☐ **Oppose** ☐ No Action	3	9	The Wrangell AC is divided over this proposal. Commercial charter fishing boats are already required to have the release mechanism on board and use it for the rock fish. The proposal would put all fishers on an equal basis and conserve many rockfish. There are concerns for the release mechanism for rental fishing boats. There was a major concern that families that are bottom fishing would be required to have the release mechanism on board in case they catch a rockfish. All sport fishers would be required to have a release mechanism on board their boat.
BOF	**144**	**Repeal mandatory retention requirements for nonpelagic rockfish.**	
☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended X☐ Oppose ☐ No Action	0	12	The Wrangell AC believes the proper use of the deep water release mechanism would allow most rockfish caught to live after being released. There is no need for a regulation requiring persons to keep (and kill) 100% of the rockfish caught. Note: It appears the Members thought they were voting on keeping and killing all the rockfish caught, which the Committee opposes.

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Supports or Opposes?	**Number Support**	**Number Oppose**	**Comments/Discussion (list Pros and Cons)/Amendments to Proposal**
BOF	**113**	**Prohibit fishing, around Cache Island, for bottomfish, crab, and shrimp by all users. *This proposal is also scheduled for consideration during the Southeast and Yakutat Crab, Shrimp, and Miscellaneous Shellfish meeting*.**	
☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended X☐ Oppose ☐ No Action	0	11	The Wrangell AC considered this proposal during its meeting on 12/11/2014. The Wrangell AC opposes localized area closures by regulation. The Department already has the authority to close areas if needed for resource conservation. The AC opposes this allocative proposal to a gear group.
BOF	**148**	**Allow for designation of community subsistence harvesters for Hoonah residents.**	
☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended **X☐ Oppose** ☐ No Action	0	12	The Wrangell AC opposes this proposal because it would open a quasi-commercial harvest for a few individuals.
BOF	**155**	**Allow party fishing in Southeast Alaska saltwater fisheries.**	
X☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended ☐ Oppose ☐ No Action	12	0	The Wrangell AC supports this proposal because it would allow for a boat limit; replacing per person limits. This could result in more fish kept but less fish mortality due to release by a person who has limited out or wants a bigger fish. Adults could allow their kids to have a positive fishing experience because they can allow young people to fight and land more fish.
BOF	**156**	**Allow the use of bow and arrow to take salmon in the Southeast Alaska Area by certified bow anglers.**	
☐ Support **X☐ Support as Amended** ☐ Oppose ☐ No Action	12	0	The Wrangell AC feels the proposal as written is too loose and amends it to restrict the use of a bow and arrow to saltwater only, and there must be a line attached to the arrows. The Wrangell AC supports the proposal as amended.
BOF	**157**	**Reduce the king salmon size limit from 28 inches or greater in length to 26 inches or greater in length in the Southeast Alaska Area.**	
☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended **X☐ Oppose** ☐ No Action	0	12	The Wrangell AC opposes this proposal because it is not in favor of keeping smaller fish. Decreasing the limit to 26 inches would increase the efficiency of the fishery, but the number of king salmon available is set by Treaty. Is the size of a king salmon at the same age decreasing? May be best to keep the size limit unchanged.
BOF	**158**	**Modify the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan by eliminating inseason reductions to the annual limit.**	
☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended **X☐ Oppose** ☐ No Action	0	12	The Wrangell AC opposes this proposal because regulations should not be changed to build a lodge business around, and the AC is not in favor of a SE wide change in the Plan. The AC feels the lodge businesses need to adapt to changes in the regulations made for king salmon conservation. There will be highs and lows in the fishery. All fishers need to accept that and adapt. The king salmon charter fishery should not be a "meat fishery". The fishery cannot have a constant bag limit.

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Supports or Opposes?	**Number Support**	**Number Oppose**	**Comments/Discussion (list Pros and Cons)/Amendments to Proposal**
BOF	**159**	**Establish nonresident annual limits for coho, sockeye, chum, and pink salmon in salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.**	
X☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended ☐ Oppose ☐ No Action	11	1	The Wrangell AC supports this proposal because they believe an annual limit needs to be put on nonresidents for all species of salmon in salt water.
BOF	**160**	**Establish nonresident annual limits for coho, sockeye, chum, and pink salmon in fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.**	
X☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended ☐ Oppose ☐ No Action	12	0	The Wrangell AC supports this proposal as it is the similar to proposal 159, for fresh water. Annual limits are needed on nonresidents for all species of salmon in fresh water.
BOF	**166**	**Establish an effective date of April 1 for the District 11 sport fishery for king salmon and rescind the closure in upper Taku Inlet.**	
☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended **X☐ Oppose** ☐ No Action	0	12	The Wrangell AC opposes liberalizing bag limits to take fish in this District. This should be left to the Department to regulate. The upper Taku is not in the Wrangell area, but regulatory actions are necessary in that area.
BOF	**172**	**Repeal Ketchikan Creek harvest regulations applying to adipose fin-clipped steelhead.**	
☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended ☐ Oppose **X☐ No Action**			When SSRAA takes over the facility at Deer Mountain the need to be regulated/ for the regulation would be unnecessary.
BOF	**175**	**Evaluate potential changes to enhanced salmon allocations.**	
☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended ☐ Oppose **X☐ No Action**			Proposal would modify the Management Plan. Action is opposed by the RPT who do not favor opening up the allocation plan. Issue has been taken up by the joint RPT in Petersburg who opposed the proposal.
BOF	**176**	**Establish new enhanced salmon allocations by gear type.**	
☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended ☐ Oppose **X☐ No Action**			Proposal would modify the Management Plan. Action is opposed by the RPT who do not favor opening up the allocation plan. Issue has been taken up by the joint RPT in Petersburg who opposed the proposal.

BOG or BOF	Proposal Number	Proposal Description	
Supports or Opposes?	**Number Support**	**Number Oppose**	**Comments/Discussion (list Pros and Cons)/Amendments to Proposal**
BOF	**183**	**Modify commercial salmon fishery purse seine and drift gillnet fishing time ratios in the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area.**	
☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended ☐ Oppose **X☐ No Action**			Prefer to support the USAG and SEAS agreements/proposals.
BOF	**185**	**Change fishing ratios and sunset date in the Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.**	
☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended ☐ Oppose **X☐ No Action**			Proposal will be pulled by the JRPT.
BOF	**186**	**Modify commercial salmon fishery purse seine and drift gillnet fishing time ratios in the Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area.**	
X☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended ☐ Oppose ☐ No Action	12	0	The Wrangell AC supports the USAG and SEAS agreements and proposals. The proposed action is needed to maintain the agreed upon harvest ratio.
BOF	**187**	**Allow commercial salmon drift gillnet gear in Southeast Cove Terminal Harvest Area.**	
☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended ☐ Oppose **X☐ No Action**			Support the USAG and SAS agreements/proposals
BOF	**190**	**Modify accounting of commercial sockeye salmon purse seine harvest limit in Amalga Harbor Special Harvest Area.**	
☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended ☐ Oppose **X☐ No Action**			Proposal is part of the USAG and SEAS agreement. Support the USAG and SAS agreements/proposals.
BOF	**198**	**Establish closed waters around sockeye salmon streams in the Angoon area.**	
X☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended ☐ Oppose ☐ No Action	10	2	The Wrangell AC supports this proposal because it starts the process of keeping commercial fishing available and making fish available to Angoon. Areas have been closed by EO. Proposal would close by regulation. No new closed waters. It is important that the action is a biological decision, not a political one

BOG or BOF	Proposal Number	Proposal Description	
Supports or Opposes?	**Number Support**	**Number Oppose**	**Comments/Discussion (list Pros and Cons)/Amendments to Proposal**
BOF	**199**	**Prohibit commercial fishing for salmon with purse seine gear within the possessory boundary of Angoon for five years.**	
☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended **X☐ Oppose** ☐ No Action	0	12	The Wrangell AC opposes this proposal because it is too far reaching and questions if there are statistics to back up the proposal. Three years ago it was determined the RAC for Angoon needs to develop a working relationship with the Department by 2015. Cooperation has not been observed. A determination of the individual household needs for Angoon has not been answered.
BOF	**200**	**Close waters within the Admiralty Monument proclamation boundary to commercial fishing for salmon with purse seine gear.**	
☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended **X☐ Oppose** ☐ No Action	0	12	The Wrangell AC opposes this proposal as it opposed proposal 199. The proposal is too far reaching. Three years ago it was determined the RAC for Angoon needs to develop a working relationship with the Department by 2015. Cooperation has not been observed. A determination of the individual household needs for Angoon has not been answered
BOF	**201**	**Close certain waters of Chichagof Island and Admiralty Island to commercial salmon fishing with purse seine gear.**	
X☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended ☐ Oppose ☐ No Action	10	2	The Wrangell AC supports this proposal because it starts the process of keeping commercial fishing available and making fish available to Angoon. Areas have been closed by EO. Proposal would close by regulation. No new closed waters. It is important that the action is a biological decision, not a political one.

Marlin Benedict and John Yeager leave the meeting approximately 10 PM.

BOF	**207**	**Increase commercial drift gillnet salmon fishing opportunity in Section 6-D.**	
X☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended ☐ Oppose ☐ No Action	6	3 & one person abstains	The Wrangell AC was split on this proposal. This is an effort between the net groups to allow opportunity for gillnetters to have increased pink opportunity (as they are below their historic harvest levels) without displacing current seine opportunity.
BOF	**208**	**Establish a drift gillnet mesh size restriction in District 8 when the directed king salmon fishery is closed.**	
☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended **X☐ Oppose** ☐ No Action	0	10	The Wrangell AC opposes this allocative proposal. The proposer talks about "fairness" between user groups, in 2014 for instance there was no directed king fishery for gillnet. Gillnetters had no early openings to access Stikine kings, yet the bag limit for sport was 3 kings/day based on treaty abundance of Columbia river kings, not Stikine kings. Also commercial trollers were allowed hatchery access openings where Stikine kings are incidental harvest. ADF&G managers will close areas near the Stikine to gillnet in years when there is a conservation concern. Also past data shows most Stikine kings have traveled through the fishery prior to the opening of the traditional gillnet fishery.

BOG or BOF	Proposal Number	Proposal Description	
Supports or Opposes?	**Number Support**	**Number Oppose**	**Comments/Discussion (list Pros and Cons)/Amendments to Proposal**
BOF	**209**	**Allow drift gillnets with mesh size of four and seven-eighths inches or less to have a depth of up to 120 meshes.**	
☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended **X☐ Oppose** ☐ No Action	1	9	The Wrangell AC opposes this proposal because the majority of the fleet is not in favor of smaller mesh and deeper nets. Proposal would double the depth with no change in length. Deeper nets catch humpies.
BOF	**210**	**Allow the use of single filament mesh in a commercial salmon drift gillnet in the Southeastern Alaska Area.**	
☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended ☐ Oppose **X☐ No Action**			Monofilament has its own problems with balling and tangling up.
BOF	**222**	**Correct regulatory language to clarify a contribution rate of Alaska hatchery-produced salmon for the spring salmon troll fisheries.**	
☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended ☐ Oppose **X☐ No Action**			Would like clarification that Alaska hatchery fish are to be used.
BOF	**223**	**Change the king salmon harvest percentage for the initial opening in the summer salmon troll fishery from 70 percent to 60 percent.**	
☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended **X☐ Oppose** ☐ No Action	0	10	The Wrangell AC opposes this proposal because it is a bad deal. There is a chance that in some years the quota would not be caught.
BOF	**228**	**Close the commercial troll fishery for coho salmon from August 1–10.**	
☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended **X☐ Oppose** ☐ No Action	0	10	Proposal 228 is similar to proposal 199. The Wrangell AC opposes these proposals because they are too far reaching and questions if there are statistics to back up the proposal. Three years ago it was determined the RAC for Angoon needs to develop a working relationship with the Department by 2015. Cooperation has not been observed. A determination of the individual household needs for Angoon has not been answered.
BOF	**231**	**Reduce the area open to commercial salmon fishing with troll gear in Naha Bay during the summer.**	
☐ Support ☐ Support as Amended **X☐ Oppose** ☐ No Action	0	10	The Wrangell AC opposes this proposal because it is not necessary for fishery conservation, and would set up a “private” preserve.

Adjournment: Approximately 1030 PM

Minutes Recorded By: David Rak
Minutes Approved By: Chris Guggenbickler
Date: January 31, 2015