

**Sitka Fish and Game Advisory Committee**  
**February 17, 2016**  
**834 Lincoln Street, Sitka, AK 99835**

- I. Call to Order: 6:03pm by John Murray, Chairman
- II. Roll Call:  
Members Present: Dick Curran, Karen Johnson, Moe Johnson, Wayne Unger, Randy Gluth, Brian Massey (Vice-chair), Jerry Barber, Tad Fujioka, Bradley Shaffer, Jessica Gill (Secretary), John Murray (Chair), Joel Markis, Luke Bastian  
Members Absent: Jeff Feldpausch, Peter Roddy  
Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 7  
List of User Groups Present: Seine, Hand Troll, Alternate 1, Alternate 2, Hunting, At-Large 1, Longline, Power Troll, Conservation, Charter, Resident Sport Fish, At-Large 2, Processor, Guide
- III. Approval of Agenda:  
No formal agenda
- IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: From January 28, 2016:  
Minutes were approved electronically through email.
- V. Fish and Game Staff Present:  
Kristen Green
- VI. Guests Present:  
Many guests were present for the voting of new AC members. Most people left after elections occurred. Matt Donahoe, Steve Reifienstuhl, Linda Behken, Eric Jordan, and Troy Tydingco were participating in the meeting.
- VII. Old Business:  
Brought back BOF proposal 216 (see original notes below). Dick moved to adopt, Tad seconded. Kristen Green (ADF&G) discussed the commissioner's permits in South Central and Southeast. For the two permits issued in Southeast, there has only been a test set, and no marketable pollock caught on that test set. She read an RC from Jan Rumble, Area Biologist in Homer for the Cook Inlet commissioner's permits, which will be submitted to BOF. In the RC, specific information about each openings and species caught was mentioned, including by-catch of some Chinook salmon adult and smolts, as well as herring by-catch. The fishery started to cover a niche market, but the fish caught didn't make the market specifications. Brian mentioned that was pretty high Chinook by-catch, especially with the mortality of smolts. Steve Reifienstuhl (public) mentioned this fishery was an initiative by F&G Commissioner Sam Cotton, after starting a working group at BOF. The idea behind the fishery would be to pull biomass out of federal fishery (trawl) that occurs in state waters, bringing money to Alaska, not Seattle where the trawlers are based out of. Pollock biology is such that adults come into fjords in late February/early March, and the market the fishery is trying to fill is for adults not juveniles. Better market conditions for seine caught fish than trawl caught fish. Dick mentioned that the areas that set up a seine fishery (Cook Inlet/Prince William Sound) have a trawl fishery too, and if we had one here in Southeast it could create more by-catch. Linda Behken (public) asked about the by-catch in the one Southeast set that occurred. She mentioned Forrest Bowers (ADF&G Juneau) told her there was more herring than pollock caught in the Southeast set, so it didn't work out very well. She thinks there's justification to be concern about potential by-catch of multiple species. Joel asked if boats are eager to catch pollock, because this fishery requires different nets. Kristen mentioned there were only two people that contacted her about the fishery. Tad mentioned the math/economics of pollock fishery versus king salmon by-catch doesn't make sense. John asked about the commissioner's permit. Kristen mentioned that it's for potentially developing a fishery on a

species that doesn't have a management plan right now. There are specific guidelines in permit to change as needed, which is easier to change than changing a management plan. Matt Donahoe (public) asked if the commissioner's permits is kind of like asking for a management plan before having one in place. Brian asked to clarify what we're voting on for this proposal. John mentioned the proposal is to start a management plan for a seine pollock fishery. Eric Jordan (public) asked if on the granted commissioner's permit if the size of seine was specified. Kristen mentioned there was no set gear for the permit because the fishermen were testing what would work best. Eric mentioned that in the late 1970's there was a trawl and seine fishery for pollock in Southeast, that turned into a trawl fishery because seine gear wasn't working. A discussion about merits of trawl versus seine ensued. Moe mentioned he'd support the commissioner's permit, and then come back for a management plan because it's too early now for a plan (i.e. the proposal). Kristen mentioned they have to identify a market first to get the commissioner's permit. Floyd asked about what happened with the by-catch herring. Kristen replied there was no by-catch allowance in the permit, so the herring were released. There appeared to be some consensus among AC members about keeping it at the commissioner's permit then move to a management if it's a viable fishery. Many members didn't think was appropriate for the management plan proposal yet, but they were not in opposition of the commissioner's permit. Dick asked about the juvenile black cod by-catch. Brad would like to leave it as a tabled proposal. Debate and discussion will have more relevance when read out loud at the BOF meeting. Steve mentioned that there are people in the room who have started fisheries and have innovated throughout changes in fisheries, and that this fishery isn't something that can be figured out in one season. Every fishery has its problem with by-catch and mortality, and it's not perfect out of the gate. Linda urged that the AC votes this proposal down, as there's a difference between a commissioner's permit and the proposal, especially given that ADF&G doesn't have enough money to do assessments and create management plans. Brian called the questioned. Vote: 0 in favor-13 in opposition-2 abstained. Brian asked to submit comments to BOF by the February 18 comment deadline.

VIII. New Business:

See BOG meeting minutes from February 17, 2016 for more information.

BOF	216	Establish a state waters walleye pollock purse seine fishery in Southeast Alaska.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TABLED January 28, 2016,  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE February 17, 2016,	9          0	3          13, 2 abstain	<p>Jeff moved to adopt, Dick seconded. Dick asked why it was put forth out of cycle. Jeff agreed and thinks some strings were pulled to get it on the statewide meeting. Mike Vaughn (ADF&amp;G) was unsure about how this proposal was brought forth out of cycle. A commissioner's permit was issued to two fishermen to see if pollock could be caught with seine gear in Prince William Sound and there was limited success in it. One permit was allowed for Southeast. There is a pollock TAC in the federal waters which is largely unfished (less than .5% of the allowable biological catch). John asked about bycatch in the PWS fishery. Mike mentioned there was some salmon bycatch, which was released healthy. Part of the permit is experimental, and there would be observers on board (because it's a pollock fishery). Matt Donahoe (public) asked about a management plan for a commissioner's permit. Mike mentioned that it doesn't exist for test fisheries. Matt Donahoe thought this proposal is a little premature. Mike thinks the permit was issued before the proposal was put forth. Jeff asked about the expiration of the permit and if there was any harvest. Mike mentioned they did not actually fish, but they did a "test" to see if there was a possibility of catching these fish with a seine net. Wayne liked that we can start the dialogue about it. Frank Bolivich (public) mentioned that it the proposal is preemptive. Floyd suggested that a 200,000 lb trip limit seems a little high for a commissioner's permit. Dick suggested there's not enough information to start a fishery, and maybe extend the commissioner's permit. Maybe with more information, the proposer can go to BOF and create a management plan in-cycle. Moe agreed with Dick, and would move to table. Brian seconded the motion to table it. The group voted to table the proposal with a 9-3 vote. Jeff questioned how the proposal got added to the Statewide agenda and would like clarification on it.</p>

Adjournment: 8:18pm

Minutes Recorded By: Jessica Gill, Secretary  
 Minutes Approved By: John Murray, Chairman  
 Date: February 9, 2016