

Sitka Advisory Committee
11/18/2014
Sitka Sound Science Center, 834 Lincoln Street

- I. Call to Order: 6:30PM by John Murray
- II. Roll Call:
 - Members Present: Tad Fujioka (Trapping), Brian Massey (Resident Sport Fish; Vice Chair), Bradley Shaffer (At Large), Jerry Barber (Hand Troll), Kim Elliot (Subsistence), Jeff Feldpausch (Alternate), Randy Gluth (Hunting), Moe Johnson (Seine), Karen Johnson (At Large), Dick Curran (Longline), Jessica Gill (Alternate; Secretary), John Murray (Power Troll; Chairman), Peter Roddy (Shellfish), Floyd Tomkins (Conservation)
 - Members Absent: Cody Loomis (Guide)
 - Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8
 - List of User Groups Present: Trapping, Resident Sport Fish, At Large, Hand Troll, Subsistence, Alternate, Hunting, Seine, At Large, Longline, Alternate, Power Troll, Shellfish, Conservation
- III. Approval of Agenda:
 - No formal agenda was created, but Chairman Murray discussed proposals the AC will review.
- IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: February 17
 - Minute approval did not occur.
- V. Fish and Game Staff Present:
 - No Fish and Game staff was present at this meeting.
- VI. Guests Present:
 - Larry Edwards, Joel (The Boat Company), Matt Donahue, Brad Dennison
- VII. Old Business:
 - No old business was discussed.
- VIII. New Business:
 - Elections need to happen in the near future. Tad asked if the terms went from a two year cycle to a three year cycle. It was mentioned that not everyone on the AC received a proposal book. John will make sure everyone gets paperwork. Bradley asked if we can have elections now, with terms starting in June. Either way, we need to pass out methods. Brian asked for elections at the next meeting. It was decided that elections will be held on December 10th, to give the AC time to advertize for the available positions, which John will check for open seats. It was agreed that we shouldn't be hosting elections in June, and that continuity of terms (June throughout Board season) was more applicable for AC elections. It was also discussed that elections can be held in the spring, and can overlap. Two and a half year terms instead of the usual three years.
 - Jeff gave an update on Didemnum vexillum work going on in Whiting Harbor.

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
BOG	8		Establish a resident drawing hunt for goats in Unit 4, Sitka area.
OPPOSES	0	14	Brian motioned, Jerry seconded to discuss this proposal. Brian—sees logic, because we can cause overharvest. One or two permits. Jeff—That area only has one goat out of that area. Brian—it's behind Sitka, so good assumption. One goat limit out of that area to begin with. John— is this one to save for Phil Mooney or can we vote now? Tad—areas around Sitka are closed. Peter—one goat ensures hunt. Brian—proposal for locals? Kim—residents only. Brian—will not support if open statewide. John—care to amend? Brian—just making a comment. Bradley—Phil Mooney can't answer why population crashed in recent year. Goats were being studied for the hydropower project. If we go to a drawing hunt, it'll open to all residents, but right now it's a local hunt. Going to a draw, it's not drainage by drainage. Voting against. If it's not broke don't fix it. Mike (Public)—the goats on Baranof Island might be genetically unique goats after last ice age. Rob—establishing a draw brings in more interest, to people who might not have been interested in past. Jerry called the question.
BOG	9		Increase the resident bag limit for deer in Unit 4 Remainder to six deer, of which the last two must be bucks.
OPPOSES	0	14	Jerry moved to adopt, Brian seconded. John—didn't think it was our area (Hoonah). Brain— isn't ADF&G in charge of bag limits? Tad—state limit is 4, so this proposal would allow Juneau folks hunting admiralty to get six deer. Jerry— 4 deer on state, 2 on federal lands. Doesn't like, because Juneau residents can get these deer. Floyd—most of the pressure will be on east Chichagof, which has pressure. Might not be able to tell if it's a buck or not because they drop antlers. Jerry called the question.
BOG	10		Change "any deer" resident season to October 15 - December 31 for portions of Unit 1C and all of Unit 4.
OPPOSES	0	13,1 abstain	Kim moved to adopt, Tad seconded. Tad—questions if this is biologically appropriate to reduce doe harvest, but believes it might be too restrictive. Jerry—no conservation concern, too restrictive. Kim—doesn't believe people intentionally take fawn, only by accident or mercy kills. Tad—talked to a longtime Port Alexander resident who said does will typically leave their fawns in early September, so the doe-fawn pairs seen together later might not be their fawns (role models). Brian called the question.
BOG	11		Establish separate brown bear registration hunts for nonresident relatives within second-degree of kindred in Unit 4.
TABLED	12	2	Bradley moved to adopt, Randy seconded. Brad Dennison (Public)—break out session at BOG meeting two years ago. 14 year old management plan, needed changes for plan, recommended to change as situations developed. One regulation changed for guides hunting certain sow skull sizes. As more current bear population densities were understood, they would update harvest guidelines. Lots of other ideas, 2 nd degree kindred non-res hunting. 2 nd degree kindred hunts are in plan at 4 bears, but have ranged between 16-31 hunters,

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			<p>harvesting 61 bears in 8 years. 1/3 of hunt is sows, and a lot are juvenile boars. High harvest with wrong type of bears. No way to control non-res kindred hunters, but there is for guides. Proposal gives ADF&G a way to control the number of bears harvested. The number hunting on Chichagof 10 years ago was 0, now it's quite high. He believes 7 is appropriate number of bears, broken up by season. Each hunt only has a few non-residents, not a drawing, but could be by BOG action. Last few years harvest has been low, but we can reach harvest level. Background on why proposal was written. Tad—the proposal would result in a substantial decrease in number of 2nd degree kindred hunters. Floyd—61 bears over 8 years? Establish that as harvest pressure? Would there still be a 4 bear harvest limit? Brad Dennison—no, it would limit number of hunters, with still 4 bears per person. Floyd—you're hoping that'll bring down from 7 bear average to 4 bear per person. Randy—how is there so many hunters? Bradley—there's not ADF&G control of 2nd degree hunters. They can establish season and bag limit, but it's a registration hunt here, and it's closed through emergency order. Brian—because it's registration, you can be out of luck if it gets closed but you already have a permit? Jerry—Likes idea of capping hunters, but not sure if numbers are correct. That they're shooting small bears, everyone is shooting small bears too. Unsure about the numbers. Because of lack of guiding (hunt numbers down there), we can accommodate more bears harvested. Jeff—more comfortable with capping harvest levels, 7 bears harvested instead of hunters. Unsure of legality. Floyd—would really like to hear from F&G, moved to table. Jerry seconded the Table request. Proposal was picked up again at the December 2nd meeting.</p>
BOG	13		Change the management level for wolves in Unit 2 to include all causes of mortality for wolves.
OPPOSES	4	10	<p>Brian moved to adopt, Kim seconded. John—Not our area but important. Brian—What's the management plan now? Larry (Public) read regulation. Was surprised that natural mortality and illegal take of wolves wasn't included in management plan. Between 2012 and 2013, there was an estimated 80% wolf mortality. Annual harvest keeps tabs on legal harvest, and didn't consider illegal harvest at all. Based on 200 wolves, harvest of 60. Discussed with Bob Larsen, and area biologist for Unit 2, and illegal harvest isn't on radar at all. Read the revised regulation if passed. No accurate estimate of wolves on POW, and should take low estimate. Brian—how are they going to extrapolate for illegal takes? Larry—based on radio collar tag info. Bradley—can't regulate for an illegal hunt, because hunting ethics are different in the villages as well as regionally and it's there is no credible means to measure or estimate illegal activities. Larry—population's going down, and another option is to close the hunt. Bradley—deal with the illegal hunt if it's a problem. Floyd—rational stats based management, you have to acknowledge illegal hunt. Thinks proposal requires ADF&G to take a look at illegal hunt until census of wolves or accurate</p>

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			population estimate occurs. Possibly an intermediate step until management steps up. Tad—brown bear management plan takes into account illegal take based on actual dead bears, not extrapolating. Trying to extrapolate on a handful of radio tags is difficult and inaccurate. Has a hard time using extrapolation as a proxy for illegal take. Brian—ADF&G will drop harvest rate from 30 to 20%, and they can drop it lower than that. It's subjective data. Brad Dennison—discussed observing some illegal hunting (wounding, no actual kills), he knows it's exists. Can't convince hunters to stop illegal hunting, it's an enforcement issue. Brian—How do you estimate the unknown? Peter—can extrapolate some good numbers off of radio tags and maybe Larry's proposal takes these stats into account. Larry—relying on minimum population estimate, but maybe amend proposal to include 20% harvest rate from proposal 14. Tad—rational no different here than anywhere else to illegal takes. Jerry—it's time ADF&G wakes up to all illegal fishing and hunting. Floyd—3 rd paragraph mentions ADF&G hasn't looked at human caused mortality, and they think they can use different data. The timing is necessary. Jerry called the question.
BOG	14		Establish regulations in Unit 2 to allow for appropriate harvest levels and account for unrecovered harvest.
APPROVES	14	0	Randy moved to adopt, Brian seconded. John—Not our area but important. Brian—Seek to evaluate human caused mortality immediately. If there's data out there, maybe that's their starting point. Bradley—people who think wolf is the villain and others look as big game animal, thinks this is a pragmatic approach. Floyd—instead of urging ADF&G to come up with good numbers, how about a population estimate. Tad—there was a onetime provision for wounded bears? There's a difference between wounded and mortality wounded bears. Bradley—ADF&G doesn't distinguish, but now it does, and it's not a human caused mortality. Kim—can't you tell if they've been wounded before? Bradley—ADF&G can sometimes, but they don't do that. Kim – seems like a good number to have. Will support this change. Think it's important to protect the resources. Larry—a wolf wounded comes off a persons' bag limit, but not of the quota. But none of its enforceable anyway. Peter—relies on good faith of hunters to report wounded wolves.
BOG	23		Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 1C.
APPROVES	11	0, 3 abstain	Tad moved to adopt, Floyd seconded. Brian asks why we're talking about Caribou. Discussion ensued. Controls, population exploded in Gustavus, moose eating themselves out of house and home. Jerry called the question.
BOG	26		Modify deer population and harvest objectives, or exempt the Southeast Region from objectives.
APPROVES	10	3, 1 abstain	Floyd moved to adopt, Bradley seconded. Larry (Public)—big game harvest objectives and population estimates established in 2000. At the time, they set the harvest as an average over the last 5 years in GMU 3, 2 and 1A, but high harvests those five previous years. Difficulty in obtaining objectives and the

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			management plan hasn't been looked at in 15 years. Timber practices have changed, and it's time to look at the objectives again, because they're out of line right now. Area management biologists aren't prepared to set objectives. SE shouldn't have this law for objectives (a whole different proposal). TAD—what practical consequence does that have for GMU 4? Larry—mostly for bear because no wolves in GMU 4. Floyd—if in GMU that has high harvest objective, does ADF&G lower harvest? Larry—BOG did decrease harvest rates for certain area, and these objectives trigger intense management decisions. Jerry called the question.
BOG	29		Require a time limit for checking traps in Units 1 - 5.
OPPOSE	0	14	Tad moved to adopt, Randy seconded. Tad—opposes as trapping rep on the AC. Tries to check traps reasonably quickly, but sometimes can only go on weekends, which really just hurts his catch and nothing else. Sometimes weather gets in way. Brian—agrees with Tad. Weather can prevent you from checking your traps. Floyd—how would it be enforced? Brian called the question.
BOG	31		Change the bag limit restriction for black and brown bear in Units 1 - 5.
OPPOSE	0	14	Bradley moved to adopt, Randy seconded. Brian—would like to hear Brad Dennison's info. Brad Dennison (Public)—existing regulation proposed by guiding assoc. Wound a black bear, it counts against bag limit for the year. Makes you responsible for your shot before you take it. Wounding loss has gone way down. This is the third time to get the proposer is trying to get the proposal passed. Guides in favor of existing regulations, against this proposal. Brian called the question.
BOG	33		Remove the restriction against using felt sole waders while hunting in Southeast Region Units.
OPPOSE	2	10	Brain moved to adopt, Floyd seconded. Brian—felt soles deliver whirling disease to trout in the lower 48. Kim—are felt soles legal in saltwater? She believes it is. John—ADF&G sees as consistency issue. Peter—rock snot has been in AK for millennium, but manifesting because of climate change. Showing up early in springtime. Spores have been found in lake sediment cores. Floyd—alternative footing—yak-traks work great for traction. Kim—not just rock snot, other things can attach to felt soles. Midwestern folks can track in invasive species. Not going to support. Tad—was at BOF meeting when they banned felt soles, but didn't involve hunting. Afterwards, discussion evolved into banning for hunting for ducks. Didn't have a good reason then. Don't have one now. Brian called the question.
BOG	37		Add five days to all resident hunting seasons and allocate 75% of the drawing permits to residents in the Southeast Region.
NC			Did not discuss, Bradley—3 years ago, dalls sheep up north only place in world without drawing, and New Mexico did state preference and it upset a lot of people. There has to be an equitable share of the public resource. Floyd—how we stack it in our favor (residents vs non-residents). Bradley—it's in every

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			meeting to discuss all the time. Yes it's about sheep, but it could be used for moose, etc etc, eventually. Kim—Can they actually do that? She doesn't think it's legal. Bradley—Kuiu model- AK residents have # to hunt every year. Would like to see this type of model in dalls sheep. Tad—if the resource is so limited they need to go to a drawing permit, maybe it should only be for residents? Or have priority for residents.

Next Meeting Date:

Need to meet on December 2nd if we can't have elections, as proposals meeting. Next meeting for elections will be on 10th. So we can advertise for elections for the 10th.

Adjournment: Brian moved to adjourn. 9:15pm

Minutes Recorded By: Jessica Gil, Secretary

Minutes Approved By: John Murray, Chairman

Date: Dec. 18, 2014