

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: Jessica Gill

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

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. Brad asked if we can have elections now, but if terms start 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.

Southeast and Yakutat Crab, Shrimp, and Misc. Shellfish Meeting Jan. 21–27, 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	58	Repeal the Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support	7	4, 1 abstain	<p>Peter moved to adopt, Brian seconded. Peter—Universal support in fishery for this proposal. Sometimes the harvest is off, because of model. Fishery isn't in danger; it's managed by size, sex and season. Crab are cyclical. Has been in fishery a long time, and can't predict anything. Tad—how can you said they had a poor tool if the season was so good? Peter—model prediction is off, made it difficult to predict season. Brian—so model estimate is caused by first pulls or biomass estimates? Peter—self limiting fishery if they're not making money. Brian—what would it revert to? Peter—size, sex, season. 6.5 inch males. This proposal is Gretchen Bishop's plan from 9-10 years ago. Brian—58, 59, 60 all repeal the management plan. John—not all proposals were for repeals. Floyd—sounds like a lousy population forecast model. Would it be better to impose a prediction quality test on the model? So it couldn't be imposed if it didn't actually predict accurately. John—sounds like the fishery missed a week last summer, but accuracy was very good. We don't have ADF&G crab man here. Peter—lost out on a week of fishing because of conservation concern, but this year was highest harvest recently. Doesn't see a conservation concern. Tad—has # permits and # pots changed since beginning? Peter—in a big salmon year, less permits, high prices are more likely to see fishing. ~300 permits, usually 170 fished. Tad—over time has the fishing grounds shrunk? Peter—yes overall, but some places are getting a little better- Kekku strait. ADF&G doesn't have money for accurate stock assessment, budgets are shrinking. Stock assessments based on fish ticket data- CPUE, size, and geographical information. Jerry called the question.</p>
BOF	59	Repeal the Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Action			Same as Proposal 58.
BOF	60	Repeal the Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Action			Same as Proposal 58.
BOF	61	Manage commercial Dungeness crab fishery with open season dates and areas to avoid handling of soft shell crab.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose	3	7, 1 abstain	<p>Jeff moved to adopt, Brian seconded. Brian—soft crab is a problem; die off quicker. Peter—district by district management, ADFG is opposed to setting openings bay by bay. Processors enforce discipline by not taking soft shells. John—asked ADF&G about the 50% mortality. Peter—soft shell is a new molt crab, different definitions between ADF&G and fishermen. Jerry—difficult on fishermen to avoid areas. Tad—if there's a high prevalence of soft shells, but a few good crab, and they fish anyway, it could hurt the fishery. Floyd—this would call for a test fishery in every district? Peter—test fishery bay by bay. ADF&G doesn't have the money to do that kind of test fishery. Brian—half are good, half are bad, but in his experience they're all</p>

			soft. Floyd—do they trigger molting as a group? Peter—Yes. Brian called the question.
BOF	63	Modify threshold levels for opening and closing of summer and fall fishing seasons under the Southeastern Alaska Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support	7	4, 1 abstain	Jessica moved to adopt, Jeff seconded. Brian—wants to lower the threshold? Jessica—proposal just adds some contingency between harvest levels. Peter—gives ADF&G a little more leeway in harvest. Low Dungeness harvest over the last 30 years, not indicating a collapse. Jessica—likes that it isn't all or nothing, adding in some middle ground. Brian asked Peter's idea of this proposal. Peter—likes the idea of repealing management plan. Size, sex, season is a good management plan. Tad—what percentage does he think were unharvested good quality males? Peter—not many he believes. Brian called the question.
BOF	65	Extend regionwide commercial Dungeness crab season closure date from November 30 to February 28.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Action	TABLED		Peter moved to adopt, Brian seconded. Peter—want to extend season. June 15-Nov 28th continuous season when he first fished. ~20 years ago, there was a 6 week closure in October. According to ADF&G, there is no biological basis to close fishery. Tad—first part of proposal gets rid of Sitka area closure zone? Peter—uniform for all region A (SE AK). Tad—Sitka area has a much more restrictive season. This proposal would remove restrictions? Peter—yes it would. John—13B is open until February, but not in Sitka Sound, but this proposal would remove that reg. Gilmer Bay to Cape Omnany is open in winter, but not in summer. Seeking to extend fall season through February, and harmonize with other areas in SE. Tad—talked to non-commercial guys that have a hard time getting crab in Sitka. Jerry—Can we get an ADF&G person here to discuss these proposals? Jessica—We can get a teleconference or phone call set up? Jerry—Can we at least get someone at our office to talk to the crab guys? John—up for that. Brian motioned to table this.

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 Gill, Secretary
Minutes Approved By: John Murray, Chairman
Date: Dec. 18, 2014