

Sitka Advisory Committee
December 2, 2014
Legislative Information Office, 201 Katlian Street, Suite 103

- I. Call to Order: 6:32PM by John Murray, Chairman
- II. Roll Call:
 - Members Present: Brian Massey, Bradley Shaffer, Jerry Barber, Kim Elliot, Randy Gluth, Moe Johnson, Dick Curran, Jessica Gill, John Murray, Peter Roddy (via telephone)
 - Members Absent: Tad Fujioka, Jeff Feldpausch, Karen Johnson, Cody Loomis, Floyd Tomkins
 - Number Needed For Quorum on AC: 8
 - List of User Groups Present: Resident Sport Fish, At Large, Hand Troll, Hunting, Seine, Longline, Subsistence, Alternative 1, Power Troll, Shellfish (via phone)
- III. Approval of Agenda:
 - No agenda was published, but the Chairman overviewed proposals to discuss this evening.
- IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: From meeting date: November 18th, 2014
 - Meeting minutes were not available at this time.
- V. Fish and Game Staff Present:
 - Eric Coonrandt; Troy Tydingco; Phil Mooney; Joe Stratton via phone in Petersburg
- VI. Guests Present:
 - Harvey Kitka, Richie Davis, Mike Svenson, Roger Ingman
- VII. Old Business:
 - BOG proposal #11, BOF proposal #65
- VIII. New Business:
 - No new business was discussed.
- IX. Minute Recording
 - John discussed D. Vex comments. Discussion regarding herring proposals ensued. John reminded everyone about five open seats; elections on December 10. Phil Mooney distributed ADF&G's analysis and recommendations. After BOF proposal #64 was discussed and voted on, Pete discussed the ability of the alternate members to vote on proposals. It was mentioned that because we have absent members at this meeting, that they are allowed to vote. Pete discussed the November 18 meeting, with a full roster present, the alternates still voted. Jessica looked into the regulations, and noted that the alternates function as a full AC member in the event that other members aren't present. Because the Sitka AC has two empty seats, the alternates are allowed to vote. Brian asked for an overview of shrimp management in Southeast Alaska. Eric (ADF&G) mentioned there are six factors that ADF&G looks at as indicators (carapace length, size at which male to female (L50), catch rates, fishery CPUE, logbook information, size mix), but in areas without a stock assessment survey, they rely on CPUE without soak times. Brad asked about SEFA's alliance/membership. Richie mentioned they were a reputable agency in effect for 12 years. Brian asked if BOF proposal 108 is trying to extend the season. Eric mentioned it was clarifying fishing periods. Jerry wanted to know why we're taking up these particular herring proposals tonight (127, 128, and 129). Brian asked about blade allocation. Eric mentioned it maxes out at 3,000 blades, based on GHL.

Southeast and Yakutat Finfish, Jan. 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	127	Reduce kelp allocations in the commercial herring spawn on kelp fishery to no more than 1,000 blades per permit holder.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support	9	0	<p>Jerry moved to adopt, John seconded. Roger (Public)—product is best at 1,000 blades per permit. Proposal would set max at 1,000 blades. Formula for two people per pound. Would like to have this passed. Max at 1,000 blades is best product. Brian—in high allocation year, product isn't as good because more fish spawning on more blades (spotty coverage)? Rodger—that's correct. Brad—is there still a demand, is it still a viable market? Rodger—that's for sac-roe, which has a different market. Different roe-on-kelp fishery areas vs. sac-roe fishery, and most would like to keep it that way. The roe-on-kelp fishermen won't get good coverage with a sac-roe fishery there too. Product wouldn't be good in an open pound fishery. Mike (Public)—starting to see group of guys trying to not flood the market every year. We keep flooding the market, and it's not helping the fishermen. John—What about high ghl/biomass years? Eric—at its highest level, it maxes out at 3,000 blades. John—but you can choose how many blades to use. Brian—no grading of coverage? Roger—higher price for thicker eggs. Mike—processors only want 5,000 tons in the market. John—are there regulations on pen size? Rodger—yes. Eric—this is an allocative issue. Roger—blades per pen is what this proposal is talking about. Eric—the proposal is talking about blades per permit holder, not pens. Mike—1,000 blades/pen is full pen (too many blades!). Brian—what happened is fish are slow to spawn and your blades die? Mike—has never happened. Brian called the question.</p>
BOF	128	Modify herring spawn on kelp pound configurations.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support	7	0, 2 abstain	<p>Brian moved to adopt, Jerry seconded. Mike (Public)—only when kelp allocation is at max, can you marry two pounds. Brian—two permits? Mike—not necessarily. But they've found that marrying pens even when allocation is low has better product. Brian—If you're already doing it, why the regulations? Mike—you can only do it with max kelp allocations, and we want to make it available at lower allocations. Eric—reason for marrying pens at max allocation, there's a fear that permit holders will stick more herring in the pens. You can't add more herring to married pens. Mike—this would allow to marry prior to fishery. Has found it's a good product. At low biomasses, it works perfect. Harvey (Public)—these guys fish primarily in Craig, and people he knows who harvest subsistence herring eggs have been having problems with spawning changing from fish egg island to where the pounds are. You're going to have that problem in the future. Roger—it's</p>

			only really been this year. Eggs are hatching where the pounds are, and the fish are coming back to those pounds. When they started the fishery, they worked it out that there's a line drawn around fish egg island to protect subsistence. This year was the first year that they spawned away from fish egg island. John—why was the fishery in Hoonah sound closed? Eric—biomass was less than 1,000 tons, which is the threshold. The biomass is estimated through dive spawn surveys. Brian called the question.
BOF	129	Allow permit holders to retain herring in a closed pound for seven days.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support	6	1, 1 abstain	Kim moved to adopt, John seconded. Eric—currently pound fishery can only hold herring for a certain time frame, proposal is asking for a 12 hour extension. Herring are more susceptible to disease in a pound, but 12 hours probably isn't going to make a difference. Kim—they have to stay until midnight? Why not stay until 6am? John—why not 6pm? Roger—at night, predators are ready to catch herring, and predators jump into the pens. Releasing during the daytime will keep sea lions away. Randy—does it take that long (6-7 days) for fish to spawn? Roger—yes sometimes. Mike—you have 4 days to harvest. Kim—do you have to sit on the pen once the herring are in? Rodger—no, but most do to keep sea lions away. Safer for protection (enforcement) too so they don't have to wait at midnight. Jerry questioned. Brian left before this proposal was read, so the number of voters was down to 8.

Adjournment: 9:20PM

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