

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. Minutes Recording
 - John discussed D. Vex comments. Discussion regarding herring proposals ensued. John reminded everyone about 5 open seats; elections on December 10. Phil Mooney distributed F&G's analysis and recommendations. After 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 proposal 108 is trying to extend the season. Eric mentioned it was clarifying fishing periods.

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 | 64 | Repeal section of Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan regarding summer season soft-shell crab catch that may allow fall season to open. | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose | 1 | 9 | Brian moved to adopt, Jerry seconded. Joe (ADF&G)—review of what proposal is asking. If adopted, the ADF&G season will curtailed the fall season, lead to high rates of dead loss, less accurate harvest estimates. Background on the fisheries management plan: this section was added in 2009 by ADF&G. Estimate produced is generally accurate. To have a full fall season, ADF&G determines estimate is off based on first week’s landings. Brian—Is that 50% mortality number accurate? Joe—it’s hard to say what kind of mortality is associated with soft-shell conditions. Handling mortality has to do with handling on deck and type of boats. Pete—will oppose proposal, dock price of crab dropped in Petersburg because of California crab harvest is so large. The variables in Dungeness fisheries are difficult; believes 50% mortality is ludicrous. Jerry called the question. |
| BOF | 65 | Extend regionwide commercial Dungeness crab season closure date from November 30 to February 28. | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose | 1 | 9 | Brian moved to adopt, Pete seconded. Joe- would extend fall season for Dungeness. Brian—clear up what area A is? John—all of SE except Yakutat. Joe—biological basis for seasons, a June 15 start avoids that biological need. John—deleting sections 1 and 2 would delete special use area in Sitka. Joe—#2 is deleting Whale Pass’ fall season. This prop would extend the season three months. It would increase exploitation rate and decrease subsistence and personal use fisheries. Brad—other props are looking for subsistence/personal use closures. Pete—extending the fall season would not overlap the molt season, and a small effort during the extended season would occur. Raises prices, no biological reason to close the fishery. Would reduce crab available for nonresidents and seiners; changing the structure of the fleet. It would not affect special use area. Would like to see a uniformed, harmonized season for all of southeast. Brian—can’t vote to delete sections 1 and 2, and he won’t as the Sportfish seat. Kim—can’t support as subsistence seat. John—point of clarity: by deleting sections 1 and 2 what are the intentions? Pete—proposed language would replace section 2. This is just substitute language. We’re deleting sections 1 & 2, and substituting #3. All of southeast would become the same. Brian called the question. |
| BOF | 66 | Manage Upper Lynn Canal commercial Dungeness crab fishery based on CPUE. | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose | 0 | 5, 5 abstain | Pete moved to adopt, Dick seconded. Brian—what does CPUE of 2 mean? Joe—CPUE does not take into account soak time. Proposed by upper lynn canal AC, with current data, we don’t have pots per soak. Brain called the question. |

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| BOF | 69 | Repeal specific commercial Dungeness crab fishery closed waters in areas around Tenakee Inlet, Sitka Sound, and Port Althrop. | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Action | | | Pete moved to adopt, but no one seconded. |
| BOF | 74 | Close commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Big Bear/Baby Bear Marine Park near Sitka. | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose | 3 | 6, 1 abstain | Brad moved to adopt, Jessica seconded. Brian—how big is the park itself? John—not sure. Pete—has crabbed in both bays, doesn't believe creation of park is trying to do away with commercial crabbing. Adamantly opposed to this proposal. It was questioned who the proposer was. Kim—proposer isn't a charter operator. Brian called the question. |
| BOF | 75 | Close nearshore waters around Angoon to commercial Dungeness crab fishery. | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose | 0 | 10 | Pete moved to adopt, Dick seconded. Pete—it's one person closing down open fishery waters. Adamantly opposed, believes crab industry is opposed too. Richie Davis (Public)—this isn't a new concept to close the area for personal use fishing. It doesn't make any sense to keep closing fisheries. It's pervasive, and these proposals will not stop. Please stop supporting these proposals. John—it's about 45 miles of waterways in that area. Jerry called the question. |
| BOF | 82 | Increase the pot limit from 4 pots per boat to 10 pots per vessel for personal use Tanner crab fishery in the Southeastern Alaska Area. | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support | 6 | 3, 1 abstain | Pete moved to adopt, Brian seconded. Brian—why do you want to see more pots on sport fishery? Pete—a group of people recently went out, caught nothing because of limit on pots, but if pot limits are increased, they might have caught them. John—Is this maybe an overuse thing? Joe—bag and possession limit is 30 tanner crabs. If adopted, would increase harvest in personal use fishery, and may have use of prospecting for commercial. Use may increase significantly. It would likely increase the harvest for personal use harvest, and ADF&G will be neutral. Richie—what's the timeframe that the commercial crabbers have to stay out of water even with recreation gear? John—2 weeks. Joe—it's 30 days. Pete—neither the fisherman nor the vessel can operate personal use/ sport gear 30 days before fishery, no matter what boat. Brian called the question. |
| BOF | 83 | Repeal closure of Tanner crab sport and personal use fishery two weeks prior to July 1 in the Southeastern Alaska Area. | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose | 2 | 7, 1 abstain | Pete moved to adopt, John seconded. Pete—regulation came about from ADF&G's proposal 3 or 6 years ago because people were taking "stock" prior to the July 1st king crab season. Concerns about taking only one king crab, and people taking it during other crabbing activities. Joe—this would repeal the two weeks sport/personal use season. Would make it open year round. Difficult to distinguish between king crab pots and tanner pots. ADF&G personal use in this proposal to alleviate stress from people setting tanner pots before July 1 then pulling them on July 1 full of king crab. John—is the open date set? Joe—by regulation, July 1-March 31, if by July 1 stock assessment not completed, they won't open (keep it closed by emergency orders), then open once data is ready. Stock assessment isn't complete by July 1, but set bag limits based on previous year's data. John—when does fishery actually open then? Joe—king crab July 1- March 31; surveyed areas don't open, and bag limits are 1 red/blue king crab per person. Jerry called the question. |
| BOF | 88 | Allow the operation of commercial pot gear for groundfish before and during a commercial king or Tanner crab season. | |

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose | 1 | 9 | <p>Pete moved to adopt, Brian seconded. Pete—there’s a pot fishery for Pacific cod (P. cod), and soon in state waters for black cod, but there probably won’t be a gear conflict. Statewide, P. cod pots cannot be used 72 hours prior to crab fishery. In Southeast, pot boats can’t fish in both fisheries. P. Cod pots are not good at catching crab, vice versa (different openings, size restrictions, etc.). Believes 72 hour restrictions are sufficient. Brian—triggers in pots the same? Pete—differently designed pots. Richie—what’s the harvest by pots? Maybe a gear conflict between longline cod fishing and pot fishing? Pete—by regulation, cod pots can’t be on a longline, it’s legal in southeast and it just changes that you can fish closer to the crab fishery (14 days vs. 30 days). Joe—facilitates prospecting, though legal gear is different, king crab is still caught in cod pots. No limit on cod pots= difficult to enforce king crab harvest. ADF&G thinks this would subvert the pot limits. John—is there a way to keep the crab out? Joe—works with crab fishery, but not familiar with sablefish survey, which uses pots, or if pots used in survey is the same as P.cod fishery. John—common to use pots for P.cod? Eric—no, it’s not. Pete—there are two Clarence strait pot permits; out west it’s a big fishery. Thinks proposal might need amendment for pot limits. 20 pot limit for bait fishery. All for rules that prevent cheating. John—besides Clarence, are people using cod pots to fish in Area A? Pete—has some pots, has been experimenting. Eric—you can do it, but no one does. Brian called the question.</p> |
| BOF | 89 | Create new commercial golden king crab fishery area in Cross Sound. | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose | 3 | 6, 1 abstain | <p>Pete moved to adopt, John seconded. Brian—golden and brown used interchangeably? Pete—it’s more marketable. Has set pots out there, and golden crabs exist. Believes the fleet should be allowed to poke around. Joe—there are 7 fishing areas defined in regulation. This proposal would set a new Guideline Harvest Level/Guideline Harvest Rate (ghl/ghr); fishing effort could be distributed into area. Small harvest in 1970s, 3 harvesters, confidential data. No additional data to set a ghl/ghr in Cross Sound. Decreased fishing effort in 7 existing areas, so it’s not warranted to open to new area. Strict permits, instead of new fishery. John—wouldn’t this act as someone doing assessment work for ADF&G? Because budgets are low? Joe—we don’t have stock assessment work on golden crabs, and data sets are fishery dependent. Proposal seeks to establish a new area and an unknown level of harvest, and ADF&G doesn’t have any info to set harvest levels. If people are interested, ADF&G prefers it’s done through a commissioner’s permit rather than adding a whole new area because ADF&G can control harvest conditions. Brian called the question.</p> |
| BOF | 92 | Increase legal size limit for blue king crab in subsistence, personal use, and commercial fisheries in Registration Areas A and D. | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support | 10 | 0 | <p>Brian moved to adopt, Jerry seconded. Joe—proposal standardizes size limits for all legal fisheries for all crab species. Don’t have any idea of magnitude of blue kings harvest in personal use/subsistence harvest. Commercial harvest is low of blue kings, but fishery is mostly as a bycatch fishery in other fisheries (need a permit to take in other fisheries). Hokum Bay, Glacier Bay, Snettisham, Taku River, Excursion Inlet are legal places to take blue king crab. Longer reproductive cycle than other crabs, and susceptible to bad barnacles. ADF&G doesn’t have a lot of data on blue kings’ size limit smaller than other crabs. Thinks if the crabs have longer time to grow, their numbers might increase. Brian called the question.</p> |

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| | | | At this point, Pete Roddy left the meeting (voting members down to 9). |
| BOF | 96 | Provide additional commercial pot shrimp fishery management flexibility in specific fishing locales in Registration Area A. | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Action | | | No one motioned for adoption of this proposal. Brian—what does “H” request? Cyclical in request. |
| BOF | 98 | Modify commercial pot shrimp fishery reporting requirements for Registration Area A. | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support | 8 | 1 | Brad moved to adopt, John seconded. Brian—does ADF&G take down size mix? Eric—would be helpful in management. Anything that provides more info without burdening fishermen, then why not require the info? It would be a requirement. Kim—so they’ve been volunteering that info right now? Eric—catcher/processor required, catcher/seller is not. Jerry—telephone reporting requirements ok? Eric—already mandatory reporting requirements via phone/other options. Brian—only the size mix of the shrimp that was sorted. Why not count too, if you’re already sorting? Roger (Public)—this would force fishermen to put shrimp size on their fish tickets every category. Brian—only if they were sorted, not labeled as ocean run. Roger—could there be a volunteer program? Eric—there already is a voluntary program. More people are starting. Jerry called the question. |
| BOF | 99 | Standardize, limit, and reduce commercial shrimp pot gear in Registration Area A. | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose | 0 | 9 | Jerry moved to adopt, John seconded. Jerry—who’s going to check if pots are so far apart. Will oppose. Eric—it’s allocative- slowing a fishery down, cutting pots in half. Pot spacing difficult to enforce. Big fight in 1998 for the current pot limit. Jerry called the question. |
| BOF | 100 | Clarify use of other pot gear during a commercial shrimp season in Registration Area A.fishery. | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support | 9 | 0 | Brian moved to adopt, Kim seconded. Brian—if you’re fishing commercial, you can’t fish personal use/sport/subsistence. Eric—troopers brought this forward. Brian called the question. |
| BOF | 110 | Allow increased trip limit and permit stacking in commercial sea cucumber fishery. | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Action | | | No one moved to adopt, but limited discussion occurred. Brian—is there permit stacking allowed? Eric—No. Kim—Do sea otters eat them? Eric—yes. |

Adjournment: 9:20 PM

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