

**Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee**  
**February 7, 2017**  
**NERRS Building**

**I Call to Order:** 6:00 by Dave Lyon, chair.

**II. Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Dave Lyon (chair), Tom Young (vice chair), George Matz (secretary), Michael Craig, Jim Meesis, Lee Martin, Thomas Hagberg, Doug Malone, Marvin Peters, Wes Humbyrd, Joey Alred, Gary Sinnhuber, Phillip Jones, Dan Anderson.

**Members Absent:** Ty Gates, Dennis Wade,

**Number Needed for Quorum on AC:** 8

**List of User Groups Present:** None

**III. Approval of Agenda:** Items advertised.

**IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** NA

**V. Fish and Game Staff Present:** None.

**VI. Guests Present:** Joshua Ross, David Martin chair of Central Peninsula AC.

**VII. Old Business:** Dave mentioned that his letter as chair to other AC's asking them to sign on in opposition to the reappointment of Ted Spraker had some support, but not commitments to sign on to our letter. He suggested sending the letter to the Governor to make him aware of the Homer AC's dissatisfaction with the lack of support we get from Mr. Spraker. The vote to send a letter was Support – 10, Oppose – 3, Abstain – 1.

Dave also mentioned that with the passing of Carmen Field, the Division of Sport Fish has no one able to lead their popular gear loaning program. Dave mentioned that the DSF has the equipment needed and that the Homer AC volunteer to lead these classes. The Homer AC would benefit by the community service it provides. No one was in disagreement to setting up this arrangement with DSF.

**VIII. New Business:** Dave Martin, chair of the Central Peninsula AC gave a review of the BOF proposals submitted by his committee as well as a summary of the intercept fishery issue in the Kodiak area that recently became known to them as the result of new results from ADF&G genetic studies. He said that about 1/3 of the salmon harvest in the Kodiak area are of Upper Cook Inlet origin. This amounts to a harvest of about 300,000 to 1,000,000 fish per season, which makes a serious dent in the resource available for Cook Inlet fisherman. It also messes up Upper Cook Inlet escapement goals. He said what is needed is to not allow fishing off the capes of the Kodiak Archipelago during weeks when Upper Cook Inlet salmon are migrating through. The Central Peninsula AC recently sent a letter to the Board of Fisheries (see attachment) asking that this issue be recognized.

The Homer AC discussed the letter and decided to voice support. The vote was Support – 14, Oppose – 0, Abstain – 0. With these minutes, the Board of Fisheries is hereby notified that the Homer AC supports the Jan, 31, 2017 letter to it from the Central Peninsula AC asking "the BOF direction for ADF&G to focus the KMA salmon harvests on local stocks and minimize the interception of non-local stocks."

Decisions on Upper Cook Inlet Finfish are presented below.

**UPPER COOK INLET FINFISH  
FEBRUARY 23–MARCH 8, 2017  
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       |
| <b>BOF</b>                                  | <b>82</b>       | Amend Kasilof River early-run king salmon possession requirements.   |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support | 14              | 0  | This proposal closes an opportunity to get away with false reporting. |
|   |                 |  |   |
| <b>BOF</b>                                  | <b>85</b>       | Repeal and readopt provisions (a)–(f) of the management plan and add provisions to manage the drift gillnet fishery to harvest surplus sockeye, pink, and chum salmon production and achieve escapement goals. |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support | 12              | O -0<br>A -2   | See comments on Proposal 85.  |
| <b>BOF</b>                                  | <b>86</b>       | Amend provisions (a)–(f) of the management plan and add language to manage the commercial drift gillnet fishery based on the in-season abundance to meet escapement goals and harvest surplus salmon.          |   |
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|                                  |           |               |  |
|----------------------------------|-----------|---------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support | 12        | O -0<br>A - 2 | <p>The Homer AC spent considerable time discussing this proposal by the Central Peninsula AC with its chair, who was present at our meeting. There were several themes that ran through our discussion. These same themes apply to several other proposals, as noted. Essentially, the Homer AC is in agreement with the Central Peninsula AC in that Cook Inlet fisheries needs to be managed in a less prescriptive manner than what the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan currently mandates. The prescriptive approach limits flexibility to adjust to changing circumstances. In order to better achieve escapement goals and to allow the harvest of more surplus salmon, opening decisions should utilize a science-based adaptive management approach that gives local biologists more authority to manage the harvest using real time observations of stock size and location. This approach should benefit sustainability by avoiding incidents of over-escapement, which can damage the carrying capacity of spawning and rearing habitat, thereby resulting in a less abundant fishery in the future. Being able to more reliably harvest more surplus fish will improve the livelihood of local fisherman and their support businesses.</p> <p>Some of the AC members who are more familiar with this issue emphasized that it is not an allocation issue. This brought up a challenge. If the purpose of the proposal is to achieve more opportunity for commercial fisherman to harvest surplus salmon (those in excess of the escapement goal) then this same opportunity should also apply to other Cook Inlet sport fisherman and dip-netters. They should have more flexible opening dates as well as a more reliable opportunity for harvest. After some discussion, there seem to be consent that all user groups should benefit. Thereby, it avoids being an allocation issue.</p> <p>The abstain votes were based on lack of familiarity with the issue.</p> |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>87</b> |               | Amend <i>Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan</i> to maximize commercial harvest of sockeye salmon.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support | 12        | O -0<br>A - 0 | See comments on Proposal 85.   |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>88</b> |               | Remove restrictions to the commercial drift gillnet fishery, so that the fishery would occur during two inlet-wide fishing periods based on test fishery and escapement data.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support | 12        | O -0<br>A - 2 | See comments on Proposal 85.   |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>89</b> |               | Repeal and readopt <i>Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan</i> with the amended plan removing mandatory time and area restrictions from July 1–August 15.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support | 12        | O -0<br>A -2  | See comments on Proposal 85.   |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>90</b> |               | Remove restrictions on the commercial drift gillnet fishery from July 1–31 and manage the drift gillnet fishery based on inseason salmon abundance.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support | 12        | O -0<br>A -2  | See comments on Proposal 85.   |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>91</b> |               | Remove area restrictions imposed on the commercial drift gillnet fishery during July 9–15 and 16–31 time periods.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support | 12        | O -0<br>A -2  | See comments on Proposal 85.   |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>92</b> |               | Restrict commercial drift gillnet fishery to the Expanded Corridor and Drift Gillnet Area 1 from August 1–15.  |

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose  | 0          | O – 12<br>A – 2  | This proposal continues the prescriptive approach that Proposal 85-91 seek to remedy. This would result in more overescapement and less opportunity to harvest surplus fish.                          |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>93</b>  | Amend preamble of management plan and restrict commercial drift gillnet fishery to the Expanded Corridor and Drift Gillnet Area 1 from August 1–15.  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose  | 0          | O -12<br>A -2  | See Proposal 92   |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>94</b>  | Remove the one-percent rule, as referenced to both the set and drift gillnet fisheries, from the drift gillnet management plan.  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support | 12         | O -0<br>A – 2  | Our comments of Proposal 86 generally apply.  |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>95</b>  | Restrict commercial drift gillnet fishery to the Expanded Corridors and Drift Gillnet Area 1 from August 1–15.   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose  | 0          | O -12<br>A -2  | See Proposal 92   |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>96</b>  | Allow commercial fishing with drift gillnets in all waters of the Central District, except the Kenai and Kasilof Sections, from August 16 until closed by emergency order.   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support | 12         | O – 0<br>A – 2   | Our comments of Proposal 86 generally apply.  |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>97</b>  | Repeal the drift and set gillnet one-percent rules that apply from August 1–15.  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support | 12         | O -0<br>A -2   | Our comments of Proposal 86 generally apply.  |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>98</b>  | Reduce sport fishery bag limit for coho salmon on the west side of Cook Inlet and close drift gillnet fishing in Areas 3 and 4 for remainder of season if coho salmon sport fishing is restricted or closed in the Little Susitna River. |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose  | 0          | O -13<br>A – 1   | This proposal is incomplete and an allocation to inriver guides.  |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>99</b>  | Amend management plan to remove all restrictions and manage the commercial set gillnet fishery to harvest surplus Kasilof River sockeye salmon.  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support | 12         | O -0<br>A – 2  | Support is based on rational similar to Proposal 86. Rather than prescriptive regulations, we prefer to have local biologist make these decision based on test boat results, their observations, etc. |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>100</b> | Open the commercial set gillnet fishery in the Kasilof Section as early as June 20 if the department estimates 50,000 sockeye salmon will be in the Kasilof River before June 25.  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support | 12         | O -0<br>A – 2  | See proposal 99.  |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>103</b> | Add a 24-hour no fishing window on Tuesday in the Kasilof Section through July 7 and adopt mandatory no fishing windows in the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area after July 7.  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose  | 0          | O- 12<br>A -2  | More prescriptive management.   |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>107</b> | Replace the optimum escapement goal with a sustainable escapement goal for Kasilof River sockeye salmon.   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support | 14         | O - 0<br>A - 0   | A sustainable escapement goal will reduce overescapement and increase harvest.  |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>117</b> | Amend the <i>Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan</i> to remove the optimum escapement goal for Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon.  |   |

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Support | 12         | O -0<br>A - 2   | See Proposal 107  |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>118</b> | Remove the optimum escapement goal for Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon and add the guided sport fishery to the list of fisheries managed under the plan.  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support | 12         | O - )<br>A - 2  | See Proposal 107  |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>123</b> | Repeal and readopt the management plan to allow for the commercial harvest of surplus pink salmon in the Upper Subdistrict with set and drift gillnet gear.   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support | 14         | O – 0<br>A - 0  | Allowing for the harvest of surplus pinks allows the biologist more flexibility to manage the resource.   |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>127</b> | Remove inriver goals from the list of escapement goals in the <i>Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan</i> and realign inriver and escapement goals in the <i>Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan</i> . |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose  | 0          | O – 13<br>A - 1   | This proposal is counter to abundance based management.   |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>128</b> | Amend plan to prioritize the need to harvest all surplus salmon stocks and to maximize economic yield and the overall benefits from salmon stocks managed under the plan.   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support | 12         | O – 1<br>A - 1  | Allows harvest when there is surplus fish.  |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>134</b> | Remove restrictions in the Upper Subdistrict commercial set gillnet fishery and allow for regular weekly fishing periods through July 20 with additional fishing periods based on inseason abundance.                     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support | 12         | O -0<br>A - 2   | This proposal gives the biologist the ability to manage based on abundance.   |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>137</b> | Remove “one-percent rule”, where the commercial set gillnet fishery will close after July 31, if less than one percent of the season’s total sockeye is harvested in two consecutive fishing periods.                     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support | 12         | O –0<br>A -2  | Does away with the one percent rule.  |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>146</b> | Require the use of circle hooks when fishing for sockeye salmon.  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose  | 5          | O – 6<br>A -3   | Circle hooks are poorly defined. It isn’t clear that circle hooks would reduce snagging, compared to a single hook. Also, snagging a fish in some places, like a fin, may not have much of a mortality factor.  |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>151</b> | Repeal barbless hook provisions in Lower Kenai River.   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support | 8          | O -4<br>A - 2   | Although a majority prevailed in favor of the proposal, there was a debate as to how useful or harmful barbless hooks are. Also, some felt that it is better to teach youth how to fish according to regulations, rather than provide exceptions to the rule. |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>156</b> | Replace slot limit for Kenai River king salmon with maximum size limit to prohibit retention of king salmon greater than 42 inches in length.   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose  | 0          | O -10<br>A - 4  | While this may have been appropriate years ago, it’s questionable how useful it is now.   |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>157</b> | Modify the annual limit of king salmon from the Kenai River to two fish, only one taken prior to July 1.  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support | 13         | O – 0<br>A -1   | This proposal could have some effect.   |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>158</b> | Modify the annual limit of two king salmon for the Kenai River to include only one large fish.  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose  | 2          | O- 10<br>A - 2  | It wasn’t clear what the intent of this proposal is. Could have been written more clearly.  |

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| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>160</b> | Prohibit use of bait in the late-run Kenai River king salmon fishery until escapement goals have been met.  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support | 13         | O - 1<br>A - 0  | Amended to exclude bait. Passed as amended.   |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>161</b> | Start the Kenai River king salmon sport fisheries as unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure, no retention.  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose  | 0          | 12  | We don't support catch and release of kings because of mortality.   |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>187</b> | Allow only barbless, unbaited, single-hook gear on the Kenai River from January 1 – August 1.   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support | 8          | O - 2<br>A - 4  |   |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>188</b> | Allow only one single-hook or one single-hook lure.   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support | 8          | O - 2<br>A - 4  |   |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>191</b> | Increase Kenai River coho salmon bag limit from two fish to three.  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose  | 0          | O - 13<br>A - 1   | This is not the time to increase bag limits for Kenai River coho.   |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>222</b> | Prohibit fishing for king, sockeye, and coho salmon in the Larson Creek drainage.   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support | 12         | O - 0<br>A - 2  | Change of water temperature has concentrated fish in a smaller area, which attracts more intense fishing. While fishing in confluence areas may have been more acceptable in the past, when there wasn't as much fishing pressure, things are not the same now. |
| <b>BOF</b>                       | <b>265</b> | Amend the noncommercial harvest strategy for Tanner crab in the Cook Inlet area to allow limited fishing opportunity in the absence of abundance estimates. |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support | 13         | O - 0<br>A - 1  | Amendment "proxies may not be used in this tanner crab fishery". Amendment passed 12-0-2.<br>It was felt that the harvest without good stock verification in force could lead to over harvest if proxy fishing were allowed.                                    |

Next meeting will be the first Tuesday, March 14, 2017. Discussion about game and fish subcommittees.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

Minutes taken by George Matz

Approved by: Dave Lyon

Date: 2/9/2017