

Sitka Advisory Committee
Wednesday, October 25, 2017
Sitka Sound Science Center

- I. **Call to Order:** [610pm] by [Jon Martin/Chair]

- II. **Roll Call:** Jeffrey Feldpausch, Joel Markis, Luke Bastian, Tad Fujioka, Randy Gluth, Eric Jordan, Bradley Scheaffer, Dick Curran, Karen Johnson, Moses Johnson, John Murray, Jon Martin
Members Present: 12
Members Absent: 5
Brian Massey, Floyd Tomkins, Wayne Unger, Chris Whitehead, Andrew Thoms
Number Needed for Quorum on AC:
List of User Groups Present:

- III. **Approval of Agenda:** Randy Gluth, Jeff Feldpausch second

- IV. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Randy Gluth, Jeff Feldpausch second

- V. **Fish and Game Staff Present:** Steve Bethune AK ADF&G, Kyle Ferguson Alaska Wildlife Trooper

- VI. **Guests Present:** Heather Bauscher, Fran Johnson, Kenyatta Bradley, Mike Coleman, Carina Nichols, Stacy Meyers, Burt Meyers, Chris Kolms, Calvin Pfeiffer, Pat Alexander, Spike Arnold, Gene Arnold

- VII. **Old Business:**

Elections:

Trapping Seat: Tad Fujioka nominated for reelection by Randy Gluth,
Second by Brad Schaeffer
Eric Jordan motion to close nominations, second by Joel Markis
Eric Jordan motion to select Tad by acclimation, second Dick Curran
Tad Fujioka reelected to Trapping Seat

Resident Sport Fish: Brian Massey nominated for reelection by Randy Gluth,
Second by Tad Fujioka
Tad Fujioka motion to close nominations and elect Brian Massey,
Second by Jon Martin
Brian Massey reelected to Resident Sport Fish Seat

At Large Seat: Brad Schaeffer nominated for reelection by Brad Schaeffer,
Second by Jon Martin
Randy Gluth motion to close nominations and elect Brad Schaeffer,
Seconded by Jon Martin
Brad Schaeffer reelected to At Large Seat

Processor Seat: Wayne Unger nominated for reelection by Randy Gluth,
Second by Brad Schaeffer
Randy Gluth motion to close nominations and elect Wayne Unger,
Second by Jon Martin
Wayne Unger reelected to Processor Seat

Alternate Seat: Joel Markis nominated for reelection by Jon Martin,
Second by Brad Schaeffer
Tad Fujioka motion to close nominations and elect Joel Markis,
Second by Jon Martin
Joel Markis reelected to Alternate Seat

SE BOG Proposal Cycle 2018- 2019:

Reminder to get the word out to get proposals drawn up, or provide help and support

Alaska State Board of Fish Annual Meeting in Sitka January 11th- 23rd!

Jon Martin & John Murray- Point people on this event

Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation:

Recipients:

Dick Curran
Randy Gluth
Karen Johnson
John Murray
Moses Johnson
Tad Fujioka
Eric Jordan
Bradley Scheaffer
Jerry Barber

Thank you for all that you do!

VIII. New Business:

BOG Proposals:

i. **Definitions:**

Proposal 1. Intending to change language “take”, to language “kill” or “harvest”

Support: User Concern that “take” is too broad and given that it applies to any harassment of wildlife could implicate a “take” occurring even during pursuit of an animal in a hunt. Or spooking an animal without firing or harvesting. Null and voids wounding loss language, serious issue.

Oppose: Enforcement Concern that a person couldn’t be held accountable for criminal action unless they have animal in hand.

Motion to adopt Proposal 1 by Eric Jordan, Tad Fujioka second; Brad Schaeffer call question, John Murray second

Vote: 2- support, 10- oppose

Motion Fails

Proposal 2: Definition of a youth hunt to allow 8yr- 17yr and remove Hunter Ed Requirement

Support: Allows advantage for early season hunts, and inclusion of younger kids. Hunter Education requirement could be difficult to meet in rural communities, should already be taught by family/mentors.

Oppose: Seems like contradictory language, and not successful in combining the two stipulations to one proposal. Hunter Education is important but not required everywhere. Maybe an urban vs. rural perspective issue.

Motion to adopt Proposal 2 and call the question to vote by Randy Gluth

Vote: 0- support, 11- oppose, 1- abstain

Motion Fails

Proposal 4: Change definition of edible meat required for harvest on Large Game Birds to include gizzards and heart in addition to back, breasts, and wings.

Support: Support full utilization of the resource and discourage waste.

Oppose: Not a reasonable expectation of Bird Hunters when users are not required to keep heart and liver in big game harvest. Also enforcement concern. Due to the wide geographic range of game birds it is unknown where a bird may have been feeding which contributes to potential lack of desire to harvest the gizzard.

Motion to adopt Proposal 4 and call to question by Randy Gluth

Vote: 1- support, 11- oppose

Motion Fails

Proposal 5: Clarification on limits for take on Moose regarding brow tines.

Support: Intent of proposal to make it easier on users in following hunting guidelines. Anytime L.E. seeking clarification usually to help create additional harvest opportunity regarding various antler configurations.

Oppose: Concerns with enforceability, and becomes difficult for hunters to keep track of what can be taken legally and what cannot. Not fair to hunters, too much variety in Antler types and regulations based on varied antler types.

Motion to adopt Proposal 5 and call to question by Eric Jordan.

Vote: 11- support, 1- oppose

Motion Passes

ii. Unlawful Methods:

Proposals 10-15: Discussion

- Impacts areas other than Southeast but local people that live here do go to other units to hunt Sheep
- Contention seems to grow over Sheep issues every year "Sheep Wars"
- Three main issues in all sheep proposals:
 - o Aircraft use
 - o Allocation of state resources (res. Vs non res.)

- Point systems and tags- how opportunities are offered for residents, youth, and non-residents
- Maybe easier to draft a response collectively to the multiple proposals related to sheep.

Proposal 13: New technology, use of Cell Phones to take game i.e. real time trail cam video streaming to phone, streaming video from a drone to cell phone, etc...

Support: Technology should not be allowed in any capacity to assist in the take of an animal. Clarification of specific technology will aid in enforcement in attempts to allow regulations to keep up with advances in technology.

Oppose: Concerns with limiting users' ability to use phones or sat phones for safety communications. Concerns of government oversight going too far.

Motion to adopt Proposal 13 and call to question by Jeff Feldpausch

Vote: support- 10, oppose- 1, abstain- 1

Motion Passes

iii. Hunting Permits & Harvest Tickets

Proposal 26: Allowing the sale of Governor's tags to be bought through auction or raffle.

Support: Intent is to raise money for conservation organizations, and non-profits, as well as to help fund the Department of Fish and Game. Generates large amounts of money that can be put toward conservation. Does not change number of animals taken and therefore does not pose a biological issue.

Oppose: The idea of buying a tag outside of bag limits is found to be offensive. The idea "capitalization of wild game" also not supported. Caters to trophy takers.

Motion to adopt Proposal 26 and call it to question by Jeff Feldpausch

Vote: support- 2, oppose- 8, abstain-2

Motion Fails

Proposal 31: Asking for effort to be put into considering a points system to be put in place rather than a random drawing

Support: Interested in finding a way to distribute tags that is more fair and equitable than random drawing system. Should find ways to mitigate concerns like commercial issues.

Oppose: This would be a huge burden on staff, administratively difficult, and require large allocation of resources. Opportunity for commercialization puts the youngest and oldest Alaskans potentially at a disadvantage. Feelings that the current system is working so why change it.

Motion to adopt Proposal 31 and call to question by Joel Markis, second Jon Martin

Vote: support-0, oppose- 9, abstain- 3

Motion Fails

iv. Hunter Education

Proposal 60: Hunter Education Requirement

Support: Hunter Education is very important for safety in the field and for learning ethical take of wild game.

Oppose: There would be potential difficulty for remote users to have access to an approved and accredited Hunter Education course. This is an “urban solution” the rural solution is family based, or often linked to cultural education and traditional subsistence practices within a community. There are plenty of options and resources available to get the Hunter Education certification if one so chooses, but it should not be required as that would be burdensome. Established users who have spent their lives hunting do not want to be required to take a Hunter Education course in order to continue hunting.

Motion to adopt Proposal 60 and call to question by Eric Jordan, Randy Gluth second

Vote: support- 1, oppose- 11

Motion Fails

v. Possessing Live Game

Proposal 62: Allow for release of sterilized feral cats into the wild

Support: Collars now exist to reduce success of feral cats in hunting wild birds.

Oppose: Feral cats have significant negative impacts on wild bird populations and have been attributed to the cause of extinction of certain species. This is obviously a terrible idea.

Vote: support- 0, oppose- 12

Motion Fails

vi. Misc. Topic

Proposal 64: Wild Sheep Foundation Proposal

Support: The spread of disease from domestic sheep and goats to the wild population is the greatest threat to our wild populations of sheep and goats

Oppose: It is not within the Board's power to regulate domestic animals

Motion to adopt Proposal 64 and call to question by Jeff Feldpausch

Vote: support-10, oppose- 2, abstain- 2

Motion Passes

Proposal 69: Requirement to watch a video for access to harvest Moose

Discussion: Classic example of a proposal put in "because we have to.... so should everyone else"

Future Meeting Dates:

- **November 1st – (Groundfish) Herring Proposals, 6pm Centennial Hall**
- **November 8th - (Shellfish proposals and Shellfish seat election) 6pm Centennial Hall**
- **November 15th - (Finfish excluding Herring) 6pm Centennial Hall**
- **November 29th - (Finfish/Herring Proposals) 6pm Centennial Hall**

Motion to Adjourn by Jon Martin at 8:13pm

Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: Heather Bauscher
Minutes Approved By: _____
Date: _____