

**Sitka Advisory Committee
Wednesday, November 8th 2017
Centennial Hall**

- I. **Call to Order:** [602pm] by [Brian Massey]
- II. **Roll Call:** Jeffrey Feldpausch, Andrew Thoms, , Brian Massey, Tad Fujioka, , Eric Jordan, Dick Curran, Karen Johnson, Moses Johnson, John Murray, Wayne Unger, Randy Gluth, Joel Markis, Bradley Shaffer,
Members Present: 13
Members Absent: 2
Jon Martin, Luke Bastian
- III. **Approval of Agenda**
- IV. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:**
Tad moves to approve minutes of last 2 meetings (Wayne seconds
12 in favor
- V. **Fish and Game Staff Present:** Troy Tydingco AK DF&G,
- VI. **Guests Present:** Harvey Kitka, Kenyatta Bradley, Bart Meyer, Matt Donahue, Ron Rau, Jason Gerkson,
- VII. **Old Business:**

Elections: Tad Fujioka introduced need to have a shellfish representative.

Tad Fujioka nominated Stacy Wayne
Brad Shaffer Seconded

Vote: 12 in favor, 0 oppose
- VIII. **New Business:**

BOF Shellfish Proposals:

Proposal 54 : 5 AAC 32.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A. Reduce the maximum number of pots per vessel in the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial Dungeness crab fishery from 300 pots to 240 pots, as follows:

Support: part of a larger management approach change to deal with stock and fishery viability issues

Oppose: should leave it up to permit holders

Move to table by Wayne Unger, Joel Markis seconded

All Vote to table: 12-0

No Action on Motion

Proposal 60: Establish a guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery in Sitka Sound

Proposer, Kenyatta Bradley, came to the meeting and gave an explanation of what he is proposing, why, logic, etc.

Support: good idea and wish the proposer luck with business venture. Would be good for Sitka. The idea of showing off the creatures without harvesting them is a potentially interesting tourism opportunity.

Oppose: The way the proposal is written, it may not be enforceable. May need better language in regulations to make it enforceable.

Vote: 10 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstain

Motion passes

Proposal 63: Open an exploratory commercial red king crab fishery in specific areas during years of low estimated abundance

Support: no articulated support

Oppose: Very marginal fishery without good stock abundance. There is no need to add more pressure. Who could be exploring?

Vote: 0 in favor, 12 oppose, 1 abstains

Motion Fails

Proposal 234: Personal use king crab fishery. Require a personal use fishing permit for the taking of king crab in all areas of Southeast Alaska and reduce the daily bag and possession limit,

Support: We will get good information from this and there isn't good data on how much personal use king crab is being caught. This is in response to a real concern because of decline, historic low abundance; this is in response to a problem.

Oppose: no need to reduce bag limit when there are a lot of crab; will have to set a limit before we start getting data, if the biomass is above 200,000 or even higher, we will need an amendment to raise bag limit.

Vote: 9 in favor, 4 oppose

Motion Passes

Proposal 235: 5 AAC 32.146. Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan and 5 AAC 32.110. Fishing Seasons for Registration Area A. Repeal the Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan and adopt fixed-length summer and fall fishing seasons

Support: need to adapt to changing fishery

Oppose: if the current management plan isn't working, then we need to redo the management plan and do the research, science, monitoring, and biologist input into developing a new plan. Sitka AC would like to know more about where this proposal came from.

Vote: 3 in favor, 9 oppose, 1 abstain

Motion Fails

Proposal 64: 5 AAC 34.113. Southeast Alaska Red King Crab Management Plan and 5 AAC 34.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A. Manage the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial red king crab fishery under an equal quota share when harvestable surplus is less than 200,000 pounds,

Support:

Oppose: the 200,000 is the safety reserve. If it is under that, we shouldn't fish that.

Vote: 0 in favor, 13 oppose

Motion: Fails

Proposal 65: Expand fishing area for the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial golden king crab fishery

Support:

Oppose: This proposal could open all waters where there are not good stock assessments or known population dynamics

Vote: 1 support, 11 oppose, 1 abstain

Motion: Fails

Proposal 66: 5 AAC 34.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A. Implement weather-related fishery closure delays for the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial golden king crab fishery

Support:

Oppose:

Vote: 0 in favor, 12 oppose, 1 abstains

Motion: Fails

Proposal 69: 5 AAC 34.115. Guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A. Reduce Southeastern Alaska Area commercial golden king crab fishery guideline harvest ranges

Support: brings the GHL close to reality and sets good direction for new staff coming in

Oppose:

Vote: 9 in favor, 2 oppose, 2 abstain

Motion: passes

Proposal 70: 5 AAC 34.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A. Reduce the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial golden king crab fishery pot limit from 100 pots per vessel to 80 pots per vessel

Support: would help to better manage fishery and deal with stock issues

Oppose:

Vote: 11 support, 1 oppose, 1 abstain

Motion: Passes

Proposal 71: 5 AAC 35.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A. Allow operation of commercial, subsistence, sport, or personal use pots in the 14 days after closure of the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial Tanner crab fishery, as follows:

Support:

Oppose:

Vote: 8 in favor, 1 oppose, 4 abstain

Motion: Passes

Proposal 72: 5 AAC 35.113. Registration Area A Tanner crab harvest strategy. Re-define 'non-core' areas and define 'exploratory' areas in the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial Tanner crab fishery

Support:

Oppose: Fish the good areas, then the not so good areas, then the rest of it?

Vote: 1 support, 9 oppose, 2 abstain

Motion: Fails

Proposal 76: Establish mesh size requirements for Southeast Alaska Area sport fishing shrimp pots, as follows

Support: there is a lot of personal use fishing in Hoonah Sound and the fishery may be threatened. When shrimp populations crash, they don't come back. Areas in Canada adjacent to SE AK has a more robust strategy for shrimp that is more attuned to their biology. Everyone should have the same mesh size. Perhaps there is a need for a permit for shrimp and an annual limit—especially for areas.

Oppose: Expense in retooling pots; if there is a conservation issue, maybe there is a need to change how much can be taken and put bag limits;

Move to table by Tad F, second by John Murray

Vote:

Motion: tabled for future discussion

Proposal 77: 5 AAC 47.035. Methods, means, and general provisions – Shellfish. Amend shellfish methods and means and rescind unnecessary abalone regulations

Support:

Oppose:

Vote: 13 in favor, 0 oppose

Motion: Passed

Proposal 80: 5 AAC 31.124. Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area A. Reduce the maximum number of pots per vessel, limit the number of pots per string and pot spacing, and limit gear to one operation cycle per day in the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial shrimp fishery

Support:

Oppose:

Vote: 0 in favor, 13 oppose

Motion: Failed

Proposal 81: 5 AAC 31.124. Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area A; 5 AAC 31.126. Shrimp pot marking requirements for Registration Area A; and 5 AAC 31. 141. Logbooks. Allow commercial shrimp pots in the Southeastern Alaska Area to be pulled only one time per day,

Support:

Oppose: not enforceable

Vote: 0 in favor, 12 oppose, 1 abstain

Motion: Failed

Proposal 86: 5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan. Open fishing areas deemed to have stable sea cucumber populations to commercial harvest of sea cucumbers without a pre-fishery stock assessment survey,

Support:

Oppose: how can you open a fishery if we don't have a stock assessment. If we did open, we would have a much lower harvest for being conservative and that would cost more to the divers than paying for assessments.

Vote: 0 in favor, 10 oppose, 3 abstain

Motion: Failed

Proposal 86: 5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan. Open waters of a number of fishing areas previously closed to commercial sea cucumber harvest

Support:

Oppose: some of these areas are places that are set as protected subsistence use areas

Vote: 0 in favor, 13 oppose, 0 abstain

Motion: Failed

Proposal 88: 5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan. Modify the method for establishing the guideline harvest level in the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial sea cucumber fishery,

Support:

Oppose: it is a good way to go to use the lower bound rather than the mid-point. The dive association could pay for more surveys to get better data to improve confidence interval.

Vote: 0 in favor, 13 oppose, 0 abstain

Motion: Failed

Proposal 89: 5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan. Modify the method for establishing the guideline harvest level in the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial sea cucumber fishery,

Support:

Oppose: it is a good way to go to use the lower bound rather than the mid-point. The dive association could pay for more surveys to get better data to improve confidence interval.

Vote: 0 in favor, 13 oppose, 0 abstain

Motion: Failed

Proposal 90: 5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan. Open previously non-surveyed fishing areas to a limited commercial harvest of geoducks without a pre-fishery stock assessment survey

Support:

Oppose: bold to try to fish in an area without assessment. There are mechanisms to explore and area for a comm fishery

Vote: 0 in favor, 13 oppose, 0 abstain

Motion: Failed

Proposal 91: 5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan. Establish a weekly geoduck harvest limit of 1,000 pounds per diver in the Southeastern Alaska Area

Support: safety, higher prices,

Oppose: let the divers figure it out

Vote: 6 in favor, 2 oppose, 5 abstain

Motion: passes

Proposal 93: 5 AAC 38.1XX. Southeastern Alaska Area Squid Fishery. Establish a commercial fishery for squid, using purse seine gear, in the Southeastern Alaska Area

Support: we should have a fishery if possible but we need to do the research first

Oppose: can be done with the commissioner's permit; need a plan/research/stock assessment

Vote: 0 in favor, 11 oppose, 3 abstain

Motion: passes

Proposal 129: Rockfish possession and landing requirements for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Support: could be supported for a conservation standpoint

Oppose: difficulties on putting strict limits

Discussion: the board felt there was confusion and we want ADFG manager Mike Vaugh ADFG Commercial Groundfish biologist to be present to advice.

Motion to table: Brian Massey with Tad Fujioka seconding

Tabled vote

Vote:

Motion: held for later

Eric Jordan Moves to Adjourn Meeting closes 7:29pm

Future Meeting Dates:

- **November 15th - (Finfish excluding Herring) 6pm Centennial Hall**
- **November 29th - (Finfish/Herring Proposals) 6pm Centennial Hall**

Adjournment: 8:27

Minutes Recorded By: Andrew Thoms
Minutes Approved By: Full Sitka AC
Date: November 15th, 2017