

**Sitka Advisory Committee Minutes  
November 15, 2017  
Harrigan Centennial Hall**

I. Call to Order: by Jon Martin

II. Roll Call: Jon Martin

III. Members Present:, Jon Martin, Andrew Thoms, , Brian Massey, Tad Fujioka, Dick Curran, Karen Johnson, Moses Johnson, John Murray, Randy Gluth, Joel Markis, Eric Jordan,

Members Absent: Jeffrey Feldpausch, Wayne Unger, Bradley Shaffer, Stacey Wayne

List of User Groups Present: 10

IV. Approval of Agenda:

**Tad F. moved to adopt the agenda with the change of waiting on troll proposals but to speak about oyster farm aquaculture local permit application. Randy G. seconded.**

V. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

**Brain Massey motioned to approve. John Murray seconded. Approved.**

VI. Fish and Game Staff Present:

Eric Coonradt,

VII. Guests Present:

Mike Coleman, Heather Baucher, Bruce White, Steve Reifentstahl, Alexandra Fujioka, Spike Arnold, Woody Seer, Fred Fayette, Randy Greg, Mari Francis Fujioka.

VIII. Old Business:

We have Tabled proposals that will wait until a future meeting

IX. New Business:

- We will hold off on sport/subsistence use proposals until November 29<sup>th</sup> when ADF&G AB (Troy Tydingco) can join use
- Proposals considered for November 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting
  - Enhanced Salmon Allocation
    - 139 - 146
  - Special Harvest Areas/Terminal Harvest Areas
    - 149 - 152
  - Management Plans
    - 153 - 158
  - Misc.
    - 159 - 161
  - Set Gillnet (Salmon)
    - 162 - 165
  - Purse Seine (Salmon)
    - 166 - 168

- Drift Gillnet (Salmon)
  - 169 - 171
- Troll
  - 172 - 184

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast & Yakutat Finfish & Shellfish Proposals   January 11-23, 2018				
Prop.	Position	# Support	# Oppose	AC Comments, Discussion, Amendments, Voting Notes
139				Eliminate provisions for a rotational fishery in Southeast Cove Terminal Harvest Area and allow the department to manage the fishery in consultation with the hatchery operator.
	approve	10	1	Steve Reifentstahl offered comments on the why this was being proposed and gave background on the hatchery and how NSRAA would like to see the terminal fishery.
141				Modify net rotation schedules for the commercial drift gillnet gear and purse seine gear salmon fisheries at Deep Inlet and Anita Bay terminal harvest areas.
				Took no action: Sitka AC wants DEEP INLET To maintain the Status Quo
142				Modify drift gillnet and purse seine fishing rotations in the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area.
	Oppose	0	10	<p>Steve Reifentstahl offered comments: this proposal is to balance net gear groups to shift allocation--- more to seiners than to gill-netters.</p> <p>Eric Jordan offered that each percent of exchanged is \$1.3M--- gillnetters caught 40%, Seinners caught 39%, trollers caught 18.8%. Trollers are 10 percentage point below their allocation range. NSRAA board vote was 13-10; Eric J offered the need to support local gillnet fleet. Comment that there is a need for a gillnet seat.</p> <p>Mike Coleman offered that gillnetters put a lot of effort in Deep Inlet because they don't have other places to go other than Lynn Canal.</p> <p>Moe Johnson offered that the status quo should be maintained in Deep Inlet and that no changes should be made to Deep Inlet allocation that changes anything different than now.</p> <p>It was offered that in order to accomplish the status</p>

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast & Yakutat Finfish & Shellfish Proposals   January 11-23, 2018				
Prop.	Position	# Support	# Oppose	AC Comments, Discussion, Amendments, Voting Notes
				<p>quo and continue it, extend regulation from 2018 to 2020 as it currently stands in regulation.</p> <p><b>The Sitka AC would like to see The Sitka AC is of the opinion that the status quo should continue in Deep Inlet with no Changes</b></p>
<b>143</b>				Change the time ratio for drift gillnet gear to purse seine gear openings in Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area.
	Approve	10	0	<p>Moe Johnson moves to amend to Randy G. Seconded.</p> <p>(b)(1)(B) [EXCEPT AS SPECIFIED IN (C) OF THIS PARAGRAPH,] The time ratio for gillnet openings to seine openings is <b>TWO to ONE</b>. FOR THE <b>2018 - 2020</b> SEASONS, FROM THE THIRD SUNDAY IN JUNE THROUGH STATISTICAL WEEK 30, THE TIME RATIO FOR GILLNET OPENINGS TO SEINE OPENINGS IS <b>ONE to ONE</b>, EXCEPT THAT DURING THE 2019 AND 2020 SEASONS IF THE POSTSEASON PRELIMINARY ENHANCED SALMON HARVEST VALUE DATA FROM THE PREVIOUS SEASON INDICATES THE SEINE GEAR GROUP IS WITHIN THAT GROUP'S ENHANCED SALMON ALLOCATION PERCENTAGE RANGE, BASED ON THE FIVE-YEAR ROLLING AVERAGE AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.364, THE TIME RATIO FOR GILLNET OPENINGS TO SEINE OPENINGS IS TWO TO ONE FOR THE ENTIRE SEASON;]</p> <p><b>The Intention of the Sitka AC is that DEEP INLET Rotations stay the same.</b></p>
<b>144</b>				Allow increased commercial salmon fishing opportunity with troll gear in the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area.

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast & Yakutat Finfish & Shellfish Proposals   January 11-23, 2018				
Prop.	Position	# Support	# Oppose	AC Comments, Discussion, Amendments, Voting Notes
	Approve	10	0	Eric Jordan Moves to Amend the proposal to:  (A) Beginning with the first day of the August coho closure described in 5 AAC 29.110(b)(2), or August 20 if there is no closure, salmon may also be taken by troll gear when the waters described in this subsection are <b>open to cost recovery</b>
<b>146</b>		Do not include enhanced salmon produced by private nonprofit hatcheries in Southeastern Alaska Area Enhanced Salmon Allocation Management Plan gear-specific value allocations.		
	Oppose	0	10	
<b>147</b>		Amend Mist Cove salmon closure to allow for taking of salmon with fly fishing gear and prohibit snagging.		
	Approved	7	3	
<b>149</b>		Extend the closing date for salmon harvest by the hatchery permit holder in Deep Inlet Special Harvest Area.		
	Approve	11	0	Ability to clean up the terminal fishing areas
<b>150</b>		Establish a special harvest area in Crawfish Inlet.		
	Tabled until need more information			This is a new fishery and a new hatchery operation and regs need to be set up. Questions on terminal hatchery area and  Eric Moves to table until we have more info Tad Seconds Proposal discussion tabled.
<b>155</b>		Eliminate the wild sockeye salmon harvest limit for the District 12 commercial salmon purse seine fishery.		
	Oppose	0	10	A lot of work went into figuring out a plan. Not right for one user group to go against what everyone came up with
<b>156</b>		Change time period the District 12 commercial salmon		

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast & Yakutat Finfish & Shellfish Proposals   January 11-23, 2018				
Prop.	Position	# Support	# Oppose	AC Comments, Discussion, Amendments, Voting Notes
				purse seine fishery wild sockeye salmon harvest cap is in effect to reflect current sockeye salmon run timing.
	Oppose	0	10	
157				Include wild sockeye salmon harvested in the Amalga Harbor Special Harvest Area in the District 12 commercial salmon purse seine fishery wild sockeye harvest limit.
	Approve	5	0	Most members abstained and did not feel knowledgeable enough about the area or issues—or understood the specifics of the proposal's impact—to feel able to vote.

Other Items of Discussion:

- Aquaculture Farmsites in high-use areas in Sitka Sound

The Board talked about the proposals for Oyster Farming in Nakawasina Sound and Olga Point. There is a great deal of concern on the size of these facilities and the location which would impede/hinder current/existing uses. The reasons for our concerns are the following:

- Size—these are very big facilities in locations that are heavily used
- The Locations chosen are in high use areas by sport, subsistence, recreational fishermen as well as tour operators
- These facilities would impede boat traffic marine traffic in these areas—especially through Beehive pass and around Olga Point into Krestof Sound. The planned facilities would effectively block any vessels from using those passes for navigation
- Anchorages—The facility being planned for Beehive island is an anchorage that is often used—especially in poor weather
- Recreation boaters frequently use those passes and would be blocked
- There is a high level of concern for the potential introduction of non-native organisms—the last oyster farm in Sitka introduced an invasive species (D-vex) that has not yet been dealt with and we are still pending action by DNR/ADFG to control/remove that species from Whiting Harbor. Before any new permits are opened up for aquaculture, the impacts of the last aquaculture facility needs to be dealt with and all invasive need to be removed or under control.
- Tourism operators who use these areas will be impacted and restricted access
- The facilities would propose having floating structures for use/maintenance/administration of these facilities but that does not fall in-line with the current zoning and regulations on the sites where float-houses can be placed in the Sitka Coastal Zone.
- The placement of these facilities and full-time staff in those areas will lead to Increased pressure on fish and wildlife

- Both these areas are traditional Harvest area for Sea Cucumbers which would thus impact an existing fishery in these location
- Salmon passage areas—especially beehive passage
- Both of these areas are traditional seine set areas for the late summer pink/chum/coho seine fisheries. The placement of these facilities would prevent that fishery from continuing to use those areas
- Bee hive passage is a popular and well used navigation route into Nakawasina Passage
- Before a scattershot of aquaculture sites are placed throughout the Sitka Coastal Zone, there is a need for public input and identification of areas and scale that are apt for Aquaculture

Adjournment: Moved to adjourn at 9:55

Minutes Recorded By: \_\_Andrew Thoms\_\_\_\_\_

Minutes Approved By: \_Sitka AC\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017\_\_\_\_\_