

Sitka Advisory Committee
12/7/2017
Harrigan Centennial Hall

- I. Call to Order: [Time: 06:05pm] by [Eric Jordan]
- II. Roll Call:
Members Present: Tad Fujioka, John Murray, Dick Curran, Moses Johnson, Karen Johnson, Eric Jordan, Stacy Wayne, Joel Markis, Brad Shaeffer
Members Absent: (Eric Jordan- substitute chair)
Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8
Guests Present: John Skeelee, Nina Maus
List of User Groups Present: Gill Netter, and a Curious Community Member
- III. Approval of Agenda: John Murray, second- Tad Fujioka
- IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Unavailable due to timeline of meetings
- V. Fish and Game Staff Present: Eric Coonradt- ADF&G, Aaron Dupris- ADF&G
- VI. Guests Present:
- VII. Old Business:
 - Misc.
 - 159 – 161
 - **Proposal 159:** Prohibit the use of aircraft to spot for salmon. Change from prohibition from un-manned specifically to all aircraft
 - Call to support 159 Joel Markis, second Karen Johnson
 - Moses Johnson (AC): This was brought up last cycle and we voted not to ban them. We have four in local area but they don't cause much trouble. I don't think it's a problem yet.
 - Eric Coonradt (ADF&G)- speak to pilots every other day and do provide a large amount of information
 - Tad Fujioka (AC)- concern with enforceability
 - Eric Coonradt (ADF&G)- yes it would be very difficult to enforce

Chair Eric call the question-
Vote- support-0, oppose- 7, abstain-1
Motion to support 159 Fails
SITKA AC OPPOSES PROPOSAL 159

 - **Proposal 160:**
 - Mo motion to support, John second

- Agency:
 - Eric Coonradt (ADF&G)- Nobody in the department would support the idea of being able to scrape streams.
- Public:
 - John Skeel- Speak to support 160- As a gillnetter- lots of people have gotten tickets in specific spot and were alarmed that it was being enforced. I think it's about this one area where the whole spot to fish would fall within the 500yds. Numerous small streams that gillnetters don't want to worry about
- Advisory Committee:
 - Tad- You are talking about Yankee Cove- which is not addressed in this proposal.
 - John Murray- Don't support this because sometimes those small streams may have fish running them.
 - Chair Eric Jordan call question
 - Vote to support: 0-support, 8-oppose
 - **Motion to support proposal 160 fails**
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- **Proposal 161:**
 - NO Comments, Not in our area- moving on
- Set Gillnet (Salmon)
 - **Proposal 162-165:**
 - All out of our area, bypass the pot
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- Purse Seine (Salmon)
 - 166 – 168
 - **Proposal 166:**
 - Motion to support John Murray, Tad Fujioka second
 - Agency-
 - ADF&G- There are 3 index areas in northern southeast. Augusta and Petersburg used to track pink run strength- This would create a 4th area. If necessary to open it we would do it ourselves. We have ability to open or close this area without it being an index area
 - Advisory Committee-
 - Tad Fujioka- Not only near point Augusta, also near test fisheries in Funter bay. N southeast inside humpy runs have been terrible in last few years. Adding any additional harvest like this seems like a bad idea.
 - Eric Jordan- I find it problematic in a number of respects, that and the sockeye issue in that area. The department already has the ability to open this but not need as an index area.
 - Moses Johnson- This came up before, like Eric said it's not really a need. This would mandate a weekly opener, and would put more pressure on the pinks and catch sockeye that would count against the cap. No need for this.

- Eric Jordan – chair call the question
- Vote support- 0, oppose- 8,
- **Motion to support 166 fails unanimously**

SITKA AC OPPOSES PROPOSAL 166

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▪ **Proposal 167**

- Moses Johnson moves to support, Joel Markis second
- Agency:
 - ADF&G- The department already has ability to require fishing with in 1.5 n mi or outside .5. Being locked in would make it hard to manage this area in the event of a large run. Removing department flexibility would make management difficult.
- Advisory Committee-
 - Moses Johnson – I am opposed to this. Part of gillnet/seine war. Already have a sockeye cap. Limit to .5 mi from the beach would really limit the seine fleet. Trying to limit sockeye offshore.
 - Tad- The proposer implies that it is about limiting the harvest of sockeye, but he is really trying to limit the harvest of DIPAC chum.”

- Chair Eric Jordan call question
- Vote- Support 0, oppose- 8
- **Motion to support Proposal 167 unanimously fails**

SITKA AC OPPOSES PROPOSAL 167

▪ **Proposal 168**

- Moses Johnson move to support, Karen Johnson second
- Agency:
 - Eric Coonradt (ADF&G) similar to previous proposal where industry trying to close waters in that general area to conserve king salmon.
- Advisory Committee-
 - John Murray- What do you mean by industry? All combined?
 - Tad Fujioka- Given low pink returns expected in northern inside, do you expect any openings there in 2018?”
 - Eric Coonradt (ADF&G)- I am not sure that would fall to the Juneau manager, given escapement data. Augusta will likely open, but other areas it really depends. Although highly unlikely.
 - John Murray- More adult fish pass by in May and June.
 - Eric Coonradt (ADF&G)- Augusta index starts toward the end of June
 - Joel Markis- They would close those areas if need to right?

- Eric Coonradt (ADF&G)- I don't know about chinook. Sitka is lucky- no caps or treaty fish. But yes something would be done if catching lots of kings.
- Moses Johnson- I'm opposed to this- Seiners have been restricted completely! Have not been able to retain kings that we do catch. Kings come to the top on the pinks- throw them over and they swim off. With these areas, Augusta and Hawk Inlet- numbers for July 29th and 25th. When they did retains them- 230,000 fish per boats 0 kings at point augusta. 12,000 fish per boat 0 kings. Only place where fish caught district 10- 40 kings total for all the boats, district 4 – 120 kings total, district 1 -10 fish, Only areas where kings were caught occurred outside of the Sitka Area. Only time I've seen juvenile Kings was in Hoonah sound and they mostly go through the net. Times I've fished Hawk inlet only seen them one season-early like end of June.
- John Murray- I hope this gets caught up in the conservation plan coming up. It's going to affect all the gear groups. If this is a valid concern, I would think it would be dealt with in the conservation plan. So will I oppose this because it should be dealt with in the upcoming plan.
- Brad arrives, Tad leaves
- Chair Eric Jordan calls question
- Vote support 0, oppose- 6 abstain- 2
- **Motion to support Proposal 168 fails**

SITKA AC OPPOSES PROPOSAL 168

- Drift Gillnet (Salmon)
 - 169 – 171
 - **Proposal 169**
 - No Comments
 - **Proposal 170**
 - Move to support John Murray, second Stacy Wayne
 - Agency-
 - ADF&G- This proposal is taking from seiners and gives to gillnetters
 - Advisory Committee-
 - John Murray- I have concerns, some years the fish do go up along that mainland shore. Possibility of catching Taku kings which are not doing great. So opposed to this due to conservation concern.
 - Moses Johnson- This is a traditional seine area, I'm opposed to this. It's one of largest seine sections in district 10
 - Eric Jordan- District 8 targeting Stikine fish line right at edge of Thomas Bay. Gillnets would not fish north or west of Thomas bay but could fish east of Thomas Bay. This is designed thinking some of those fish would come around that way.

- Chair Eric Jordan- call question
- Vote Support 0, oppose 8
- **Motion to support 170 fails unanimously**

SITKA AC OPPOSES PROPOSAL 170

- **Proposal 171**
- John Murray motion to support, Stacy Wayne second
 - Agency
 - ADF&G- this is requesting to extend the mesh restrictions in these areas for King Conservation
 - Public-
 - John Skeel -If it saves kings, Im in support of this. Im in support of that proposal 171
 - Chair Eric Jordon call question
 - Vote- support 8, oppose 0,
 - **Motion to support Proposal 171 passes unanimously**

SITKA AC SUPPORTS PROPOSAL 171

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- New Business
 - Draft Letter input for Request to Department staff to release information on King Management Plan for review.
 - Eric Jordan- In the midst of a King crisis and we have heard that the department not going to release this ahead of time, and only release it on day of deadline for public comment. So asking for this information ahead of time to review
 - Motion to send it John, second Joel
 - Vote support-8, oppose- 0,
 - **Motion to send the King Management Plan letter passes unanimously**
- Letter about Herring,
 - Joel Markis- Suggestion to circulate this online and allow for edits and review. Bring it back to next meeting and adopt it or not. Working document.
- Next meeting Wednesday December 13th.
- Suggestion to prepare card from Sitka AC for Eric Coonradt
 - Stacy will get the card and bring it to next meeting for signing

Motion to adjourn 7:11pm Eric Jordan

VIII. New Business:

Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: ___Heather Bauscher_____

Minutes Approved By: ___Full AC_____

Date: ___Dec 27th, 2017_____