

Kenai Soldotna Fish & Game Advisory Committee
01/25/2018
CIAA

I. Call to Order: Meeting called @ 6:30pm by Mike Crawford, Chair

II. Roll Call:

Name	Member Present	Member Absent	Member Excused
Al Belknap – At Large	x		
Alex Agosti – At Large		x	
Andrew Carmichael – Subsistence	x		
Vacant – Commercial Fishing			
Dick Dykema - Trapping		x	
Dyer Van Devere – Commercial Fishing	x		
Greg Geller – Sport Fishing Guide Seat, Alternate		x	
Jerry Strieby – Sport Fishing Guide Seat	x		
Joe Thomas – At Large	x		
Michelle Williams – Hunting	x		
Mike Crawford – Chair, Sport Fishing Guide Seat	x		
Monte Roberts – Sport Fishing Guide Seat	x		
Paul Shadura II – Commercial Fish – Vice Chair			x
Todd Smith – Commercial Fish, Alternate	x		
Will Lee – Secretary, Personal Use	x		
Open Seat – At Large			
Open Seat – At Large			

Number Needed for Quorum on AC:

List of User Groups Present: AK State Troopers

III. Approval of Agenda:

IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

V. Fish and Game Staff Present:

VI. Guests Present: Robert Ruffner BOF, Ted Spraker BOG

VII. Old Business:

VIII. New Business:

Robert Ruffner, Fluvial Geomorphologist (sediment transport), Bachelors in Geology

spoke about the Kenai River Turbidity. Some points about the Southeast BOF issues, including the Herring fishery, and diminishing King Salmon that have become stocks of concerns. Sockeye lake is also a stock of a concern, but there has been historical issues there before.

Emergency petition from Nancey Hilstrand, about hatchery fish roaming. The petition was turned down by the BOF at this meeting, but it is going to come back around during the statewide meeting.

Suggestion that a 2020 BOF meeting for upper Cook Inlet to be held in Kenai/Soldotna and then move that meeting on a 3-year rotation between the Mat-Su Valley and Anchorage.

Joint board meeting tentatively scheduled for spring of 2019. Last Joint Board meeting was in 2013. There is public comment out for the next joint board meeting.

Kenai River Turbidity:

July water impairment listing, there are a couple of thresholds that have to be met. Standards start at 5 NTUs. Next standard is 10 NTUs and then the last large level is 25 NTUs. Impairment has to be over 10% of the standard measurement for some period of time. Study was over the 10 NTUs and 5 NTUs but not over the 25 NTUs. This is according to the DEC report.

Locations of sensors was brought up by a guest in the audience. Some of the locations were questioned as 4 of the 5 sensors never measured over the 5 NTUs (testimony). And the turbidity at the Eagle Rock location was in more heavily sediment area. The middle of the river is not muddy, mostly within 6 feet of the bank.

Above Pillers boat launch there is no turbidity issue. Source sediment protocol is to have an up river location and a lower river location to compare. Mr Ruffner did believe that the study could have been done differently. (Robert Ruffner)

The area affected the most is highly tidal which holds most of the sediment. As provided by the sampling at river mile 8.5 and compared Monday's (drift only) to non-Monday's.

DEC cut the river impairment at river mile 5 which is the brackish water limit.

11.5 is the top of the impairment limit. The reason for river mile 23 chosen as a test location was the limitation of boat traffic at that location. The water levels (mean vs high) was never addressed during the study directly. Though it is supposedly captured in the entire data set as the sensors were out from May to October.

State of Alaska threshold for listing has to be over 10% of the time per standard NTU measurement. If the river is listed as impaired, a certain amount of time is given to provide a plan to take correctable action. If no plan is proposed a TMDL (Total maximum Daily Limit) will then be implemented.

DEC and another source paid for the study, which also influenced how the study was done.

Would the sediment be washed out yearly or during major weather events? This question is pertinent to boat traffic as the wake is helping sediment move out more often.

Need to decrease boat wake not just number of boats or traffic.

There is no total boat count being done at this point in time.

Possibly changing the 6am start time could help, since there is a lot of activity at 6am

Changing the river classification for drinking water on this river might be easier and a simpler solution.

Break @ 8:05

Resume @ 8:20

Motion by the board to write a letter to the DEC: Letter to show our concern with the turbidity study.

7 - support

1 - opposed

2 – abstained

Motion to support RC409 for the BOF meetings to the Kenai/Soldotna and then on a rotating schedule between Anchorage and Wasilla.

10 – Support

0 – opposed

Alaska Board of Game				
Prop.	Position	# Support	# Oppose	AC Comments, Discussion, Amendments, Voting Notes
117	Reduce the harvest and possession limits for grouse in Unit 11			
	Opposed	0	8	Pressure is not high and there is no biological concern, 2 abstained
119	Lengthen the hunting season for ptarmigan in Unit 13B			
	Support	10	0	Ptarmigan populations are closely related to spring

Alaska Board of Game				
Prop.	Position	# Support	# Oppose	AC Comments, Discussion, Amendments, Voting Notes
				weather, though this was an experiment there has been no significant change in rock Ptarmigan populations, but the willow ptarmigan populations have flourished and the shorter season has decreased opportunity.
122 Modify the Sourdough Controlled Use Area				
	Support	10	0	This would allow the use of the boat launch area for river access
133 Change the nonresident brown bear registration hunt in Unit 9E to drawing permit				
	Support as Amended	10	0	Amendment to support reduction in harvest of brown bears by non-resident hunters by season length, by shortening the end of the season. This would facilitate protection of sows while still allowing the take of Boars. 10-support for Amendment
139 Lengthen the nonresident moose hunting season in Unit 17A				
	Support As Amended	7	3	Opposed votes; local preference and number of permits is already limited Vote for Amendment 7 Support – 3 Oppose Amended change the date to the 1 st from the 15th
142 Shift the resident fall hunting season dates for moose in a portion of Unit 17A				
	Oppose	0	8	differing unit seasons , low recruitment at current rates

Next meeting Wednesday February 7th, 2018 at the Soldotna Sports Complex
Adjournment: Meeting Adjourned @ 9:45pm

Minutes Recorded By: Will Lee
Minutes Approved By: Advisory Committee
Date Approved: 3/1/2018