

# MID-LOWER YUKON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MEETING MINUTES

January 09, 2018

1:00 p.m. City Hall, St. Mary's

**Teleconference: 1.800.504.8071 Code: 5432709**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** 1:20pm by Vice-Chair Bill Alstrom

**ROLL CALL:** Pete Tyson, Mathew Waskey, Bill Alstrom, Margaret Guidry, Basil Larson (was excused for the second half of the meeting). Alternates: Sven Paukan, George Beans

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Margaret Guidry made a motion to approve the agenda. Peter Tyson seconded. Motion passed

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** October 30, 2017

### INTRODUCTIONS:

- Fish and Game Staff: Wildlife: Patrick Jones (Teleconference); Comm.Fish: Holly Carroll (in person), Charles Brazil, Christy Gleason, Deena Jallen, Shawn Larson (Teleconference); Subsistence: Alida Trainor (Teleconference); Boards: Jen Peek (in person).
- Other Agency Representatives: AVCP: Jennifer Hooper and Sarah Mutter (Teleconference), Kwik'pak: Gene Sandone (in person).
- Members of the Public/ Other: Michael Jimmie (Emmonak), George Beans (Yupit of Andreafski), Charles Prince (St. Mary's), Scott Riley (Pitka's Point) Kimberly Joe (St. Mary's), William Alstrom II (St. Mary's), John Lamont (Emmonak), Erik Weingarth (St. Mary's), Mel Paukan (St. Mary's).

### PUBLIC COMMENTS/ TESTIMONY:

- Gene Sandone (Kwik'pak)- Mr. Sandone offered the MLY AC and members of the public assistance with writing proposals for the 2019 Board of Fish AYK meeting.
- George Beans (Yupit of Andreafski)- Mr. Beans reported that the Andreafski Tribal Council had comments for BOF.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- **Board of Fish:** Yukon Proposals: March 6-9, 2018 (Statewide meeting, Anchorage)
  - PROPOSAL 230 – Allow use of drift gillnets to harvest salmon for subsistence purposes in Yukon River Sub.4-B and 4-C.
  - PROPOSAL 231 – Repeal the prohibition on subsistence fishing in Yukon River Dist. 1 & 2 during first pulse of king salmon.

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- PROPOSAL 232 – Allow sale of Yukon River king salmon caught incidentally during open commercial fishing periods for other salmon species.
- PROPOSAL 233 – Clarify the Dist. 1 boundary and allow set gillnets to be operated up to three nautical miles seaward from any grassland bank in Dist. 1 after July 15.
- PROPOSAL 237 – Repeal the District 6 commercial salmon fishing season fixed closure date and replace with a closure date established by emergency order.
- **AYK Board of Fish meeting:** January 15-29, 2019; Proposal Deadline: April 10, 2018
- **Federal Subsistence Board:** Wildlife Proposals: April 2018
  - WP18-29 – Lengthen moose season by one month in Unit 18 Remainder
  - WP18-30 – Shorten season and decrease harvest limit and possession limit for ptarmigan in Unit 18.
  - WP18-31 – Shorten caribou season in portions of Unit 18 by 15 days.
  - WP18-51 – Modify bear baiting restrictions to align with State regulations.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- **Draft Proposal:** Moose antler sales
  - Bill Alstrom reported that [the sale of moose antlers] was a problem that was brought up regarding a certain person coming to the villages and buying moose antlers. Some people had antlers stolen out of their yard. Mostly targeting young adults who were going out to make cash. Another issue was the harassment of game. Incidence where moose were being targeted, running them, in hopes they would shed [their antlers] and also people taking the moose for only antlers. Mr. Alstrom commented that he didn't see much activity last summer [2017]. The person who is buying antlers has moved to another community in the lower Yukon. People did address it during a City Council meeting in St. Mary's but it was and they wanted to hear the local tribal governments and ADFG comments.
  - Margaret Guidry commented that her husband got a call from Mt. Village and was encouraged to drive around looking for moose antlers, some were close to \$3,000. Young kids will see the money and see our moose going to waste. Support this proposal draft.

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- Bill Alstrom commented that some people are concerned about the harassment. Some question the money people are making and antlers getting stolen...what is that money being used for? He commented that it is a big concern.
- Mathew Waskey reported that he wrote a letter several years ago because of lots of theft, animals were harassed. Wrote a letter that antler sales must be stopped.
- George Beans was favor of this draft proposal. Would like to see the board pass this proposal for all the reasons stated. He commented that a lot of this stuff has been going on. Don't need more reasons to harass or waste the game we depend on. He would support prohibiting all sales.
- Trooper Blajeski commented antler buyers are not a regulated industry. Currently in this region [Mid-Lower Yukon] there were 2 active investigations. One antler buyer tried to sell 6 cutoff antlers. AST was following up. He commented that it was hard from an enforcement standpoint. There was no regulation saying they need to record who they get it from. There can be a lot of cash. ATS does get reports that people shoot 4-6 moose to harvest to sell the antlers.
- Mathew Waskey commented that it increases wanton waste. He provided observations.
- Bill Alstrom commented that part of the reason for this proposal was to address the people who go out just for the antlers. People may just target the bulls for monetary value. He was in support of the proposal.
- Peter Tyson- options may not do any good. One of the options may be to have regulations of the buyers.
- Patrick Jones commented that the board would like to see the ACs preferred options and then point out other options as possible compromises. Unit 23 had a similar social issue with caribou antlers. Mr. Jones explained the Unit 23 process regarding the sale of antlers.
- Bill Alstrom didn't see a problem with carved antlers, but didn't like to see this in bulk. Possible 4<sup>th</sup> option, regulate all antlers except those that have been carved or made into the artwork.

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- Jen Peeks clarified the ACR deadlines and process.
  - Peter Tyson commented there might be some way to get a handle on the buyers. Maybe something more than a business license. Maybe more input from Tribal Council.
  - George Beans commented that the AC should submit this with the primary option being all moose antlers.
  - Sven Paukan supported going forward with the proposal. He agreed with prohibiting the sale of all moose antlers with an exception of handicrafts and naturally shed antlers. Allows the artists
- Motion made by Mathew Waskey, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Peter Waskey to accept the proposal with the primary option being to prohibit the sale of moose antler with the exception of antlers made into handicrafts or naturally shed antlers. Motion passed.

- **Draft Proposal:** Minimum caliber for moose hunting

- Jen Peeks and Patrick Jones (ADF&G) discussed the background to this proposal. He commented that this idea has come up before the board several times.
- Bill Alstrom commented that this issue had been discussed at the last several meetings. He commented that he didn't really know how to address this.
- Peter Tyson commented that this has been brought up more than once. A lot of little kids try to catch moose and can hardly hold a gun.
- Bill Alstrom agreed with Mr. Tyson. He commented that in the old days you would go out to feed your family. Some of the smaller arms don't penetrate the animal and may hit the wrong spot. He commented that he did not catch his first moose until he was out of the service.
- George Beans commented that he was in favor of this proposal. There is legitimate reasons for this and it has been discussed. If shooting with a smaller caliber, it is just harassment. If you are just popping shots at it, it gets wounded and goes into trees where you are unable to catch it; that is harassment.

**Peter Tyson to accept the draft proposal. Margaret Guidry 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed Unanimously.**

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*\*Note: BOG ACR deadline is November 1.*

### MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

- Officer Elections- tabled to next meeting due to Chair not being present.
- Representative for March 6-9, 2018 BOF meeting, Anchorage

**William Alstrom, alternate: Sven Paukan**

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** call of the chair\_\_\_\_\_ **Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Comments:

- Bill Alstrom commented that he was disheartened that the meeting hall wasn't packed [with community members] because the issues affect our livelihood. It affects us and our young people. We don't see a big audience. We need to try to get our residents involved. He hoped in the future more of our younger people attend these meetings.
- Mathew Waskey thanked everyone for this meeting. He distributed a lamprey letter looking at the low run of eels during the 2017 run. Holly Carroll will share it with ADFG staff. **Will be put on the next agenda.**
- Jen Peek thanked the AC members and the public for attending. Thanks to St. Mary's for hosting the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Waskey, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tyson, 5:47pm

Alaska Board of Fisheries				
Statewide Crab, Shrimp, and Miscellaneous Proposals   March 6-9, 2018				
Prop.	Position	# Support	# Oppose	AC Comments, Discussion, Amendments, Voting Notes
230				Allow use of drift gillnets to harvest salmon for subsistence purposes in Yukon River Sub.4-B and 4-C.
	Oppose	1	4	Holly Carroll (ADF&G) summarized the proposal. Bill Alstrom (AC) asked for clarification on the specific mesh size that would be allowed. George Beans (AC alt)- was there a reason why only setnet in 4B and 4C? Carroll (ADFG)- no drift gillnetting at all is allowed above 4A. Only legal until up to Koyakuk. Discussed customary gear types. Mathew Waskey (AC)- in addition to set and drift is there other

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				<p>gear? Carroll (ADFG)- Fishwheels are legal but not ideal in this area.</p> <p>George Beans- concerned if did allow drift gillnets would be the enforcement side of it. ADFG have been claiming they don't have enough enforcement. If they do open it there will more fishers close by. They spend a lot of money on gas and now they are going to have that much more fishers on the river. There will be an influx of fishers by those 2 villages.</p> <p>Bill Alstrom (AC)- Looking at the dates, where exactly would that first pulse be on the river during the time this is allowed? Will they be fishing on the first pulse? Carroll- June 10 is when 4A is legal, intend to align language with 4A. Management still has authority to protect the first pulse.</p> <p>Sven Paukan- What is the current regulation on subsistence opening dates with stationary gear from year to year? Holly will look that up.</p> <p>Bill Alstrom (AC)- thinking about the influx of fishers in that area. They go down below Koyakuk to fish. Seems like there is a friction between fishermen in that area. I don't know exactly about upriver...I don't know the impact on the fisheries. Wondering if for conservation purposes it will affect the run, mostly concerned about Chinook. I don't think this is the first time this proposal has been proposed by these tribes.</p> <p>Carroll (ADFG)- ADF&amp;G are neutral on the allocative issues. In support of providing more subsistence opportunity in conducting an orderly fishery. Could have more orderly fishery but could increase king harvest.</p> <p>George Beans (AC Alt)- haven't addressed the issue of enforcement. Carroll (ADFG)- currently fishermen are saying they either fish legally in front of Koyakuk or illegally in front of their own village.</p> <p>John H. Lamont (public)- one concern is harvesting more Canadian bound king salmon.</p> <p>Sven Paukan (AC alt)- Looking at the dates. I understand the need for subsistence fishers to fish close by...but my concern is with the dates. Carroll read the regulations regarding the dates. Paukan- what are the regulations for 4B and 4C?</p> <p>Christy Gleason (ADFG)- Districts 4,5,6 can't use drift gillnets. For sub fishery you just open it at the start of the season and it runs continuously.</p> <p>Carroll (ADFG)- do you support their ability to drift or not would be</p>

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				<p>the discussion.</p> <p>Alstrom (AC)- concerned about the king conservation. If we do a drift fishery, are they allowed to keep them? Carroll-all gillnets are allowed to keep kings. ADF&amp;G can regulate what type of gear.</p> <p>Scott Riley- if they are allowed to drift...would you let them use dipnets? Carroll -they had to use dipnets...rules would be more similar if this passes.</p> <p>Peter Tyson- the only change would be that these villages could fish where they are rather than going down river?</p> <p>George Beans- if it does pass, then it could create a snowball effect of similar proposals up the river.</p>
231				Repeal the prohibition on subsistence fishing in Yukon River Dist. 1 & 2 during first pulse of king salmon.
	Support	5	0	<p>Carroll provided a summary. This prop. would remove previous language and insert new language. This proposal seeks to take away that mandatory closure and give digression to the manager if they want to open it to the first pulse in districts 1 and 2.</p> <p>Bill Alstrom- we have preseason outlooks every spring. How would dept. determine if there were an excess amount of Chinook?</p> <p>Carroll- would have to go on "faith" and your pre-season projection because you don't actually know. Examples were provided.</p> <p>Gene Sandone- provided proposal background. ADFG has improved preseason index and determining run size. This is a matter of food security for Dist. 1 and 2. First pulse usually has the best drying season. This proposal allows the flexibility of removing this restriction. Discussed escapement into Canada.</p> <p>Carroll- Corrected escapement numbers into Canada. We also have to provide extra fish for them to harvest. We do have a level of uncertainty where we are trying to manage for 10,000 extra fish while still meeting the escapement goal so Canadians can meet their needs.</p> <p>Gene Sandone- US has not been taking its fair share of total allowable catch.</p> <p>Eric Weingarth – Meeting in Whitehorse, concerns that the upper districts have been taking more king salmon than they have historically in their subsistence take. Sales of pressure cooked fish and strips have increased. Dist. 5-6 are taking all Canadian bound king salmon. Dist. 1-2 are most restrictive. Dist. 1-2 have had the biggest sacrifice. Now saying that Canadian bound fish are all throughout the run. We should be harvesting throughout the run.</p>



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				<p>Should be spreading out our harvest. Wrong for Dist. 1-2 to be fishing all at the end.</p> <p>Sandone- would like to see the harvest spread out over the entire run rather than restrict dist. 1 and 2.</p> <p>Bill Alstrom- Disparity between Dist. 1-2 and the upper district. We use to target first run of kings. That was our lively-hood. Last few years we have been sitting on banks watching food resource pass by. The further the fish up river we start seeing Pilot Station sonar counts increasing. It gets a sour taste that we missed out on all of these prime fish that we used to fish on. Then they allow fishing on the top end of the fish we were restricted on. That is not equality. Down here we don't over fish. We get what we need and quit. Subsistence- we catch what we need and quit. We don't waste. Why are we restricted on the lower river and then the restrictions are relaxed further up river?</p> <p>Melvin Pauken- Seems kind of strange that you opened it in Dist. 5 when there was a good enough number at Pilot. Why not protect them all the way?</p> <p>Carroll- provided background. Can either start open and get conservative or start conservative and open. Need midpoint to understand the run. That is why Dist. 1-3 feel really restricted. From a biologist standpoint and that subsistence is a priority...if I know the total number says that we should have probably not had restrictions at all, I'm going to stop restricting.</p> <p>John H. Lamont- this prop. would lift the current regulation. If they left it the same it would affect the next prop. 232.</p> <p>Basil Larson- the restriction on the first pulse, historically the lower river would get a little fish out of each pulse compared to now when the first pulse is restricted and then people fish hard on the other pulses. Need to consider fishing heavily on only a few pulses. Would prefer taking a little out of each pulse.</p> <p>Weingarth- traditionally prior to the year 2000, dist. 1-3 would harvest 75% of king salmon. Now dist. 4-5 harvest take more than ½ of the king salmon. Sale of fish has increased in the upper river. Historically the lower Yukon took the majority of the harvest.</p> <p>Carroll (ADFG)- we don't know the size of the pulse until it hits Pilot Station. High level of uncertainty.</p> <p>George Beans (AC alt)- All the species are dealing with climate change. We had a moratorium on king salmon. It is hard to go only one way. We want to fish that first pulse due to the weather and spoilage. But the weather is not like what it used to be. If we can</p>



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				<p>get a little of each pulse and not concentrate on one run. Take a little out of each pulse, you're not over loading the habitat area. We take a little so the rest can do their thing. I think it is a little too early now, this last year was too early.</p> <p>Mathew Waskey (AC)- like an apple tree, each one should be pruned now and then.</p> <p>Bill Alstrom (AC)- difficult subject. Can't predict that first pulse. We are stuck in that zone. When the fish are coming up the river, they hit the sonar then they pass the sonar and then it affects the upper river villages because we know what that sonar is. Below the sonar we are in limbo. Right after the end of May, we are restricted to 4" mesh. It gets confusing with the regulations. Hard to make sure everyone gets their subsistence needs done. We are just one of many committees.</p> <p>Sandone (Kwipak)- It gives the department the flexibility to manage the run as it comes in.</p> <p>Peter Tyson (AC)- this would be an advantage to subsistence fishers and help the department in regulating the run.</p> <p>Scott Riley 9public0- Thinks proposal is good. Last year there was an abundance. This might give us the opportunity to take some of them.</p> <p>Weingarth (public)- beneficial to all districts. Would give people opportunity to practice traditional harvest that they did prior to all the restrictions. He supports this; it would give flexibility to the manager and allow to start drying fish earlier.</p> <p>Tyson made motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Waskey</p>
232				Allow sale of Yukon River king salmon caught incidentally during open commercial fishing periods for other salmon species.
	Support (See comment)	5	0	<p>Carroll (ADF&amp;G) summarized current regulation. It is asking the Board to clarify the language around the sale of Chinook salmon that are caught incidentally in chum commercial fisheries.</p> <p>Eric Weingarth (public)- have a hard time on this proposal. What is the surplus number where we can actually start fishing? Double standard- we allow sale of processed subsistence caught fish. They are making more money than in the commercial fishery. I need to hear from ADFG- If there is a surplus we should be able to harvest commercial as long as subsistence needs are met. How do we address that?</p> <p>Carroll (ADFG)- Eric brings up a good point that there is sometimes an unregulated trade of subsistence strips. Unfortunately, we don't</p>

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				<p>have a good way to regulate the sale of processed subsistence fish. We can better regulate commercial. We had not sold incidentally caught kings since 2008.</p> <p>Sandone (Kwik'pak)- address Eric's comments...seems to me that if what Eric is saying is true, it has taken away your [lower Yukon] directed sale of king salmon and shifted it up river. Looking at the states proposal wording...suggest changing the last "and" to "or." He explained Kwik'pak's view on the proposal.</p> <p>Bill Alstrom (AC)- last summer was pretty controversial when ADFG allowed the sale of kings during the chum fishery. What puzzles me is that we lost our Chinook commercial fishery. Some fishers upriver said they don't need a commercial permit because they make money from the byproducts of subsistence caught fish. Is that why we are having the downfall of chinook salmon? Why am I struggling commercial fishing legally when people are taking advantage of the subsistence fishery? Hopefully this proposal will at least have some sort of value for the lower Yukon fishers who haven't been able to sell their kings for a number of years. We used to be a top commercial fishery on the Yukon. He supports the proposal.</p> <p>Waskey (AC)- Shared a story about a friend from upriver who talked about the amount of subsistence fish he harvested.</p> <p>George Beans (AC alt.)- supports this proposal only if the subsistence part of it is honored first. Against it unless subsistence is taken care of first. We are just seeing a comeback on kings, this year was the first time we have seen that big of a number. Maybe too early to hit them that early. Maybe in a few years if they are still coming in stronger that may be an indicator.</p> <p>Peter Tyson (AC)- maybe too early to have any commercial on kings even incidentally caught. But if we want to be selling the incidentally caught, then we should use unrestricted mesh size. Once they find out they can sell incidentally caught kings, they will target them even with 6" mesh with how they hang it. If they are going to be doing that then would suggest it should be unrestricted.</p> <p>Alstrom (AC)- Does this proposal take affect during the first part of the chum fishery? When dept. switches from dipnet to gillnet gear? Carroll (ADFG)- entirely at management digression. Whenever the dept. is confident that all the other requirements have been met.</p> <p>Melvin (public)- this proposal is for the entire Yukon? Carroll-yes.</p>

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				<p>Melvin- I don't know how far up the market goes. The subsistence is like a commercial for people upriver who don't have a market. I am for the commercial opening for the incidentally caught kings.</p> <p>Weingrath (public)- If we had a number (225, 230, example) where we were meeting subsistence needs that would help. Subsistence needs have all of a sudden increased in middle and upper river. If I were in the upper river I can say I'm not meeting my subsistence needs. What is the surplus number where we are able to commercial fish? He thinks this may not ever open up if people can constantly say they haven't met subsistence needs. King gear is used in the upper river, they are all focused on king salmon. Why aren't they using 6" gear? Agree that it is still early and we have been conserving. King salmon will never be a money making thing...just enough for people to get gas. As a permit holder we want to do it legally. Amazes in all these years of conservation there is no number that says we are out of conservation mode.</p> <p><i>Discussion on whether to take it up in a motion or take no action.</i></p> <p>Sandone- this proposal asks for direction from the board.</p> <p>Waskey (AC)- support the proposal but there are high subsistence numbers up river where we can only get so much. If numbers were evened out somehow or monitor the upriver subsistence.</p> <p><b>The AC directs the board to have a discussion on this issue for more clarification. See comments.</b></p> <p>Waskey made motion, Guidry 2<sup>nd</sup>.</p>
233				Clarify the Dist. 1 boundary and allow set gillnets to be operated up to three nautical miles seaward from any grassland bank in Dist. 1 after July 15.
	support	4	0	<p>Carroll- summarized proposal. Asking the board to clarify the language.</p> <p>Weingarth stated he was in support of this proposal.</p> <p>Sandone- The proposal addresses the set net area in the fall season only.</p> <p>Tyson- asked for clarification on regulation in the summer.</p> <p>Waskey- question about Black River and passed Apoon pass. Has nothing to do with Yukon river but it is still called part of the Yukon River. Why is it called Yukon River? Carroll- the Yukon drains into that area. The dept. tries to define areas for management.</p> <p>Mathew- from Nunam Iqua to Black river in my mind it would be an intercept fisheries for Norton Sound and Kotzebue.</p> <p>Gene- Kwipak wanted to change from drainage to area to make that clarification.</p>

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Prop.	Position	# Support	# Oppose	AC Comments, Discussion, Amendments, Voting Notes
				Tyson made motion, Waskey 2nd.
<b>237</b>				Repeal the District 6 commercial salmon fishing season fixed closure date and replace with a closure date established by emergency order.
	Support	4	0	<p>Carroll- Summarized proposal.</p> <p>Weingarth (public)- personal opinion, has a problem when over the years Dist. 6 fishers put proposals against the lower Yukon to expand any commercial fishery. Opposed to making an exception to expand a commercial fishery. Reallocation of the resources.</p> <p>Melvin (public)- after everything was shut down, is this saying that there will be a harvest for dog food after? Carroll- explained the fishery. For fall chum we never harvest all the surplus. ADFG can always close it if it becomes a conservation concern.</p> <p>Waskey- fishery only for dog food? Carroll-yes. Waskey- What if people from other areas want fish for dog food? Carroll- shipping cost would be too expensive for people in other areas to buy them.</p> <p>Waskey made motion, Guidry 2nd</p>

## FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (List Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal
<b><u>WP18-29</u></b>	<b>Lengthen moose season by one month in Unit 18 Remainder</b>		
Support	4	0	
<b><u>WP18-30</u></b>	<b>Shorten season and decrease harvest limit and possession limit for ptarmigan in Unit 18.</b>		
SA	4	0	Patrick Jones (ADFG)- stated amendments made by other ACs to keep the current season but reduce bag limit.

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			<b>Amend: keep current season but reduce bag limit</b>
<b><u>WP18-31</u></b>	<b>Shorten caribou season in portions of Unit 18 by 15 days.</b>		
Support	4	0	Jones provided an overview. Aug. 1-Feb. 28. Sven Paukan- Would it affect the north hunt? Jones- only affect Mulchatna herd.
<b><u>WP18-51</u></b>	<b>Modify bear baiting restrictions to align with State regulations.</b>		
	4	0	Jones-provided a summary. Aligning state and federal to be the same. State supports this proposal. Waskey- what species? Patrick- both black and brown bears.

Minutes Recorded By: \_\_\_\_\_

Minutes Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_