

Sitka Fish and Game Advisory
December 6, 2018
Harrigan Centennial Hall, Lincoln Street

I. **Call to Order:** [6:05 pm] by [Jon Martin Board President]

II. **Roll Call:**

Members Present: 11

Randy Gluth, Steve Ramp, Stacy Wayne, Eric Jordan, Jon Martin,
Heather Bauscher, Mo Johnson, Karen Johnson, John Murray, Joel Markis,
Tad Fujioka

Members Absent (Excused): 3

Luke Bastian, Andrew Thoms, Jeff Feldspauch

Members Absent (Unexcused): 0

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8

List of User Groups Present: Trollers, Guide, hunting, resident sport fish, shellfish, at large,
guide, seine, power troll, trapping

III. **Approval of Agenda:** Approved

IV. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Stacy moves, Steve second

V. **Fish and Game Staff Present:** Troy Tydinco, Steve Bethune,

VI. **Guests Present:** Matt Donohoe, Jeff Farvour, Mike Vaughn

VII. **Old Business:** no old business

a. Elections for Open Seats

i. Guide Seat: Luke Bastian nominated to guided hunting seat

ii. Hand Troll: vacant

VIII. **New Business:**

a. Discussion of Sitka AC representatives to BOF or BOG meetings

i. Jon Martin will be attending BOG meeting in Petersburg

ii. Looking for a representative to attend finish in anchorage.

1. If interested please communicate your interest by email. TBD

b. **BOF proposal 176: Comments due January 2nd**

i. Troy Tydinco ADF&G presentation:

1. 176: King Salmon management plan- replacement for what is currently there. In the PST- they made some changes to how all the fisheries are going to be managed (not speaking to 177 yet)

2. Some reductions were made in overall harvest limits in AK- to put state king management plan in alignment- they changed the tier system. All currently based on AI- switch to CPUE
 3. In addition to changes in harvest limit they are changing the tier structure. Department goal to shift all criteria under each AI to try to align and keep all allocations the same.
 4. This is a framework for the board to take up for how they are going to manage the sport fishery.
- ii. Intention of this proposal is so the state plan is in alignment with the new changes in the Pacific Salmon Treaty, avoid in-season changes, and recognize that if overharvest occurs- those fish need to be paid back by harvest reductions for the next season.

Discussion:

Advisory Committee:

- Concerns over the shift in the model from AI to CPUE and how this will impact allocation harvest rates for residents vs non-residents and the potential impacts to the charter fleet. Differences between AI and CPUE model discussed in depth as illustrated in the handout provided by Steve Ramp.
- Recognize that there are stocks of concern throughout southeast and that we all must take a bit of a hit on this for conservation concerns.
- Dialogue about who should take more of a cut- potentially have the non-residents take 100% of the reduction- concerns of how that would impact the local economy through impacts to the charter fleet, guides, and tourism. Decided against going farther in that conversation.
- Concerns over potential overages and the mandatory harvest reductions for following seasons

Public:

Matt Donohoe: Concerns that they will have to pay back fish if go over. Don't like the shift in the time of year that the data is gathered and how that impacts the baseline that the harvest numbers are based on. Will likely further penalize ourselves by being over conservative in management to avoid overharvest.

Motion:

Eric Jordan: **Due to a lack of information regarding- treaty language, data reflecting CPUE we do not feel that we have enough information to make an educated decision regarding this proposal. Therefore we make a recommendation that we advise the Board of fish and the department to do whatever they need to do to conserve king salmon, Rebuild the stocks, and provide stability to the fisheries.**
Stacy-Second.

Vote: Unanimous support- Motion Passes to advise board of fish that "Due to a lack of information regarding- treaty language, data reflecting CPUE we do not feel

that we have enough information to make an educated decision regarding this proposal. Therefore we make a recommendation that we advise the Board of fish and the department to do whatever they need to do to conserve king salmon, **Rebuild the stocks, and provide stability to the fisheries.”**

*Big thank you to Troy for spending so much time working with us on this

c. **Discussion of BOG proposals:** Presentation by Steve Bethune Area Manager
ADF&G

- i. **Proposal 1- allow use of crossbows in hunts open to muzzle loaders etc.**
Still be closed to bow only hunts. Sort of a moot point because we don't have any of those special hunts. It was a statewide proposal and then they decided to deal with this regionally. Etolin Island hunt is considered archery only. So does not apply
- ii. Motion: Stacy- No recommendation.
- iii. Vote: **Unanimous support - No recommendation on this proposal.**

d. **Proposal 2- Private land- intentional feeding of deer for hunting.**

- i. ADF&G: Southeast AK not conducive to this type of agricultural feeding. Baiting, food plot type hunts come with concerns of spread of disease like Chronic Wasting Syndrome
- ii. **Discussion: Doesn't apply to us- No action.**

e. **Proposal 3- Removal of requirement to harvest rib meat of deer.**

- f. Motion to adopt Proposal 3: Steve Ramp, second John Murray
- i. ADF&G: Neutral- Proponent wants the harvest of rib meat to be optional. It would cause lack of alignment with federal regulations.
 - ii. Discussion
 - iii. Randy: I can see both sides on this. The rib cage can expand to the brisket etc. Personal values thing
 - iv. **Vote: Adopting: 0, Oppose: 10, Abstain: 1**
 - v. **Vote: Motion to adopt Proposal 2- Fails**

g. **Proposal 4: Allow the harvest of game from a boat:**

- i. Motion to adopt Randy, Second Steve Ramp
- ii. ADF&G is neutral- Steve Bethune:
- iii. Has been illegal since 1972- Some confusion. Made a change that applied only to freshwater in the mid 90s. In 2003 illegal to hunt black bears. You can get "shoot from boat" permit for disabled hunters. Sitka office issues more than any other office in the region.
- iv. Concerns of overharvest in heavy snow years, accuracy issues and concerns of wounding loss.
- v. Even though this is just deer it would also apply to goats and bears.
- vi. Discussion:

- vii. Randy- I know a heck of a lot of people who shoot from boats and get cited for this. Whether they admit it or not. I think it could be overturned for deer but not for brown bear. Certain part of the community that wait for snow.
- viii. Stacy- Has had numerous instances where hunting beach fringe and had moving boat shooting at the beach. Didn't know that she was there and doesn't think it is a safe or ethical practice in terms of risking wounding an animal. Should not be encouraging behavior like this.
- ix. Randy: It is legal everywhere else outside of southeast. Hunters don't shoot enough deer even when there is a bunch of deer on the beach. Starvation drives loss of deer. In terms of wounding loss- if you are not ethical enough to follow up after pull the trigger it would not matter what you are on.
- x. Jon: I would not want to apply this to bear and imagine the mess that would make. I believe in fair chase and do not support this for bear. Would be nice for my father to be able to shoot from the boat.
- xi. Eric: There was a person from Sitka that was shot on the beach from someone on a boat. Ocean swell, wind is blowing, even if you are a really good marksman how can you be accurate in those conditions. What is this is opening the door for. This violates fair chase, wounded deer are hard to find. We will have fatalities from boats swamped and everything.
- xii. Jon: Guys do this all the time.
- xiii. Stacey: We should not be encouraging this. It is dangerous and unethical.
- xiv. Randy: Still have all the same ethics issues regardless. People breaking the rules and violating ethics whether boat based or land based. Abuses of all kinds regardless. This would make it easier for old gentlemen to more easily acquire deer.
- xv. Mo: I can't even consider shooting deer from a boat hunting. I would be embarrassed. I disagree that it doesn't make a difference with the wounding loss. This came up at other meetings. Shoot from the boat the deer runs into the woods and don't go get it. Its wasteful- are we going to support a wasteful activity regardless of where the deer population is at? I know this happens all the time, not an excuse to change the rules.
- xvi. Randy motion: Proposal applies only to deer, Steve Ramp second
- xvii. Vote 7 yes, 3 no, 1 abstain
- xviii. Motion as amended
- xix. Vote: yes 4 no 7- Motion to adopt Proposal 4: Fails**

h. Proposal 5: Change the bag limit for moose

- i. Randy Moves to adopt, Jon second
- ii. ADF&G- Steve- The way this is written it would change all the moose seasons across the board in southeast. It was meant for Petersburg, Wrangell area. The author is most concerned about one specific hunt. Either month long season or a derby style hunt that last 5-7 days. You

could shoot any bull and not be concerned with antler configurations. Registration hunt. Shooting about 100-110 a year at present. 8% illegal take. Compares favorably (Kenai penn. around 25%). We would have fewer illegal bulls. There is some wanton waste. Derby style and less opportunity would be a concern.

iii. Discussion:

iv. Tad: I remember a hunt around Gustavus that used to do a derby style hunt and it was not safe. Even with any bull- there was still illegal moose take. So is there some room to compromise? Steve: That would mean a completely different proposal. This is the least restrictive antler configuration in the whole state. These moose are not like the ones up north.

v. Stacey: Current management is good and currently stable

vi. Motion to table- Eric, second Randy

vii. Vote yes- 6, no-5. Motion passes- Table Proposal 5

i. Proposal 6- change salvage requirements for black bear and salvage of hide and skull. Randy motion, Joel second

i. ADF&G- Steve- Require salvage of meat year round and hide optional. Has to do more with individual hunting ethics. Meat salvage requirement goes back to bear baiting. Board made a compromise that carried over from allowing bear baiting but requiring meat salvage.

ii. Troopers- concerns of tracking down people who are violating. Concerns with enforcement and differences between residents/non-residents

iii. Discussion:

iv. Tad: Now it is possible to sell the hide.

v. Randy: I can understand someone wanting only the meat.

vi. Jon: This doesn't make any sense this is residents only. So non-residents are still not required to take the meat? I don't like this and knowing numbers of non-residents taking bears.

vii. Stacey calls the question:

viii. Vote: Unanimously opposed: Motion to adopt Proposal 6: Fails

j. Proposal 7- Eliminate black bear sealing requirements for residents

i. Steve Ramp motion, Randy second

ii. ADF&G- Steve- Black bears are hard to count, this would remove sealing requirements. Before with tickets we can only get data on hunting efforts. About 25% difference between sealing and hunter harvest tickets submitted. Sealing data much more reliable. 55% non res, 45% residents. There are areas that are only resident efforts. So we would lose our data from those areas completely. We can sustainable manage either way but it's much easier with sealing.

- iii. Troopers- Could lead to wasted investigative time and it would be harder to enforce difference in regulations.

Discussion:

- iv. Joel: I think there may be some burden but not too much more to the hunter and is part of what is involved in taking the animal. Valuable date comes from this
- v. **Vote: yes- 1, no- 10 - Motion to adopt Proposal 7 Fails**
- vi. **Proposal 8- 'Eliminate distinction between guided and unguided non-resident hunters'**

- vii. Steve Ramp: motion to adopt, Joel second
- viii. ADF&G: Require all non-resident to be draw permit only. Historically black bear there was not much concern. Outdoor tv shows lead to non-resident hunters flocked to southeast and went to places with road systems. Conservations concerns over black bears- no- guided non-resident hunts by draw permit. Even with the draw permit so successful there are thoughts to remove some of these hunts.
- ix. Discussion
- x. Jon: Particularly on Kuiu I and Kupreanof I- very successful and some significant impacts and maybe we are at a more sustainable level. There's still opportunity to get a bear. Hire a guide or not.
- xi. Tad: Appalled that they allowed people to buy their way into the hunt by hiring a guide.
- xii. Jon: Not to allocate more to guides it was more to get the harvest of non-female bears. Less detrimental impact to the population. Opportunity is there either way. Intent was to get that under control. Maybe it's time to let that go away.
- xiii. **Vote: Yes-2, No- 9. Motion to adopt Proposal 8 Fails**

k. Proposal 9- Remove underutilized draw hunts

- i. Tad motion to adopt, Steve second
- ii. ADF&G: Steve Bethune- When we issued these draw permits three areas of concern Kuiu island, Kuprenof island, didn't want to spread the problem. 10 discreet areas. Been successful in bringing harvest down and have areas with underutilized hunt areas. We don't have enough hunters that are utilizing them.
- iii. Joel Question
- iv. **Vote- unanimous support. Motion to adopt Proposal 9 Passes**

l. Proposal 13- unlawful method of taking furbearers: Require tags on traps.

- i. Steve motion to adopt, Tad second
- ii. Steve Bethune- Extensive trail systems and conflict with the public. Southeast is the only place that requires this trap marking. Starting 2007- trap tag required for enforcement and accountability. Since so much is federal land working to comply with federal regs. State and Federal board also revoked it later.
- iii. Troopers- id tags for traps. Required for take. Gear set unlawfully this is the only way to have a lead. There's been a number of issues with trap management and unable to investigate due to no marking. Most of these issues are linked to road system. Whose operating gear and to help with conflicts between trappers.
- iv. Discussion:
- v. Thoms comments: All other types of traps are tagged so why not tag these traps.
- vi. Tad: Had an issue with traps being stolen and then used illegally,. Also animals trash around and then lose tags. Trapping association opposed because they don't see the real benefit to it.
- vii. Jon: conflicts arise with other trappers these things happen. I keep tags on my traps. I think it's nice for folks to know who is running their lines. Convenience for transparency and honesty.
- viii. Randy: It can be onerous to keep all those tags up to date. Restrict the whole community on this, and it's been overturned once already.
- ix. **Vote: yes-9, opposed-2 Motion to adopt Proposal 13: Passes**

m. Proposal 16- Shifting the window of the waterfowl season to two weeks earlier

- i. ADF&G- Steve- Federal window maximum of 107 days. See gradual changes as you work your way through the region. Decreased ability to select males, less opportunity for sea ducks, takes away the Christmas time hunting, Impacts wintering birds.
- ii. Mike Vaughn- Author of the proposal. Back in 2006 I tried to change the season. Trying to back track that now. Haven't had as much success and hear all over town about the ducks that are present earlier in the season. Not using the latter part of the season so much. Ever since it was changed there are folks wanting it changed back. It took opportunity away from folks and find that he is hunting earlier in the season more often. So trying to change it back.
- iii. Motion: Steve Ramp- move to approve proposal 16 without the alternating dates.
- iv. **Vote: Unanimous- Support Motion to adopt Proposal 16: Passes**

n. Proposal 17- Guided waterfowl hunting boundaries

- i. ADF&G Steve- There's been a total of 5 guided waterfowl hunts in Sitka since 2010

- ii. Mike Vaughn- Author of the Proposal: Did not intend to create a resident vs non-resident conflict. Grew up hunting in high pressure public areas. Do see the potential for someone to develop a waterfowl guide hunting business. Primarily for sea ducks, not concerned about the sea ducks so much. More concern about local areas fishing coho on the creek limits ability to get dabblers. Much of the hunting based on the tide and putting all effort into setting up one area. So if people move in you lose that opportunity. Wouldn't want to see guide hunting on dabbler ducks. Could result with conflicts. Trying to stay out ahead of the game before conflict occurs.
- iii. Discussion:
- iv. Guide Seat Comment: Luke Bastian- I am only guide currently doing duck hunts. I have never sold puddle duck tours. Hunters can shoot puddle ducks close to home (in lower 48).
- v. Jon: Does not seem like there's conflict. Maybe take this on later if becomes a problem. There is currently guided activities happening in our backyard. It's like allocation. There are ways to work this out without regulation.
- vi. Stacy calls question:
- vii. **Vote: support 2, oppose 8, abstain 1-Motion to adopt Proposal 17: Fails**

o. Proposal 18- Bag limit of deer for Juneau Residents

- i. Motion to adopt Stacy, Karen- second
- ii. Steve Bethune- Increase bag limit from 4- 6, Juneau residents would benefit the most. Deer numbers are high. Admiralty has some of the highest deer counts in southeast. 115 Juneau hunters harvest 4 deer a year. Juneau residents take 30% or so. Department is neutral.
- iii. **Vote: support- 1. Oppose- 10. Motion to adopt Proposal 18: Fails**

p. Proposal 177- Crawfish Inlet Comments due January 2nd

- i. Eric moves to adopt this, Randy second.
- ii. Almost 3 million almost all 3yr olds. Much larger return than expected. Had a deal with Silver Bay to do the cost recovery. In one opening the trollers caught almost a million fish. Had a proposal to allow gillnet access and somehow regarding dept of law- they could not. So this is to change this so that they can have access to these fish. It's on the record- this does not mean gillnetters will be in there next year which is not true. We expect at a most conservative estimate more than 3 million fish in crawfish 7-10lb fish. Gillnetters are really interested in getting in there. Last 10-15 years they are above their allocated range. Seiners have been under. This should fix the seiner deficit.
- iii. NSRAA has the power to let the gillnetters in only if this passes the BoF.
- iv. Eric: Uncomfortable with this language

- v. Tad: This is out of cycle but it could be proposed in 2019 because they do not intend to take action on it for next year. So they could wait to do this.
- vi. Mo: They should have the gillnetters in there already this year. I don't agree with a lot of the deals because local folks have suffered because of it. I am willing to give time to the gillnetters. It seesaws back and forth. If you take extreme measures and the gillnetters got whacked at Deep inlet. Don't favor such an extreme shift. Gillnetters deserve an opportunity down there. Even cost recovery boats couldn't keep up. Terrible quality fish, have to stay on top of them- so many. Understand the regulation was in effect. They should have had an opportunity when there is that much fish. If NSRAA needs this to pass. At least they can have the opportunity to do it.
- vii. Motion to change language in b) The department in consultation
- viii. Eric: supportive of the gillnetters and this community. I get tired of being attacked by them too. Supportive of Mo's statement I supported the motion.
- ix. Question vote on the proposal as amended.

x. Vote: Support-9, oppose 2-Motion to adopt Proposal 177 Passes

With amendment: *The department, in consultation with the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA), [SHALL] MAY, by emergency order, open and close the Crawfish Inlet Terminal Harvest Area ..."*

- q. **Representation at BOG-** Jon Martin will be going to Petersburg
- r. **Representation at Fin Fish in Anchorage-** will be discussed over email
- s. **Next Meeting TBD-** there will be an email. Hopefully after Christmas before comments are due for January 20th

Adjournment: 9:49pm Eric motion, Stacy second

Minutes Recorded By: Heather Bauscher ____
 Minutes Approved By: Full AC_____
 Date: 12/27/2018_____