

Sitka Fish and Game Advisory Committee
February 20th 2019
Harrigan Centennial Hall

- I. Call to Order: 6:30 by Jon Martin, Board Chair
- II. Roll Call:
Members Present: Karen Johnson, Eric Jordan, John Murray, Tad Fujioka, Andrew Thoms, Wayne Unger, Dick Curran, Moe Johnson, Steve Ramp, Jon Martin, , Randy Gluth, Luke Bastian, Joel Markis, Stacey Wayne

Members Absent (Excused):
Members Absent (Unexcused): Heather Bauscher, Jeff Feldpausch,
Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8
List of User Groups Present: At large, Power troll, Seine, Longline, Conservation, Trapping, Shellfish, Hunting, Processor, Guide, Resident Sport Fish
- III. Approval of Agenda: Eric Jordan motions to approve, Wayne Unger seconds, unanimous
- IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Done already by Tad F.
- V. Fish and Game Staff Present: Aaron Dupuois, Troy Tydingco, Trooper Tim Hall
- VI. Guests Present: Multiple members of the public present for presentation of award to Moe Johnson
- VII. Old Business:
- VIII. New Business:
 - a. **Molly Kemp from Tenekee Alaska speaks to the board on long-term projects on Sea Lion avoidance;** April 25th and April 26th there will be a workshop for fishermen reporting on to various NOAA scientists on how to avoid gear and catch loses to Sea Lions. Fishermen are asked to get involved and bring in their perspective, experiences, tips, etc.
 - b. **Presentation of award to Moe Johnson Excellence in Service Award.**

- i. Jon Martin Board President Presents formal award plaque
 - ii. Eric Jordan expressed appreciation and carried some words from various community members
 - iii. Linda Behnken director of Alaska Longline Fisherman Association offered words on Moe and his family's history in fishing
 - iv. Words were read from Joe Donohoe
 - v. Pete Esquiro offered words of recognition
 - vi. Words were read from Harold Thomson
 - vii. Cal Hayashi offered words of recognition
 - viii. Words were read from Sitka Sound Seafoods
 - ix. Evan Love offered words of recognition
 - x. Words were read from State of Alaska Representative Jonathan Kreiss Tomkins
 - xi. Eric Jordan offered recognition of Moe's contributions and of the contributions of his whole family
 - xii. Words were read from Patty Skannes
 - xiii. Moe Johnson expressed his gratitude and recognized that it was all about the whole AC.
- c. President Jon Martin reported back to the board on the Board of Game meeting he attended in Petersburg in January
 - i. Reported that sentiment of the BOG was not in favor of shooting deer from boats
 - ii. Reported on odd-year waterfowl compromise on seasons (Sitka resident authored proposal)
- d. Aaron Prussian US Forest Service gave an update on the scope and specific projects in the USFS Fisheries and Watershed Program
- e. ADFG Staff Update Law Enforcement Alaska Wildlife Trooper Tim Hall—
 - i. Gave overview of Troopers role
 - ii. Gave update on some issues with Seine Creek Robbing around Sitka and especially some focused in West Chichagof--- request from AC board member for troopers to publicize violations especially for Creek Robbing issues; Troopers reported that any violations are published at LIO and that sometimes the local media picks it up, sometimes it doesn't; feedback that clear regulations make the job easier of law enforcement; request from public that Trooper's number be listed in tide-book
 - iii. Question on the new shrimp regulations: replied that he doesn't yet have enough info; most people fishing didn't have knowledge of the permit; never found an issue with overage yet; there are interesting conversations about where those limits apply; personal use vs. sport vs. subsistence use are issues
- f. Sport Fish Biologist Area Manager Troy Tydingco
 - i. Rockfish: will be closures in August.
 - ii. Coho Salmon: doesn't have information/prediction

- iii. Jason Pollack—Assistant Area Sportfish Biologist : reported on BOF actions on King Salmon; regulations divided into tiers that depend on abundance indexes/Catch.Per.Unit.Effort CPUE and thus impose various bag limits/annual limits on residents and non-residents. Also there are different bag-limits based on where fishing take place differentiating inside and outside waters and various sectors within inside waters.
 - 1. Eric Jordan observed that we are managing based on imaginary numbers; trollers aren't reporting on the days they get skunked but we are setting numbers on CPUE which gives us imaginary numbers-- -these are not real numbers. After all the work in Alaska trying to figure it out we are managing our fisheries based on what fishermen report on what they caught. "There is a clear need for better numbers."
 - 2. Joel Markis offered comment that these methods are not the best but the agency is struggling to find a way to determine abundance
 - 3. "Alaska is trying to find a better system because we don't trust the model; salmon prediction is a very inexact science so trying to manage within season is how we will have to do it."
- iv. Aaron Dupuois--- Area Seine Biologist
 - 1. Showed graphs of pink harvest
 - 2. Identified key issues
 - a. Chatham numbers are terrible
 - b. Inconsistent trends on outer coast areas--- some areas are up while others are significantly down
 - c. 2019 forecast is significantly weak; based on juvenile pink salmon trawl surveys (NOAA); this year was the 3rd lowest abundance index; brood year 2017 experienced poor freshwater or early marine survival; Auk Creek index streams indicated later emergence time and much lower juveniles leaving streams
 - d. Need for more research on Auke Creek-type projects studying out migration(NOAA manages this) and Southeast Coast Juvenile Trawl Surveys; THESE ARE POTENTIAL AREAS FOR AC TO ADVOCATE FOR TO OUR FEDERAL CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION
 - 3. Herring update on GHL
 - a. Biologist expects similar harvest in the coming year because of market conditions and weights
 - b. Troller reported different conditions in the sound--- much less herring in Sitka Sound observed than typical years; also groups of herring are staying together rather than breaking up into subgroups as per normal
 - 4. Joel Markis—American Fisheries Society Alaska Chapter Annual Meeting held in Sitka at Centennial Hall March 18th to 22nd.

Welcome social on the 18th. Tuesday night there will be a mixed media presentation on topics that would be of interest to the general public and researchers. Topics will include King Salmon ocean conditions and 2 still to be developed. Fishermen and people in the fisheries communities are encouraged to attend. Exploring managing case studies across the state and in other places pertinent to our issues. request for topic on recovering marine mammal species populations and impact on herring and other forage fish.

5. Karen Johnson-- update on floating fish farms in federal waters; specific bills include HB 6966 and SB 3138; Area for Advocacy for AC

[record minutes]

Alaska Board of Fisheries: Statewide Finfish Proposals

March 8-11, 2019 | Anchorage, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
161	Require weekly reporting of salmon harvest by all permit or license holders		
OPPOSE	0	14	<p>Board members reflected on the apparent strategy of in-season management of king salmon and how this data could be helpful in defining bag limits, seasons, openings, etc. as a positive</p> <p>Discussion also on how this data would be reported, ability to enforce compliance, ability to use and process the data, duplicity on creel surveys.</p> <p>This AC did ask for more data</p> <p>One member offered that regardless of budgets and constraints, with what we are seeing currently on changes in king salmon populations dynamics this is important data to have.</p>
162	Require biweekly reporting of all sport, personal use, and subsistence king salmon catch		
SUPPORT	8	6	<p>Board members reflected on the apparent strategy of in-season management of king salmon and how this data could be helpful in defining bag limits, seasons, openings, etc. as a positive</p> <p>Discussion also on how this data would be reported, ability to enforce compliance, ability to use and process the data, duplicity on creel surveys.</p> <p>One member offered that regardless of budgets and constraints, with what we are seeing currently on changes in king salmon populations dynamics this is important data to have.</p> <p>This AC did ask for more data</p>
163	Prohibit the intentional waste or destruction of subsistence-caught fish		
SUPPORT	8	5	<p>1 abstention; this is going to be a tough regulation but in general board doesn't want to see resources wasted. Questions on what happens if you are subsistence gill-netting for sockeye but get some dark chums... can you use those for bait?</p>
165	Allow a fishing guide vessel to de-register after registration in a calendar year		
SUPPORT	12	2	<p>Charter captain offered insights on how this would work and the logical ability of an Alaska resident charter vessel owner that qualifies for substance to participate in subsistence fishing after the season is over.</p>

Alaska Board of Fisheries: Statewide Finfish Proposals

March 8-11, 2019 | Anchorage, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
166	Require rockfish to be released at depth		
OPPOSE		13	Discussion: we are already doing this for pelagic rockfish so we should be doing this for all rockfish. Do we really need to? They are at shallow 1 abstain
168	Specify that any line used to make the attachment between a skiff and a purse seine used in a commercial salmon fishery may not exceed 10 fathoms in length		
SUPPORT	14	0	There were a number of cases in the Sitka area where there was abuse that this regulation change would fix.
171	Modify criteria for the allocation of fishery resources among personal use, sport, and commercial fisheries		
OPPOSE		14	We are happy with the existing allocation criteria would disrupt the compromise that created non-subsistence areas in the first place - could be too easily extended beyond non-subsistence areas to the rest of the state - inappropriately stresses the most recent 20 year period over earlier history - unnecessarily restricts future BoF's options
173	Define "ecotourism"		
SUPPORT	12	1	1 ABSTAIN; the need for this is a bit unclear but the AC is backing ADFG's intent for proposing this. - skepticism about the specific definition, many activities that should not be considered ecotourism involve education, etc and also Catch and Release aspects of traditional sport fisheries would fall under this definition. -does this endorse 'playing with ones food'?

Adjournment: 10:22pm called to close

Minutes Recorded By: andrew thoms

Minutes Approved By: Jon Martin

Date: February 20th, 2019