

Cooper Landing Fish & Game Advisory Committee
February 27, 2019
Cooper Landing Community Hall

- I. The meeting was called to order at 12 noon by Jeremy Lewis, Chair
- II. Members Present: Jeremy Lewis, John Pearson, William Coulliette, Jason Lesmeister (via phone), Alex Kime, Carl Coulliette

Members Absent (Excused): Mike Adams

Members Absent (Unexcused): Todd Donahue, Robert Gibson

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 5
- III. Agenda was approved.
- IV. No previous minutes to approve.
- V. Fish and Game Staff Present: Sherry Wright and Jeff Selinger
- VI. Guests Present: Josh Hayes, David Pearson, Tom Lessard Troopers, Ben Endres and Scott Sands
- VII. Old Business: None
- VIII. New Business: Elections were held with the following results:

John Pearson, Billy Coulliette, Josh Hayes were elected for regular seats with term expires 6/21. Tom Lessard was elected to replace Ed Holsten for a regular seat that expires 6/20. Mike Adams and Carl Coulliette were elected as one-year alternates that expire 6/19.

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	7	Basically this puts everyone on the same page reporting – wise. This is unreasonable for dipnetters and everyone else on a weekly basis. Concern that it wouldn't be accurate reporting. The state doesn't have the money to support the additional work. In season management is not happening with the information they currently collect.
165	Allow a fishing guide vessel to de-register after registration in a calendar year		
No action			This would allow people to do subsistence fishing with friends and family on their vessel. They believe once they de-register they would be done guiding for the remainder of the year. It may have some trickle-down effect on the Kenai. If it were only subsistence, some could get behind it, but if someone registered five boats, and de-registered only one of them, they will still have the same number of fishing vessels on the river. Believe the target is more for shellfish and halibut. It's kind of a can of worms and unclear. They don't have transformer boats. Could create a bigger problem in refuge area.
167	Allow the use of two artificial flies		
Oppose	0	7	They would like fly fishing only waters to go to two flies. The problem in our area is a mixed stock fishery in the Russian River. Can't differentiate methods and means for what they are fishing for. Single hook is better in a mixed stock fishery. Adding a second hook in the water in fly fishing only would be a mess. You will have salmon fishermen with two flies. Don't see this gaining much traction.
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		
171	Modify criteria for the allocation of fishery resources among personal use, sport, and commercial fisheries		
Support	8	0	Aligns non-subsistence areas of the state with the same regulations so personal use takes priority over commercial fisheries. This might solidify the personal use fishery windows rather than use of emergency order. Stocks of concern will have a different priority. The question raised – would it affect the amount of sockeye making it up river? Probably. Subsistence and commercial fishing have been getting the better end of the stick - allocative proposals can be a slippery slope. They are for more fish in the river. There's a lot of things attached to getting more fish in the river. Many of the fish are coming in later. Season for dipnetting is in July. The idea behind this is that we are putting more fish in Alaskan

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			freezers. Commercial fishermen already have the ability to take fish home in their home pack. This has the potential for changing fishing on late run king salmon. It says in our constitution that residents are supposed to have priority.
172	Define "bow and arrow"		
Support	8	0	Another housekeeping proposal.
173	Define "ecotourism"		
Support	8	0	Seems like a housekeeping proposal.

Alaska Board of Game Southcentral Region Meeting Proposals

March 15-19, 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
55	Remove the restriction on the use of aircraft for spotting Dall sheep in Units 7 and 14		
Opposed	3	3	This is America – we have tools to manage harvest and this provides another opportunity to harvest. If you are allowing one, you should allow them all. Not everyone has an airplane and that provides a lot more access. Another factor is one guy hikes back in there and set up camp. There was concern of buzzing the sheep while a group may be preparing for the hunt. 2 abstentions need to think it over more. One personal experience fishing and had a helicopter mess up their day of fishing.
59	Shorten the hunting season for Kenai Mountain caribou (DC001) in Unit 7		
Support as amended	7	0	They used to be able to go in with snowmachines. Going in the first couple weeks of September saves hunters quite a bit of money. Season moved to October 15 would give time for folks to go in

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			<p>there. Concern about the rut and affect on the meat. That is a good point. Prefer a closure before the meat gets rank. This would align the Kenai caribou seasons, but it would eliminate opportunity for a combination caribou / moose hunt.</p> <p>AMENDMENT: Season open August 10 - September 25th. 8 -0 carried</p> <p>1 absent temporarily</p>
60	Change the hunting seasons for goat in Units 7 and 15		
Oppose	6	1	<p>These are mainly drawing hunts based on points. If there is enough opportunity after that, they will open a registration hunt. Moving the season earlier may make the hunt safer because of icy mountain conditions. This essentially shifts the season earlier. The main hunting opportunity is the draw. Don't see this changing much. There is no biological concern. One member is indifferent. Some of the higher elevation goats, it may affect some goats because it's so difficult to access. Prefer status quo. Meat also would be better earlier prior to rut. 1 absention – not enough info.</p>
69	Open a general season hunt for moose in Unit 15B and eliminate the drawing hunt		
Oppose	0	6	<p>That's the Tustemena Bench. At the time this was established there was opportunity and this began as a trophy hunt. Success rates decreased as moose populations declined. Department has decreased the number of permits available and also eliminated some of the season permits. If the moose are starting to come back, let them. Not for this at this time. To fill it full of hunters right now would be a mistake. It's good to provide opportunity, but would like to give them a chance. Access is limited in 15B as well, which funnels the hunters into one area. Funny River road fire may have had some positive impacts on moose browse and growth. Last year is the first year one member saw moose coming back. It's been 20 some years since he's seen that. With bear population going down, dead fall, and browse recruitment, just has a gut feeling it's too early to open it up. Congestion is the thing that one member has seen when he has gone there. Federal season there</p>

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			is Sept 1 – 20 with about 7 per year taken. 2 abstentions just didn't feel there was enough information.
74	Open a resident drawing hunt for moose in Unit 15C		
Support	8	0	This one makes sense. Department would envision dividing that area up to 4-5 sections to spread out the effort. They had some discussion of what constitutes antlers. Nubs do not count as antlers. This provides hunting opportunity.
76	Establish an "any bull" drawing hunt in Unit 15C		
Support	8	0	Same reasons as Proposal 74.
77	Establish a drawing hunt for antlerless moose in Unit 15C north of the south fork of the Anchor River		
78	Establish resident drawing hunts for "any bull" moose in Units 15 and 7		
Oppose	0	8	This does essentially the same as previous proposals but it expands the "any bull" area. There is concern if there is a harvestable surplus to provide for this. They probably could do 1 – 2 permits to accommodate in some of these areas. Given the subsistence regulations which are more lax, can't support.
88	Move the boundary of the Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area in Unit 15		
Oppose	0	8	Looks like they want to move it to the north shoreline boundary. Think this is focusing on water fowl (1 st couple weeks of September is very crowded with fishing and anglers). That time of year there's a lot of people that presents concerns. One member believes that the Refuge has disallowed the discharge of firearms within some distance of the river. May be only in the Russian River corridor. KRSMA has firearm restrictions.
89	Close the trapping season for beaver in an area of Units 7 and 15C		
Oppose	0	8	Prop 124 is looking to align seasons. 14C has been held to tighter regulations in the past. Prefer to align all the seasons on the Kenai Peninsula with 14C in order to simplify the regulations. There is also a limit on beaver in 14C. Prefer to see it dropped from 20 beaver to 10. There are beaver in the lower Anchor River. Support the concept of allowing beavers to grow.

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92	Open a hunting season for tundra swan in Units 7 and 15		
Oppose	0	8	Other states allow hunting on these animals. If the population supports this, there should be some opportunity. On the Kenai the majority of the swans are trumpeter swans (80 – 90%), not tundra swans. They are hard to differentiate. If we suggest any changes in the waterfowl proposals, you basically open up all the regulations. Hearing that, they prefer status quo. Palmer Flats hunter sees a lot of swans there. It's limited to certain areas of Alaska now, because of the low percentage of tundra swans.
113	Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer hunt area in Units 7 and 14C		
Support	8	0	Jeff Selinger provided department comments on this proposal. The department does have a hunt in this area that issues about 10 permits. Seems like in the 90s there was a lot of road kill in that area, but that hasn't happened for awhile.
124	Extend the trapping season for beaver in Unit 14C		
Carried as amended	8	0	There are areas that the beavers are gone along the road system. It would be nice to have beaver around. AMENDMENT: Align the season to extend trapping season to begin November 1 0 – April 30 for 14C, 7 and 15. Drop the limit from 20 beaver to 10. 8 – 0 support Reference comments on Proposal 89.

Next meeting will be March 20th at noon to prepare proposals for Board of Fisheries (pending confirmation of the facility). DRAFT BOF proposals were handed out for review prior to the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm

Minutes Recorded By: Carl Coulliette
Minutes Approved By: Jeremy Lewis, Chair
Date Approved: 3/1/2019