

Anchorage Advisory Committee
March 5th, 2019
Cabela's Anchorage Alaska

- I. Call to Order: 6:36pm by Kevin Taylor (Chair)
- II. Prayer led by: Tyler Loken
- III. Roll Call:
 - Members Present: Neil DeWitt, Bryce Eckroth, Martin Weiser, Matt Moore, Kevin Taylor, Willow Hetrick, Ernie Weiss Tyler Loken, & Phillip Calhoun.
 - Members Absent (Excused): J.R. Gates, Shawna Buchanan, Rick Rodgers & Dino Sutherland.
 - Members Absent (Unexcused): Grant Koplin
 - Number Needed for Quorum on AC: Complete: 9 members present.
 - List of User Groups Present: None
- IV. Approval of Agenda: Motioned by Martin Weiser, seconded by Matt Moore. All approved.
- V. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Previously approved via email.
- VI. Fish and Game Staff Present: Sherry Wright, Jeff Milton
- VII. Guests Present: Zach and Jim Stubbs, Max Mitchell, Nick Maccaby, Scott Brother.
- VIII. Public Testimony:
 - Zachary Stubbs – seeking support of EOs on the Kenai Peninsula, specifically the Ninilchik River. ADF&G issued EOs to restrict king salmon fishing on the Ninilchik River. This includes restrictions on the newly-established youth fishery which is the first Wednesday of June each year, open for a period of 18 hours (6am – 10pm). Would like ADF&G to exclude the youth fishery and not require the kids to release wild fish and also be able to use bait. The actions taken in the EO do not support the Department's goals of increasing youth involvement. The ability for youth to be able to enjoy the fishery is immeasurable and the enjoyment is directly tied with their success which is heightened with the ability to keep wild fish and use bait.
- IX. Committee Reports
 - Game Chair – Matt Moore: None
 - Fish Chair – Martin Weiser: None
- X. Old Business:
 1. Hatchery presentation/discussion by Jeff Milton, Southcentral Sportfish Hatchery manager at ADF&G
 - The Divisions operates William Jack Hernandez Hatchery (Anchorage) & Ruth Burnett Hatchery (Fairbanks).
 - In 2017, 47 million hatchery-produced salmon or 21% of the statewide commercial salmon harvest.

- In 2017, 194,000 Alaska hatchery fish were caught in the sport, personal use and subsistence fisheries.
- Annually releasing 7.2 million fish (rainbow trout, arctic char, arctic grayling, lake trout, king and coho salmon.
- ~2,500,000 king and coho smolt are stocked at 12 sites in Southcentral Alaska.
- >200 locations of stocking efforts
- Goal is to protect wild stocks while increasing diversity and opportunity in the fisheries: typically stock sterile triploid fish.

XI. New Business:

1. Report from Phil Calhoun on 40-mile Caribou Herd Coalition Meeting
 - Meeting in Tok, Alaska.
 - Coalition is comprised of First Nations in Canada and game managers and biologists from the Yukon region.
 - Calf weight is low
 - Producing cows (~3 years of age) are not producing as much as years prior.
 - Managers think that the population grew too rapidly and should be reduced or at least slowed down (i.e. stabilize the herd and have a 1-2% growth rate); concern from resource users.
 - No predator control currently underway.
2. Prepare comments on the Joint Board Proposals
 - See discussions provided in template below).
3. Discuss election which will occur at the April meeting
 - Martin Weiser, Willow Hetrick, Bryce Eckroth, Kevin Taylor are up for re-election, as well as seats resigned by Frank Neumann and Mike Taylor. The committee will appoint two alternates.
4. Discuss developing a letter to the Department re: youth fishery on the Kenai Peninsula
 - Give Kevin Taylor & Martin Weiser authority to draft and submit letter. AC members will have 24 hours to review and provide comments. The fishery opens on Memorial Day weekend, youth day is June 5th.
 - Could provide a proposal to April 10th Board of Fish proposals for Cook Inlet

Alaska Joint Board of Fisheries & Game Proposals

March 21-25, 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
12	Require members to reside within the committee's geographic area		
Oppose	0	8	Oppose because some people reside in certain areas but hunt/fish in other areas of the State. This proposal's language is equally vague compared to the current regulations.
17	Reorder and clarify the election procedures under the uniform rules of operation for advisory committees		
Support	8	0	Support for reasons stated.
22	Allow advisory committee members to discuss and vote by email, excluding actions for antlerless moose reauthorizations or emergency order closures		
Oppose	0	8	Opposed because should be more clearly defined; is so broad that all meetings could be done via email and could diminish the ability of the public to attend. There are times when this is useful, and we support the ability to be able to use email voting via email under special circumstances. Suggest revising language.
28	Allow advisory committee representatives to be at the board table during deliberations for those proposals the advisory committee authored		
Support	8	0	When the Board is making changes, it would be nice for those involved and directly affected to be present. This occurred in the past but are no longer able to do that.
29	Allow advisory committee representatives a seat at the board table during deliberations on proposals affecting their region		
Oppose	2	6	Opposed: Would like to be able to give input when needed but do not think there should be a blanket opportunity because this could bog down the process. Support: See comments on Proposal #28. There are lots of other users that are able to have seats at the board table and the ACs should be a part of this discussion. Suggest always allowing the public to be able to make comments.
30	Provide a definition for board work sessions and allow submitters of Agenda Changes Requests (ACRs) to provide testimony at work sessions		
Support	8	0	Should get more than 3 minutes to provide testimony as these are important issues.

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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
31	Provide a definition for a board hearing of at least three board members with a public comment requirement		
Support	8	0	Support for reasons stated.
32	Repeal the provision for Board of Fisheries members attending advisory committee meetings to be in compliance with the statutory requirement for holding board meetings in specific areas of the state		
No Action	-	-	See comments on proposal #31
38	Require the Board of Fisheries to schedule shellfish regulations for any that have been closed by emergency order for 24 consecutive months		
Support	8	0	Support for reasons stated.
<i>In addition to the above proposals, the Joint Board will discuss setting a schedule for future Joint Board meetings. Currently, Joint Board meetings are scheduled on an as-needed basis. Advisory committees are welcome to provide recommendations on this topic.</i>			

Adjournment: 8:30pm

Minutes Recorded By: Willow Hetrick

Minutes Approved By: Kevin Taylor

Date Approved: March 6th, 2019