

# STATE OF ALASKA

## FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### *Kotzebue Advisory Committee*

#### **Kotzebue AC Meeting Minutes**

**10/24/2019**

**Northwest Arctic Borough**

1. **Call to Order:** 7:05 pm by Chair Lance Kramer
2. **Roll Call: Members Present:** Lance Kramer (Chair), Shyler Johnson (Vice Chair), Alex Whiting (Secretary), Cyrus Harris, Karmen Monigold, Eugene Smith, Chad Sheldon, Hans Hansen, **Members Absent:** Aucha Kameroff (excused), Hannah Loon (arrived 7:20)  
  
**Quorum established: 8 - Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 6**
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve agenda with the inclusion of New Business item C. ADF&G Staff Report on sheefish and Dolly Varden research (Brendan Scanlon) - unanimous approved.
4. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** From meeting date 01/29/2019 – Motion to Approve minutes - unanimous approved.
5. **ADF&G Staff Present:** Alex Hansen, Brandon Saito, Hazel Smith, Kathy Sherman - (Kotzebue Office), Brendan Scanlon, - Fairbanks Office
6. **Federal Officials Present:** Hannah Atkinson (NPS), Raime Fronstin (NPS), Susan Georgette (SNWR)
7. **Guests Present:** Ron Monigold Jr (AST), Scott Bjork (AWT), Ess Scott, Mike Kramer, Seth Kantner, Thomas Baker, Enoch Sheidt, Pete Schaeffer, Jamie Schaeffer
8. **Recognition of Retiring AC Members:** Pete Scaheffer, Enoch Sheidt, Victor Karmun were recognized for their many years serving on the Kotzebue AC – certificate, gift and Pete and Enoch both spoke about their time working on the AC.

9. **Election of Advisory Committee Members:** Shyler Johnson elected in spring 2019 announced his leaving the AC to return to Unalakleet. There were 9 seats available of the 15 max allowed on the Kotzebue Sound AC.
- a. **Nominations for AC members included:** Alex Whiting, Karmen Monigold, Aucha Kameroff, Michael Kramer, Ess Scott, Seth Katner, Thomas Baker, Enoch Sheidt, Tom Fields.
- b. **Elections:** All 9 qualified and were seated as Members volunteering for terms, as follows:
- 1 year - expire June 30, 2020: Thomas Baker, Enoch Sheidt
- 2 year - expire June 30, 2021: Seth Katner, Tom Fields
- 3 year - expire June 30, 2022: Alex Whiting, Karmen Monigold, Aucha Kameroff, Michael Kramer, Ess Scott
- Officers elected:** Lance Kramer (Chair), Thomas Baker (Vice Chair), Alex Whiting (Secretary).
10. **Old Business:** None
11. **Fish & Game staff reports:**
- a. **Wildlife:** Alex Hansen reported on caribou collaring at Onion Portage where 49 collars were put out with a total of 108 collared caribou, the best season at Onion Portage in a couple of years. Herd photographs are still being counted and will be completed in time for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group. Brandon Saito talked about the moose counts on the upper Kobuk where they found 23 calves per hundred adults. He also talked about the moose calf collaring effort on the Lower Kobuk where they found 65% of collared calves were killed by brown bears. 730 moose in 2014 to 601 in 2019.
- b. **Boards support:** Hazel Smith gave updates on staffing, upcoming meeting dates and the need to get a Real ID to travel to meetings in the future on commercial airlines.
- c. **Fisheries:** Brendan Scanlon gave an overview of the Kotzebue commercial chum season and OSM funded sheefish and Dolly Varden research in the region.
12. **New Business:** Review BOG proposals for support/oppose and comments with a **deadline of January 3, 2019**

# Alaska Board of Game Western Arctic/Western Region Meeting Proposals

January 17-20, 2020 | Nome, Alaska

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Opposed	
1	Prohibit nonresident hunting of moose or caribou under intensive management in the Western Arctic/Western Region until harvest or population objectives are met		
	0	15	Moose in GMU 23 already have a non-resident closed season due to decrease in population and caribou are limited to 1 bull per 2-month season by non-residents
2	Establish intensive management programs for bear across the Western Arctic/Western region		
	0	15	While we believe the number of bears needs to be reduced and support in theory the idea of an IM program to do so to assist in rebuilding the moose population, the AC is aware that the SOA is in the process of collecting information on moose calf mortality and once the science is sufficient would be the party to propose an IM plan
3	Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A		
	15	0	Exempting the fee is good policy as a small step in encouraging the harvest of brown bears, the number of which needs to be reduced to assist the moose population in rebuilding
19	Open a year-round resident season for caribou bull harvest in Unit 23		
	15	0	Will assist in reducing the number of cows harvested
20	Open a year-round resident season for caribou bull harvest in Unit 23		
	15	0	Will assist in reducing the number of cows harvested
21	Reduce the bag limit for caribou in Unit 23		
	0	15	The daily bag limit of 5 caribou throughout the year is the important number to focus on and not the cumulative number for the entire year. The restricted cow seasons put in place over the last few years is helping with reducing cow harvest and the proposals (19, 20) above to reopen the bull season year-round will further assist in reducing the cow harvest, no need to arbitrarily restrict either sex harvest at this time.
22	Extend the season for taking cow caribou in Unit 23 remainder		
	0	15	At this time, we are still trying to limit cow harvest in GMU 23 and help rebuild overall numbers. Taking cows this late in the spring season will take both the cow and the close to fully developed calf found in over 80% of the cows at this late date.

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January 17-20, 2020 | Nome, Alaska

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Opposed	
<b>23</b>	<b>Restrict the use of snowmachines for taking caribou in Unit 23</b>		
	0	15	The Kotzebue Sound AC led the effort to allow for snowmachine use to position caribou for harvest and we still fully support this approach. Every individual harvest situation is impossible to regulate and would be difficult to enforce. While there have been individual cases of bad acting by some, the majority of hunters in the region still depend on being able to use snowmachines to harvest caribou. The local agencies, tribes, organizations and individuals have been working over the last couple of years on education and outreach to teach young people and others in the community how to hunt caribou using snowmachines in an appropriate manner. The AC supports the education and outreach effort and believes this is the best approach to dealing with any concerns about snowmachine hunting of caribou.
<b>24</b>	<b>Remove the restriction on calf harvest in Unit 23</b>		
	15	0	While this is not a high priority issue we still believe that it is unnecessary regulation and will biologically be a non-issue.
<b>25</b>	<b>Remove the restriction on calf harvest in Unit 23</b>		
	15	0	While this is not a high priority issue we still believe that it is unnecessary regulation and will biologically be a non-issue.
<b>167-168</b>	<b>These proposals were not addressed by the AC</b>		
			No action.

13. Public comment period on Wildlife Proposals or related matters: None.

14. Dates of State Board of Fish, Board of Game, and Joint Board meetings:

- **November 1, 2019:** Board of Game – Agenda Change Request Deadline
- **November 15, 2019:** Boards support – initial travel requests to attend board meetings deadline
- **January 3, 2020:** Board of Game Arctic/Western Region comment deadline
- **January 16, 2020:** Board of Game Work session – Nome, Alaska
- **January 17-20, 2020:** Board of Game Arctic/Western Region Meeting – Nome, Alaska
- **February 21, 2020:** Board of Game Interior/Eastern Arctic region comment deadline

- **February 21, 2020:** Board of Fish – Statewide king/tanner crab comment deadline
- **March 6-14, 2020:** Board of Game Interior/Eastern Arctic Region – Fairbanks, AK
- **March 7-11, 2020:** Board of Fish – Statewide Crab – Anchorage, AK

15. **Select representatives to attend Board of Game, and Joint Boards meetings:** TBD

16. **Set next meeting date:** Call of the Chair

18. **Motion to adjourn:** 10:50 pm

**Minutes Recorded By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Alex Whiting, Secretary

**Minutes Approved By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Lance Kramer, Chair

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