

Chignik Fish and Game Advisory Committee Meeting Monday, January 21, 2013 11:00 am

Offices of Ivanof Bay Tribe

7926 Old Seward Highway, Suite B-5

Anchorage, Alaska 99518-3263

Teleconference meeting was brought to order at approximately 11AM by Susie Jenkins-Brito

AC members present;

Don Bumpus, Chignik Lagoon

Alvin Boskofski, Chignik Lake

Rodney Anderson, Chignik Lagoon

Stephen Shangin, Ivanof Bay

Jacob Shangin, Ivanof Bay

Noah Shangin, Ivanof Bay

AC members attending via teleconference;

Harry Kalmakoff, JR., Chignik Lake

Don Lind, Chignik Lake

AC members absent;

Gary Anderson, Chignik Lagoon

With Board Support staff;

Susie Jenkins-Brito, Boards support section, Southwest Regional Coordinator

Monica Wellard – Executive Director with ADF&G Boards Support

Frances Leach – ADF&G Boards Support Publications Specialist

Guests;

Chuck McCallum, L&P Borough Fishery advisor, Chignik Regional Aquaculture Association

Bruce Barratt, Chignik Regional Aquaculture Association staff

Timothy Murphy, Chignik Lagoon

George Anderson, Chignik Lagoon

Edgar Shangin, Ivanof Bay

A quorum was established with 8 AC members present, 1 absent

1. Approval of Agenda

Rodney moves for an open agenda, Stephen seconds

Motion passes 8-0

2. Approval of Minutes

No minutes available for approval

George Anderson asked to take notes and send to Susie for final draft.

3. Introductions

- Staff
- Guests

4. Election of Officers

Don nominates Jacob Shangin as Chair, Rodney seconds

Jacob accepts nomination

Rodney asks for unanimous consent

Motion passes 8-0

Jacob Shangin takes the Chair

Stephen nominates Harry Kalmakoff JR. as Vice Chair, Don seconds

Harry accepts nomination

Alvin moves to close nominations and call the question, Stephen seconds

Motion passes 8-0

Secretary – Position Vacant – Taking minutes

5. **Staff reports:** No staff available for reports

6. **New Business**

Salmon Proposals 173-196

Proposal 173

Rodney moves to adopt, Alvin Seconds

Discussion:

- The proposal would expand an interception fishery on sockeye stocks that are already fully utilized in terminal stock fisheries (Upper Cook Inlet/Kodiak/Chignik) and in the intercept fishery in Kodiak's Cape Igvak Section.
- An increase in the SEDM allocation would by default increase the harvest of Chignik bound sockeye salmon in the Cape Igvak fishery in as much as the 15% allocation to that fishery is calculated against the total combined Igvak, Chignik, and SEDM catch of assigned Chignik bound sockeye salmon, while the SEDM allocation is calculated solely on the Chignik harvest.
- The 300k harvest preference has historic standing as Chignik is exclusively managed as a terminal stock fishery unlike Kodiak and Area M. The 300k and 600k levels come into play only when Chignik sockeye runs are weak. Earlier Boards have held that these levels are justified to maintain the economic viability of the Chignik area which has no alternative economic resources other local fisheries stocks.
- Area M has no significant local stocks as evidenced in ADF&G's SP Management Plan. On the south side of Area M there is but one single stock that ADF&G manages being the Orzinski sockeye run with only a 15-20k escapement goal. Further ADF&G reports that the current SEDM plan has not caused any mismanagement or lost harvest opportunities on the Orzinski sockeye run.
- Chignik fishers through the Chignik Regional Aquaculture Association have contributed more than a million dollars over the last decade for management and conservation of the two Chignik lakes sockeye runs; it appears that Area M fishers are bent on capturing higher harvest levels on Chignik bound sockeye salmon at the cost of terminal stock and other fishers.

Rodney Calls question

Motion Fails 0-8

Proposal 174

Don moves to adopt, Rodney seconds

Discussion:

- The proposal would expand an already existing interception fishery. The result would be an increased harvest of Chignik, Kodiak, and Upper Cook Inlet-bound sockeye salmon.
- The proposal is completely absent of any stock management and/or stock conservation responsibility.
- The proposal would likely over-exploit the only local Area M stock of management consequence in the SEDM-- that being the relatively small Orzinski Lake sockeye run having but a 15-20k escapement goal.
- The proposer of Proposal 174 says "no one would suffer." The applicant likely holds to the premise that there must be unutilized sockeye stocks migrating through SEDM water which according to ADF&G is clearly a misnomer.

Also noted from the public that an increase number of gill net marked fish are present after dates in proposal.

And Allocation is a target, not a guarantee. Author cites strong return for Chignik in 2011, but neglects to identify that Area M also had robust harvests.

Rodney calls question

Motion Fails 0-8

Proposal 175

Stephen moves to adopt, Don seconds

Discussion:

- All comments cited on Proposal 174 (above) apply here.
- SEDM fishers fell short of the allocation in 2011 as mentioned in the proposal. Not mentioned is that in 2010 they reached the 7.6% allocation, and in 2012 they achieved 7.7%. The existing 7.6% allocation is not a guarantee; it is a target and is based on a historic allocation and through its application ties the fishery to a stock-specific management responsibility.

Rodney calls question, Don seconds

Motion fails 0-8

Proposal 176

Stephen moves to Adopt, Rodney seconds

Discussion:

- If approved, the proposal would expand the NWSS into a greater interception fishery than already exists.
- Earlier Boards recognized that the NWSS fishery harvested non-local stocks more so than the sockeye salmon destined to Orzinski. They also recognized the legitimate need to harvest Orzinski sockeye salmon in the terminal waters of Orzinski Bay, and therefore provided the current management option for F&G to provide unlimited fishing time within the bay whenever such might be warranted to ensure no lost harvest opportunity on the Orzinski run.
- Non-local stock harvest in the NWSS well exceeds that of SP local-stock contribution in every year, and those non-local sockeye stocks include Chignik and east of WASSIP (Kodiak and Upper Cook Inlet) sockeye salmon.
- Expanding the NWSS fishery outside of Orzinski Bay is not necessary for optimal management of the Orzinski sockeye run with a 15-20k escapement goal.
- The current NWSS management plan is not broke- so no need to try to "fix it."

Rodney calls question

Motion Fails 0-8

Proposal 177

Harry moves to adopt, Rodney seconds

Discussion:

- The proposed plan has no biological merit or conservation requirement or burden. The proposal parallels how most AK fisheries were managed by the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries prior to statehood which caused over-harvest and diminished salmon production state-wide.
- The proposal would be contrary to the Sustainable Fisheries Act given the absence of specific management guidelines or restrictions other than not being able to fish 2 days/week.
- There are no local sockeye stocks in SP waters post July that would justify such liberal fishing time.
- Most of the set-netters are fishing gear for traveling fish not local stocks. Therefore if the proposal were adopted, it would expand an already existing interception fishery.

Additional comments from public: Perryville and Ivanof Bay subsistence users will feel effects of this proposal if it passes. Proposal as written could have potential subsistence user impacts in the Western and Perryville Districts of the Chignik Management Area.

Stephen moves to adopt, Don seconds

Motion fails 0-8

Proposal 178

Rodney moves to adopt, Alvin seconds

Discussion:

- We are uncertain whether the proposal if adopted would have any management implications to Chignik, in particular to Perryville District Coho salmon stocks which have been problematic in some years in terms of meeting local village subsistence needs.
- We look for ADF&G to address the issue and whether the fishery might expand interception of non-local Coho and other salmon species.

Don calls for question

Chair does not hear question, discussion continues:

Additional comments: Subsistence users in Chignik Lake have noticed a decline in fish available for subsistence harvest in past 6-7 years.

Also, Departments seems to be well within range of escapement goals.

Don moves to table the Proposal 178, Rod seconds

Motion to table passes 8-0

Proposal 179-183

Don moves to consolidate 179,180,181,182 and 183 into a block, Noah seconds

Discussion:

Don moves for No comment, No Action on Block (179-183), Alvin seconds and calls the question

Motion for No comment, No action passes 8-0

Proposal 184

Alvin moves to adopt, Don seconds

Discussion:

- An ADF&G housekeeping proposal. If approved would repeal conflicting elements in the post July 25th management plan for the NWSS and in the management plan for the Stepovak Flats Section covering the July 26-28 period.

Potential Comments:

- This is a Fish and Game housekeeping action and no position is taken

Alvin moves for No action and calls question

Motion for No Action passes 8-0

Proposal 185

Stephen moves to adopt, Rodney seconds

Discussion:

- The current regulation is reasonably prudent in setting a threshold at 100 immatures per set.
- The proposal would make any closure or restriction of the harvest of immatures optional. ADF&G would have no clear direction on how to respond when a seine fishery or area is averaging 100 or more immatures per set.
- The proposal would be in variance with the Sustainable Fisheries Act as large scale wastage of rearing juvenile salmon would be likely.
- Liberalizing the current immature protection plan could deliver a “black eye” to the industry.

Rodney calls question

Motion fails 0-8

Proposal 186

Alvin moves to adopt, Noah seconds

Discussion:

- This is a local-stock, terminal harvest strategy issue and has no bearing on Chignik. We defer to ADF&G.

Alvin moves for No action and calls the question

Motion for No action passes 8-0

Proposal 187

Alvin moves to adopt, Rodney seconds

Discussion:

- The current management plan permits 249 hrs of fishing time for the period of July 6-31. The proposal calls for the same total hours (249-h) but longer openings up to 36-h each.
- We understand that the intent is to save fuel and other costs by having longer but less frequent openings.
- The proposal does not seem unreasonable and is not expected to have any appreciable impact on migrant, non-local sockeye stocks including Chignik bound sockeye salmon.

Don moves to support 187, Alvin seconds

Motion passes 8-0

Proposal 188

Stephen moves to adopt, Rodney seconds

Discussion:

- Currently the South Unimak and Shumagin Is. fishery management plan permits 177 hrs fishing time in the July 6-24 period. The proposal calls for a 40% increase to a total of 249hrs in the July 6-24 period.
- The proposal, if adopted, would effectively increase the interception of non-local sockeye by 40%. Stocks impacted of non-local origin would be Chignik, Kodiak and upper Cook Inlet sockeye salmon.

Additional comments; Proposal asks for an increase in fishing time by 40% while Chignik Lake returns are present and targeted within Area M.

Noah calls question

Motion Fails 0-8

Vice-Chair is excused approximately 2:50PM

Proposal 189

Noah moves to adopt, Rodney seconds

Discussion:

- The current management plan provides for 249 hrs. of fishing time in the July 6-31 period. The proposal calls for an additional 183 hrs. This would bring the total to 432 hrs. of fishing time in the July 6-31 period, a 73% increase.
- The proposal represents a blatant grab for an intercept fishery expansion.
- Stocks impacted, if the proposal were adopted, would include Chignik, Kodiak, and Upper Cook Inlet sockeye salmon. The impact to these stocks would expectedly be proportional to the increase in fishing time and therefore be in the range of 70+ percent.

Alvin calls the question

Motion Fails 0-7

Proposal 190

Alvin move to adopt, Rodney seconds

Discussion:

- The proposal calls for a major expansion of July fishing time in the SP. Presently the area is open for 177 hrs. in the July 6-24 period. The proposal asks for total of 252 hrs. or a 42% increase.
- Stocks impacted, if the proposal were adopted, would include Chignik, Kodiak, and Upper Cook Inlet sockeye salmon. The impact to these stocks would expectedly be proportional to the increase in fishing time and therefore be in the range of 40+ percent.
- If adopted the proposal would be an injustice to terminal stock fisheries.
- There is no local stock justification for an increase in July fishing time within the non-terminal waters of the South Alaska Peninsula.

Noah calls question

Motion Fails 0-7

Don Lind excused approximately 3:00 PM

Proposal 191

Alvin moves to consolidate Proposals 191, 192, 193, and 194 as a block (191-194), Noah seconds

Alvin asks for No comments and No action, calls question

Motion for No comments and No action Passes 6-0

Proposal 195

Don moves to adopt, Alvin seconds

Discussion:

- The proposal, if adopted, would expand an existing interception fishery on stocks destined for Chignik, Kodiak, and Upper Cook Inlet.
- There is no historic basis for the proposed gear expansion into the SW District.
- Chignik sockeye are a dominate stock in the Southwestern District in July per the WASSIP study findings, and local sockeye production is limited to a single managed stock being the Orzinski run with a 15-20k escapement goal.

Don calls question

Motion fails 0-6

Proposal 196

Alvin moves to adopt, Rodney seconds

Discussion:

- Algae causes gear issues throughout the Westward Region including Kodiak and Chignik.
- The proposal would increase gillnet efficiency well beyond the current level.
- More interception would occur on stocks destined for Chignik, Kodiak, and Upper Cook Inlet.

Additional comments: not legal anywhere else in the state.

Alvin calls question

Motion fails 0-6

Alvin makes motion to take no action on rest of proposals, Don seconds

Motion for No Action on remaining proposals Passed 6-0.

******Concludes Fin Fish portion of AC meeting**

Game Portion

King Salmon Area – Units 9 and 10

PROPOSAL NO. 52
Don B.

ACTION: Move to Adopt, Alvin. Second

Motion to adopt 6-0

DESCRIPTION: Restrict nonresident hunting opportunity in Unit 9.

AMENDMENTS:

DISCUSSION:.

PROPOSAL NO. 53
Alvin/M, Steve/S

ACTION: No Action, unanimous consent

Motion passed to take no action 6-0

DESCRIPTION: Establish caribou hunting seasons and bag limits for the Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd in Unit 9D

AMENDMENTS:

DISCUSSION:.

PROPOSAL NO. 54

ACTION: Alvin/M, Don B/S adopt

Move to amend change dates to reflect changing SEPT to Oct

Question:
5 yea, 1 nea

Motion carries

DESCRIPTION: Modify the brown bear hunting regulations for Unit 9.

AMENDMENTS: Allow after Sept 21 after State moose season.

DISCUSSION: Would align with Fed regulations for bear. Predator control issue. Having department staff absent does not help issue. Lack of information.

With amendment 5-1, passed

PROPOSAL NO. 55

ACTION:

DESCRIPTION: Eliminate the village registration permit hunts in Unit 9, allow the taking of nuisance bears, and/or open bear season.

AMENDMENTS:

DISCUSSION:.

PROPOSAL NO. 56

ACTION: Noah/M, Don/S adopt

Don question

6-0 passed

DESCRIPTION: Increase the brown bear bag limit in Units 9 and 10 for the RB525 hunt.

AMENDMENTS:

DISCUSSION:.

PROPOSAL NO. 57

ACTION: Motion Alvin. Don/S

Passed unanimously NO ACTION

DESCRIPTION: Modify the brown bear hunt area for the village registration permits (RB525) in Units 9 and 10.

AMENDMENTS:

DISCUSSION:.

PROPOSAL NO. 58

ACTION: Alvin /m, Rod/s

No Action 6-0

DESCRIPTION: Establish a Katmai Preserve, specific registration hunt for brown bear in Unit 9.

AMENDMENTS:

DISCUSSION:.

PROPOSAL NO. 59

ACTION: Alvin/m, Steve /s

No action 6-0

DESCRIPTION: Allocate brown bear permits in Unit 10 and establish limits for number of applications allowed per guide.

AMENDMENTS:

DISCUSSION:.

PROPOSAL NO. 60

ACTION: Noah/M, Rod/S

Motion failed 0-6

DESCRIPTION: Exclude National Park Service lands from certain wolf hunting and trapping regulations.

AMENDMENTS:

DISCUSSION:.

PROPOSAL NO. 61

ACTION: Alvin/M, Don/S

Motion carried 6-0

DESCRIPTION: Modify the intensive management plan for the North Alaska Peninsula Caribou herd.

AMENDMENTS:

DISCUSSION:.

Next Meeting scheduled for March 15th, 2013 in Chignik Lagoon, Alaska.

Meeting adjourned approximately 4:45PM