

**Kodiak Fish & Game Advisory Committee**  
**December 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013---KNWR Visitors Center**  
**Julie Kavanaugh: Chairman**

(Minutes represent a paraphrased summary of the KAC, department staff and public comments and are not a verbatim transcript of the meeting. Tapes of the meeting are available for public review by contacting the committee secretary)

**Call to order:** 6:00pm by vice chair Julie Kavanaugh.

**Roll call: Members present:** Dick Roher(for Paul Chervenak-Big game Guide/Outfitter), Oliver Holm(Small Boat crab/Herring & salmon Seiner), Theresa Peterson(for Pete Hannah-Salmon Gill-net South End), Secretary Don Fox(Alternate-retired commercial fisherman), Kip Thomet(Salmon Gill-net West Side), Jason Bunch(Alternate-Coast Guard & Big Game Guide), Ron Kavanaugh(Small Boat Crab/Herring & Salmon Seiner), Patrick O Donnel(for Curt Waters-Trawl Seat), Rolan Ruoss(Transporter), Andy Finke(Kodiak Subsistence), Duncan Fields(Port Lions/Ouizinke-Subsistence), Rick Berns(Old Harbor/Ahkiok Subsistence), Vice-Chair Julie Kavanaugh(Interested Citizen).

**Unexcused absences:** Larsen Bay/KarluK Subsistence.

**Excused absences:** Tuck Bonney(Processor),Lou Dochtermann(Large Boat Crab).

**Quorum:** Achieved with 13 member present(8 needed).

**User groups present:**Subsistence, sport fishermen, charter and lodge operators, trawl fishermen, jig fishermen, commercial salmon fishermen,big game guides, processor.

**Department Staff:** James Jackson, Jeff Wadle, Geoff Spalanger and Birch Foster.

**BOF member:** Sue Jeffrey.

**Department of Public Safety:** Trooper Todd Mountain.

**Audience:** 35.

**Approve agenda:** Proposal #97 would be taken up after staff reports so Trooper Mountain could return to work. Amended agenda approved unanimously.

**Approve minutes of our previous meeting of September 30<sup>th</sup> 2013:** Minutes approved unanimously.

**Correspondence:** A letter from Rick Blanc with comments on several salmon proposals.

**Chair Announcements:** None.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

- 1) Department presentation on the wrap-up of the 2013 salmon season and forecast for 2014 by James Jackson and on herring by Geoff Spalanger.
- 2) **Salmon proposals:**
- 3) **Adjourn:** 11:20 pm will take up sport and ground fish at 6pm on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December.

**December 18<sup>th</sup> 2013**  
**KNWRVC**

**RECEIVED**

**DEC 23 2013**

**BOARDS  
ANCHORAGE**

*Omailed to Franca  
12-24-13  
@ 9:07 am*

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**Julie Kavanaugh: Chairman**

**Roll call:** Called to order at 6:00pm by vice chair Julie Kavanaugh.

**Members present:** Same as the 17<sup>th</sup> except for Any Finke was absent and Tuck Bonney was present.

**Quorum:** Achieved with 13 members present(8 needed).

**User groups present:** Same as on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Staff:** Wayne Donaldson, Mark Stichert, Don Tracy and Tyler Pollum.

**BOF member:** Sue Jeffrey.

**Audience:** 30.

**Agenda:** Approved unanimously.

**Chair announcements:** None.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Old business:** Theresa Peterson was selected to chair the committee work group to develop alternate language for proposal #91 to be submitted as a RC at the Kodiak BOF meeting.

**New business:**

- 1) **Sport fish proposals:**
- 2) **Ground fish proposals**
- 3) **KAC member for the BOF:** Julie Kavanaugh was selected to represent the committee at BOF meeting. Don Fox and Julie Kavanaugh were selected to sit in on BOF committees in case there was more than one committee.
- 4) **Date of next KAC meeting:** Late February(around the 24<sup>th</sup>) was selected to hold committee elections and address Cycle A state wide game and King and Tanner crab proposals
- 5) **ADJOURN:** 10:20 pm.

**Salmon proposals;**

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Department staff provided the committee with staff comments and information packets to aide in our discussions.

**BOF-Proposal # 88:** Change staggered fishing periods in Olga Bay, Moser Bay, Alitak Bay and Cape Alitak.

**OPPOSE-support 0- Oppose 13.**

**Staff comments:** Would increase time nets were out of the water probably increasing escapements when larger escapements not needed. The department wishes to avoid terminal fisheries.

**Committee comments:** Agree with staff comments. The KAC supports the plan that is in place now. All groups get a chance to fish without gear in front of them. Wouldn't want to constrain the departments ability to manage the fishery.

**BOF-Proposal #89:** Change management dates for Cape Alitak Section based on late Upper Station returns.

**OPPOSE-support 0-oppose 13.**

**Staff comments:** Opposed.

**Committee comments:** In reply to member Fields question about the magnitude of the pink salmon run the department stated that the current structure allows them to protect the weak runs. In odd years the smaller run shows up earlier then in the even year cycle where it's somewhat later. The committee agreed with and supports the departments current management strategy.

**BOF-Proposal #90:** Establish management options for the Humpy/Deadman Section after July 15<sup>th</sup> for the protection of other salmon runs in the Alitak District.

**OPPOSE-support 1-oppose 12.**

**Staff comments:** Opposed.

**Committee comments:** In reply to a question as to what would happen if the lines were withdrawn to avoid catches of mixed stocks the department felt it would be difficult to control the pink salmon escapements and they wanted to avoid putting too many pink salmon up the river and having to catch the fish in a terminal fishery. KAC members agreed with and supported the staffs position.

**Minority opinion:** Ms. Peterson felt that a more refined approach in boundary lines could provide additional sockeye escapement to struggling systems.

**BOF-Proposal #91:** Amend the management plan to direct the department to manage for early run Upper Station sockeye and to achieve biological escapement goals(BEG) for early run Upper Station and Frazer sockeye salmon.

**(Proposal # 91-continued)**

**SUPPORT(as amended)-support 13-oppose 0.**

**Staff comments:** The intent of the BOF for salmon management plans is to harvest the fish in traditional harvest areas. Non-traditional harvests are terminal fisheries which the department wishes to avoid.

**Committee comments:** Committee members agree with and support staff comments.KAC members all agreed that escapements into the early sockeye run should be increased but felt

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more time would be needed to work out a solution. A amendment was offered and adopted unanimously to form a committee group comprised of both gear types to come up with substitute language by the time of the Kodiak BOF meeting to be submitted by the KAC as a RC.

**Amendment:** The Kodiak Advisory Committee supports in principle management measures that would allow for the possibility of increased escapement in Upper Station to be worked out by the two user groups prior to the BOF meeting and that would also allow for Upper Station rehabilitation projects.

**The Kodiak Advisory Committee would like to preface all comments on proposals #92-93 and 94 with the following statement:** The KAC requests that the Alaska Board of Fisheries encourage the Alaska Department of Fish & Game to prioritize funding for genetic stock identification of sockeye salmon caught in the June 1<sup>st</sup>-July 25<sup>th</sup> time frame in the Cape Igvak Section of the Kodiak Management District.

**BOF-Proposal # 92-**Change management standard that harvest of sockeye salmon not exceed 15% at any time on or before August 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Oppose- support 0-oppose 13.**

**Staff comments:** Adoption of the proposal would make it extremely difficult to achieve the 15% sockeye allocation. The department traditionally goes over the 15% prior to the overlap period between the early and late runs. The difference is made up later. The Chignik fleet continues to fish during the overlap period so their catch numbers go up. After July 26 the department manages for local pink and chum stocks.

**Committee comments:** We agree with and support staff comments. The sockeye caught during the Igvak fishery contain mixed stocks that are all not bound for Chignik. Without genetic stock assessment these mixed stocks cannot be separated. **This proposal is a round about way to lower the Kodiak fleets 15% share of this traditional fishery.**

**BOF-Proposal #93-** Amend plan to apply allocation of 15% of total Chignik sockeye catch only before July 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Oppose- support 0- oppose 13.**

**Committee comments:** This proposal would cut the time in half the Kodiak fleet is allowed to harvest their allocation in this traditional fishery.

**We would like to reference our comments from the previous proposal #92.**

**BOF -\_Proposal #94-** Require check in and check out in cape Igvak Section and delivery of salmon before leaving section.

**Opposed-support 0-oppose13.**

**Staff comments:** Department is **opposed** we have no reason to believe catches are being mis-represented by the Kodiak fleet. In season harvest data and fish tickets are the best information.

**Committee comments:** Agree with and support staff comments. Boats fishing in the Cape Igvak fishery are required to delivery daily on the grounds for reasons of fish quality. Later in the season when effort is down not all canneries can afford to keep a tender in the area this

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requirement would place an undue burden on Kodiak fisherman who only deliver to a single processor.

**BOF-Proposal #95-** The proposal would require the department to open the Central Section of the North West District on June 28<sup>th</sup> for one, set gill net only, 114hr fishing period.

**Support(as amended)-support 7 –oppose 6**

**(amendment passed 10-3- main motion passed 7-6)**

**Staff comments:** Opposed because of harvest of Karluk bound early run sockeye.

**Committee comments:** KAC members agreed with the maker of the proposal Mr. Berns that since by the 28<sup>th</sup> of June the majority (88%) of the Karluk early run sockeye are past the weir and the majority of the rest are in the lagoon at Karluk that few early run sockeye would be caught in a late June early July set-net only fishery. They would be targeting Spiridon(Telarod Cove) bound KRAA enhanced stocks. It was felt that this was a matter of equity as this is the only KRAA enhancement project that set-netters are able to participate in. Gill-net fisherman pay an enhancement tax to the KRAA on all the fish they catch but all the other projects are in seine only areas. The terminal fishery at Telarod Cove is a seine only area. When the fishery in the Central Section is closed due to low Karluk escapements the opportunity to harvest the enhanced stocks is lost when in the years Karluk stocks are strong both gear types have the opportunity to fish plus the seine fleet has the terminal fishery also. This fishery would only be open if Karluk has met minimum escapement goals.

**Amendment:** This proposal would require the department to open the Central Section of the North West Kodiak district on or before July 3<sup>rd</sup> for one (1) set gillnet only opening for an 81hr fishing period if or when the lower Karluk escapement goal is met.

**Minority opinion:** Some of the Telarod fish are taken for cost recovery in 2013 approximately 100,000 were. The association would probably be taking more in the future for cost recovery. The amended date of on or before the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July is pushing close to the July 6<sup>th</sup> date for the traditional opening that allows the fleet to begin harvesting pink and chum salmon.

**BOF Proposal#96-** After August 15<sup>th</sup>, allow gillnet gear in inner bay sections of the Northwest Kodiak district during open fishing periods if Central and North cape sections are closed for more than 48hrs.

**Oppose-support 3-oppose 9-abstained 1.**

**Staff comments:** Neutral the proposal is allocative.

**Committee comments:** Most committee members felt there would be gear conflicts and that the ability to harvest pinks in the inner bays would not be available to everyone. The set-net fishery (**Proposal #96-continued**) is a skiff fishery and with out a larger vessel travel to and from the open areas would not be available to all fishermen. KAC members did not want to revive the old seiner vrs gillnetter allocation battles of the past and want to leave the status quo in place.

**Minority opinion:** Mr. fields felt that this was a matter of equity and that to have the outside fishery shut down to protect late run Karluk sockeye stocks then have the inner bays only open to the seine fleet to harvest pink salmon was unfair. He felt there was a need to address this now or in the next Kodiak BOF cycle.

**BOF-Proposal #97-** Delay closure of the North West Kodiak District if a gale warning is forecast for Shelikof Strait.

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**Oppose-Support 1-Oppose 12.**

**Staff comments:** Opposed because of concerns for the departments ability to manage for KMA salmon escapements.

**Department of public safety comments:** Trooper Mountain attended the meeting to address what the position of enforcement would be: “ as long as a good faith effort was made and you notified the troopers in a timely manner (not right at closure time) in the event of mechanical difficulty or extreme weather conditions you would not be cited. The fish caught after the closure time would be forfeit to the State of Alaska”.

**Committee comments:** Agreed with and support staff and public safety comments. The majority of set-netters at the meeting stated that when it appeared bad weather was forecast that they pulled their nets earlier than the closure time. KAC members felt that in extreme weather some of the larger seine vessels in the fleet could keep fishing while smaller vessels would be anchored up in more sheltered areas thus resulting in a re-allocation of fish to the bigger seiners. What's a gale to some set-netters could be a millpond to others all depending on the wind direction. Committee member Mr. Fox stated that he usually can always pick his nets in most weather conditions while still not being able to pick his gear up so he would in all probability fish till the end of the weather extension.

**Minority opinion:** Mr. Fields felt that it was a issue of vessel and fisherman safety because of the nature of the fishery that was being prosecuted in small open vessels.

**BOF-Proposal #98-** Allow CFEC salmon seine permit holders to operate additional gear under a dual permit or joint venture.

**Oppose-support 1-oppose 12.**

**Audience comments:** Quite a few seine fishermen in the audience were concerned about the number of unused permits. There was a fear that with the increased ex-vessel value of seine catches these permits would enter the fishery (approximately ½ of the seine permits are not being fished). They felt that adoption of this proposal would remove permits from the fishery.

**Committee comments:** Longer purse seines would reallocate fish from the set-net to the seine fishery especially in the mixed gear areas. It would increase the efficiency of the large vessels vrs the smaller ones unable to fish the larger seines. KAC members also believed the value of permits would be driven up making it more difficult for new entrants to enter the seine fishery.

**Minority opinion:** Agreed with and supported the comments from the audience.

**BOF Proposal #99-** Reinstate dual set-net permits for single permit holders to fish additional gear.

**Oppose-support 1-oppose 10-abstain 1.**

**Committee comments:** Adoption of proposal #99 would allow for consolidation of the fishery making it more expensive and difficult for new entrants into the fishery. KAC member Mr. Fox stated he knew of at least two instances where a permit holder bought a neighbors site and put both permits in their names after dual permits were repealed at the last Kodiak BOF meeting the permits were subsequently put in crew members names. Of the 12 set-net fisheries in the state Kodiak had the second highest gross per permit. No one should be guaranteed a living permit holders should be active in the fishery. When you have permit stacking it allows someone to

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have an income but not participate actively in the fishery which was the original intent of the CFEC limited entry program.

**Minority opinion:** Felt that the large multi-permit family operations needed the ability to fish all their permits and gear especially in these years of lower ex-vessel per permit earnings for the set-net fleet.

**Abstentions:** Had mixed feelings but felt there was some benefits for family operations but could see the loss of opportunity for new entrants into the set-net fishery.

### **Sport fish proposals**

**BOF-Proposal #100-**Restore sport limit of rockfish to 10 per day outside of Chiniak Bay.

**Support(as amended)-support 12-oppose 1.**

**Staff comments:** Department has no biological concerns or feel that there could be any enforcement problems

**Committee comments:** The AC spent around 1 ½ hours discussing this proposal. Agreed with and supported department comments. As there were no boundaries set except out side Chiniak Bay the AC offered an amendment. The boundaries protect the subsistence needs of Kodiak, Port Lions, Ouizinke. There was also concern for areas on the West Side of Kodiak Island. Uyak and Uganik Bays were included because of lack of data on the strength of local stocks. With the increase of charter effort and increase in the number of lodges overharvest by the guided sports industry plus the concern for the subsistence needs of Larsen Bay caused the AC to include these areas. The KAC felt there were probably other areas near villages that could or should be included.

**Amendment:** Restore sport limit of rockfish to 10 per day outside of Chiniak Bay as defined by a line Cape Chiniak to Duck Cape but not to be less than One(1) nautical mile off of Long Island. Uyak Bay as identified by a line from Rocky Point to Cape Kuliak. Uganik Bay defined by a line from Miners Point to Cape Uganik.

**Minority Opinion:** Heard about staff obtaining more data would wait to see the new data before increasing the bag limit.

### **Ground fish proposals**

**BOF-Proposal-#369-** Implement a management plan for open-access weathervane scallop fishery in waters of Alaska.

**Support-support 13-oppose 0.**

**Staff comments:** Department proposal.

**Committee comments:** After listening to the departments presentation the AC support the plan as outlined by staff.

**BOF Proposal #43-** Create a state waters ground fish management plan for vessels less than 58ft in the Cook Inlet, Kodiak and Chignik Management Areas.

**Oppose-support 1-oppose 10-abstained 1.**

**Staff comments:** Opposed. The department supports closure of state waters included in this proposal to non-pelagic trawl gear to protect near shore habitat and fishery resources.

**Committee Comments:** Support staff comments. The AC is always in favor of creating new

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State waters fisheries but not this one.

**Minority opinion;** Was in favor of a state waters fishery but feel this proposal is the wrong tool to do it.

**BOF Proposal #44-** Create state waters walleye Pollock management plans for Cook Inlet, Kodiak and the Chignik Management Areas.

**Support(as amended)-support 9-oppose 2-abstained 1.**

**Staff comments:** Opposed to non-pelagic trawls in state waters due to by batch issues. Who would pay for the observer program??? The department would need additional funding to implement these new fisheries.

**Committee comments:** Agree with and support the departments comments. The KAC is against creating a state waters fishery for trawl vessels at this time. Would like to give some support to our small boat jig fleet by creating a pollock jig fishery. Mr. Holm offered an amendment to this effect.

**Amendment:** To table all aspects of this proposal but would like the BOF to provide access to pollock within state waters for the jig fleet without MRA.

**Minority opinion:** None given.

**Abstentions:** ???.

**BOF\_Proposal #45-** Require 100% observer coverage on ground fish trawl vessels in state waters of Cook Inlet, Kodiak and Chignik Management Areas.

**Oppose-support 1-oppose 10-abstained 1.**

**Staff comments:** Support the collection of fishery data. BOF would have decide who provided the coverage. Would result in additional costs to the public to participate. Observers could cost up to \$450 a day if the vessel was required to pay for it.

**(Proposal #45-continued)**

**Committee comments:** Agree with staff comments. Committee members believed this proposal would place an unfair burden on the trawl fleet as they have to cross back and forth across lines from Federal to state areas waters. The observer program is evolving and the trawl fleet is under increased scrutiny and pressure to avoid by catch we feel they're doing their best at this time.

**Minority Opinion:** Ms. Peterson supported increased observer coverage in high volume fisheries to provide data to accurately manage catch and by catch in state waters trawl fisheries. Council is currently discussing a new observer program which could be 100% coverage.

**BOF Proposal #101-** Close Alitak Bay to trawl and pot gear and subsistence for crab.

**Oppose-support 0-oppose 11.**

**Staff comments:** neutral on the allocation issues but opposed to reduced subsistence opportunity. Additional research and monitoring would be necessary to determine if reduced by catch from pot and trawl vessels or other environmental factors influence crab abundance in Alitak Bay. Closure would only affect inside 3 miles approximately ½ of the crab stocks reside outside 3 miles.

**Committee comments:** Support staff comments. This bay provides economic opportunity for pot crab and cod fishermen the trawl fleet as well as subsistence for local residents and other Kodiak Island residents. Crab stocks fluctuate over time there could well be enough recruitment to open a fishery before the seven year closure of the bay expired. Many committee members

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were concerned that the non harvest of the Pollock stocks could result in increased predation on juvenile crab and salmon fry thus further reducing the opportunity for the crab stocks to recover.

**BOF Proposal #102-** Prohibit non-pelagic trawling in state waters of the Kodiak Management Area.

**Oppose-support 3-oppose 7-abstained 1.**

**Staff comments:** Neutral on allocation. Department doesn't have any specific data on impacts to crab stocks in this area.

**Committee comments:** There is a limited amount of trawl effort in this area. No by catch data available to base a closure on. The crab populations in adjacent areas that have been closed for 25 years haven't shown any recovery of the crab stocks. Something else beside trawling must be driving the population declines. Closing this limited trawl area won't bring back the crab stocks.

**Minority opinion:** Mr. Fields and Ms. Peterson felt that there wasn't much economic dependence on trawling in the area. Concerns over habitat and tanner crab populations warrant a closure to trawling.

**Written by:** KAC Secretary Don Fox