

Kodiak Fish & Game Advisory Committee
February 27th & 28 2012—KNWRVC
Oliver Holm Chairman

FILE COPY

(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: 11:08am February 27th 2012 at the Kodiak National wildlife Refuge Visitors Center.

Roll call: Quorum achieved with 13 members present. Oliver Holm, Paul Chervenak, Don Fox, Kip Thomet, Harvey Goodell, Pete Hannah, Julie Kavanaugh, Ron Kavanaugh, Duncan Fields(for Al Cratty), Pat Holmes(for Herman Squartsoff), Gus Gustovson(for Curt Waters), Tuck Bonney and Alexis Kwachka(for Lou Dochtermann).

Department staff: Steve Honnold and Wayne Donaldson.

Public present: 11.

Approve agenda: Approve unanimously.

Approve minutes of our previous meeting of December 8th 2011: Approved unanimously.

Correspondence: None.

Chair Announcements: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

- 1) Report by KAC member Fox on the January BOG meeting.
- 2) **Statewide Dungeness Crab and miscellaneous shell fish issues:** Discussion and committee action on proposals. Proposals #375, #380 and #382 were tabled till our February 28th 2012 meeting so the department could furnish further information to aid the committee members in their deliberations.
- 3) **Committee member to represent KAC at the March 2012 BOF meeting:** Julie Kavanaugh was selected to represent the Committee.

Meeting recessed at 2:15pm: Committee would meet again the following night at 7:00pm at the KNWRVC.

Call to Order: 7:00pm February 28th 2012 at the KNWRVC.

Roll call: A quorum was achieved with 14 members present. Oliver Holm, Paul Chervenak, Sam Rohrer(for Don Fox), Harry Goodell, Julie Kavanaugh, Ron Kavanaugh, Curt Waters, Andrew Finke, Pete Hannah, Alexis Kwachka(for Lou Dochtermann), Pat Holmes(for Herman Squartsoff), Duncan Fields(for Al Cratty), Rolan Ruoss and Kip Thomet.

Department staff: Joe Dinnocenza, Jeff Wadle, Tyler Polum and Wayne Donaldson.

USFWS: Gary Wheeler, William Leacock and Bill Pyle.

Public present: 8.

Approve agenda: Approved unanimously.

RECEIVED

MAR 14 2012

**BOARDS
ANCHORAGE**

Kodiak Fish & Game Advisory Committee
February 27th & 28 2012—KNWRVC
Oliver Holm Chairman

Chair Announcements: None.

Committee elections and selection of officers:

- 1) Paul Chervenak, Kip Thomet, Don Fox and Harvey Goodell were re-elected to their respective seats.
- 2) Chairman Oliver Holm, Vice Chair Paul Chervenak, and Secretary Don Fox, were re-elected as committee officers.

Old Business: Discussion and action on tabled proposals from previous days meeting

New Business:

- 1) Wrap up of the 2011 and projections for the 2012 commercial salmon season by Department staff.
- 2) Overview of the KNWR wildlife program by USFWS staff.
- 3) 2011 sport fish review and 2012 outlook provided by department staff.
- 4) Discussion and action on proposal #376.

Statewide shell fish proposals

Proposal #345

Action: Support 13-0

Description: Close Dungeness Crab season December 31, rather than January 1, and update regulatory co-ordinates in fishing season regulation.

Staff comments: Department proposal. The season closure date is not in agreement with the calendar year, CFEC landing permits and ADF&G catch reporting practices. Would shorten season by one day. Avoids the fisherman from getting an additional permit card.

Committee comments: Agree with and support staff comments.

Proposal #346

Action: Support 13-0

Description: Amend regulatory description of regulatory area and districts.

Staff comments: Department proposal. Would clarify the boundary regulations. No active Dungeness fishing on these boundary lines.

Committee comments: Agree with and support staff comments.

Proposals # 347 & #348

Action: Take no action 13-0.

(Proposals #348 & #349 continued)

Committee comments: The maker of these proposals Mike Clark withdrew his support for them.

Proposal #349

Action: Support 13-0.

Description: Designate Kodiak District a super-exclusive registration district.

Staff comments: Neutral the proposal is allocative. Chignik and the Alaskan Peninsula are already super-exclusive.

Committee comments: When the stocks are up we get over run with boats. When stocks are down our own local small fleet fishes them. We need to protect our long established local fleet from nomadic boats.

Kodiak Fish & Game Advisory Committee
February 27th & 28 2012—KNWRVC
Oliver Holm Chairman

Proposal #350

Action: Oppose 0-13.

Description: Allow scallop harvest from multiple registration areas.

Staff comments: Department opposed. The fleet wants to reduce operating costs. The department wants observers to come in for a debriefing before vessel fishes another area.

Committee comments: Supports the department they need a good solid handle on observers and catch data. There is too much of a risk for cheating. Fuel efficiency isn't worth the risk. There is a very small fleet involved in a fairly lucrative fishery.

Proposal # 352

Action: Oppose 2-11.

Description: Open specified waters currently closed in Registration Area M to scallop fishing.

Staff comments: Department opposed. The area is prime tanner crab habitat. The department has good data on the area. Commercial tanner crab fisheries currently operate there. The department has no scallop stock information and is unaware of any historic scallop beds.

Committee comments: Agree with and support staff comments. KAC member Mr. Kavanaugh currently fishes tanner crab in the area committee members agreed with him that it wasn't advisable to "explore a new area" for scallops in prime crab habitat.

Minority opinion: Would support with 100% observer coverage.

Proposal # 353

Action: Support as amended 12-1.

Description: Open specified waters currently closed in Registration Area M to scallop fishing.

Amendment: Open under a commissioners permit with a department staff member on board as a observer.

Staff comments: Department neutral. Have no crab assessment information in the area. If opened would be under a commissioners permit with a conservative crab by catch.

Committee comments: Agreed with KAC member Mr. Fields that this was a measured approach to explore new areas and develop a fishery responsibly.

Minority opinion: No more areas should be open to hard on the bottom trawl.

Proposal #354

Action: Support 13-0.

Description: Amend regulatory description for Registration Area J in description of the area, fishing seasons and closed waters.

Staff comments: Department proposal to update and clarify scallop boundaries in two areas which were inadvertently left out in original closed areas.

Committee comments: Support staff in this house keeping proposal.

Proposal #355

Action: Support 13-0.

Description: Establish octopus management plan for Registration Area J.

Staff comments: No management plan in place for westward region. Would put current management practices into regulation.

Committee comments: Support staff comments.

Kodiak Fish & Game Advisory Committee
February 27th & 28 2012—KNWRVC
Oliver Holm Chairman

Proposal #356

Action: Support 13-0.

Description: Align pot shrimp season with guideline harvest range.

Staff comments: Season runs May-February proposal cleans up language so GHF applies to season dates not calendar year.

Committee comments: Support this house keeping proposal.

Proposal #357

Action: Support 13-0.

Description: Amend regulatory description of Registration Area J, districts, and sections.

Staff comments: Department proposal which cleans up regulatory boundaries.

Committee comment: Support this house keeping proposal.

Proposal #374

Action: Support as amended 11-1.

Description: Clarify restrictions on use of sport, personal, or subsistence – caught shellfish by owner, operator, or employee of a lodge, charter vessel, or other enterprise that furnishes food, lodging, or sport fishing guide services.

Amendment: Include commercial fishing tenders and big game hunting transporters.

Committee comments: Committee members felt there was a lot of abuse in Kodiak of guests being fed subsistence caught crab especially in the Alitak Area.

Proposal #375

Action: Support 12-0-1 (abstained)

Description: Require that commercial shellfish pots constructed of rigid mesh have a biodegradable escape mechanism identical to that required for subsistence, personal use, and sport shellfish pots.

Committee comments: KAC would like to insert the word “commercial” into the definition of a wire mesh pot. Support the concept.

Proposal #376

Action: Support 12-0.

Description: Clarify regulations regarding the use of hook and line when taking octopus.

Staff comments: State sport fish regulations do not clarify whether hook and line gear may be used to take octopus.

Committee comments: Would allow sport fisherman to keep incidentally caught octopus.

Proposal #377

Action: Oppose 0-11.

Description: Establish a sustainable Dungeness crab fishery.

Staff comments: Dungeness resources not consistent across the state.

Committee comments: Management in Kodiak is size, sex and season which works fine. There is no problem with sustainability in Kodiak or statewide. Unclear what proposer wants. Would like to see a plan or policy in front of us not a blank check. Proposal is too broad and would result in significant cost to state.

Proposals #378 & #379

Action: Oppose 0-11.

Committee comments: Would like to reference our comments on Proposal # 377.

Kodiak Fish & Game Advisory Committee
February 27th & 28 2012—KNWRVC
Oliver Holm Chairman

Proposal #380

Action: Support as amended 14-0.

Description: Adopt a statewide definition of anchor roller.

Amendment: Department of Law in consultation with industry provide a more precise definition for anchor roller.

Committee comments: Concern that the new definition not being any better than what is on the books. Amendment asks for clarification.

Proposal #382

Action: Support 11-0-1(abstained)

Description: In the Aleutian golden king crab fishery increase harvest levels.

Staff comments: Harvest level steady till 2008. Existing harvest levels under regulation. Has been a fleet reduction as well as a pot reduction. CPUE has gone up considerably.

Committee comments: Committee members agree with Mr. Fields that there were few participants, it was a healthy controlled fishery. The crab were large(few small crab). No reason to wait for a new model before increasing the quota.

Proposal #384

Action: Support 12-1-1.

Description: Would remove the minimum TAC from the regulatory Bristol Bay red king crab harvest strategy.

Staff comments: If harvestable surplus of red king crab is less than 4 million pounds the fishery would open. Adoption would prevent foregone harvest in the event of a TAC lower than 4 million pounds.

Committee comments: A rationalized fishery already with a conservative management. The department has the tools to regulate speed of harvest. If there is a surplus it should be harvested.

Proposal: #386

Action: Support 11-0.

Description: Add marking requirements for ring nets for subsistence, sport and personal use.

Staff comments: Would require buoy attached to ring net to be marked.

Committee comments: Makes sense for ease of enforcement.