

Lower Bristol Bay Fish and Game A.C.

Meeting Minutes

Pilot Point AK.

Teleconference, face to face

January 24, 2013

11:15 am.

-

Local user reps. for fish and game issues from the areas of Egegik, Pilot Point, Ugashik and Port Heiden

Roll call. Members present

Eddie Clark, Roland Briggs, Myra Olsen, Mark Kosbruk, Emil Christensen, Tim Enright, Mitch Seybert, Tracy Vrem, John Bragg, Kim Rice, Gerta Kosbruk

Quorum established

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 11:15 am

APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA

Motion made and second

Motion passed, all support

INTRODUCTION STAFF AND GUESTS

Susie Jenkins-Brito ; Fish and Game Boards Support

Chuck McCallum; Lake and peninsula Boroughs Fishery Advisor

Scott Quist; Fish and Wildlife Trooper

Frank Woods; Bristol Bay Native Association

Victoria Briggs; Ugashik resident

Chris Peterson Wildlife conservation manager Fish and Game

Lem Butler Wildlife conservation manager Fish and Game

BOARD OF FISH PROPOSALS; AREA M

PROPOSAL 179 SOUTH UNIMAK AND SHUMAGIN ISLANDS JUNE SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN. MOTION MADE, SECOND

Discussion. The original GLH management plan of up to 8.3 percent of Bristol Bay sockeye stocks in the June fishery was developed by the board of fish based on historic catches in 1975. The plan had allocation GLH Time frames for different percentages of the catch thru the month of June.

This was the fairest and the best management plan for the health of the migrating sockeye stocks traveling thru the fishery. The past board

actions made changes to this management plan to address different issues that don't matter now (chum cap) and the strongest migrating sockeye management plan was negatively affected. Past board actions that try to limit chum harvest and that tried to allow sockeye harvest in the June fishery has allowed large harvests on late migrating June stocks which are proven to be smaller Bristol Bay and Northern Area M's stocks.

Run timings for different Bristol Bay stocks traveling thru the June fishery have been known since the 70 and are better known now with present and past studies done over the years.

Coupled with wassip studies for the north peninsula which shows high percentages of Egegik and Ugashik stocks in their catch, management in the June fishery could best be performed with our proposal or the old plan. This would insure sockeye windows that protect Egegik , Ugashik, week runs and smaller systems fish stocks so they are not targeted to heavily away from their home rivers..

Motion was made to remove any reference to chum (1a. and /or 400,000 total chums) and seconded.

We believe the chum issue that doesn't appear to be such a big issue anyway, has negatively affected the best migrating sockeye management plan in the June fishery.

All in favor

Motion made to support the amended proposal and seconded

All in favor 12 -0

PROPOSAL 181-south Unimak and shumagan Inland June.

Motion made and seconded, Discussion we support these proposals for the same reasons we have in proposal 179 and that it addresses stocks of concerns. The proposal asks for depth reductions on gear and we support this because migrating king salmon travel at deeper depths.

**MOTION MADE TO AMEND TO REMOVE REFERANCE TO CHUMS AND
SECONDED**

All in favor

**MOTION MADE TO SUPORT THE AMENDED PROPOSAL AND
SECONDED**

ALL IN FAVOR

PROPOSAL 182 SOUTH UNIMAK AND SHUMAGANS JUNE FISHERY

MOTION TO ADOPT AND SECONDED

This proposal brings a lot of issues to the table for one proposal. The board could address a lot of different ideas with this proposal and understand why Egegik and Ugashik fishers would support this theoretically.

All in favor

PROPOSAL 185 POST JUNE SALMON MANAGEMENT FOR SOUTH PEN

MOTION TO ADOPT AND SECONDED

DISCUSSION, past management practices in this area restricted the fleet to terminal areas to rebuild local pink and chum salmon stocks and to try to minimize interception and the harvest of Juvenal salmon. Once the local stocks rebounded the board liberalized area and gear to address quality and removed the Coho cap. Migrating Coho and Juvenal sockeye chinooks are not marketable and don't follow the maximum sustain yield practice and would probably be chuck overboard. In the Port Heiden ,Egegik and Ugashik areas Coho and Chinook are stocks that weak. To liberalize fishing in anyway in this fishery with area and gear would be a hypocritical management plan that will continue to harm juveniles and stocks of concern traveling thru this fishery.

Motion failed all opposed

PROPOSAL 186 187 188 189 190 JUNE AND POST JUNE SOUTH PEN.

MOTION TO ADOPT IN AS BLOCK AND SECOND

In the June fisheries of these proposals we do not support liberalizing fishing time without reinstating the 8.3 allocation. Our comment in proposal 179 addresses our concerns for the June proposals in this block.

Our concerns for the post June proposals are addressed in proposal 185. We support terminalizing post June till Coho concerns are not a concern and till immature salmon have passed thru the district. These proposals address the cost of fishing in these areas and ways to make it economical for the area m fleet without regards to conservation of Juvenal and migrating stocks of concerns or maximum sustain yield. If incidental targeted salmon are allowed to migrate thru the district,

they will be caught in their home streams, for less cost and more benefits to the local economies of Port Heiden, Pilot Point, Ugashik ,Egegik and Nelson Lagoon and will allow rebuilding of Coho and king salmon runs in our areas.

Motion failed all opposed

PROPOSAL 195 GEAR SOUTH WESTERN DIST AREA M

This proposal would allow a harvest of more weak stocks. (Coho and King salmon) the drift fleet has harmed their runs on the north peninsula and are looking for different options. If allowed, the use of small gill net mesh size would catch more Juvenile stocks and the use of larger mesh size would allow a larger harvest of migrating Coho stocks.

Motion failed all opposed.

PROPOSAL 196 GILLNETS SPEC AND OPERATIONS.

MOTION TO ADOPT AND SECOND

DISCUSSION. Without GH 8.3 For the June fishery, we do not support this and in the post June fishery, it will allow more harvest of immature stocks and stocks of concern. It will reallocate salmon between gear groups in this area and increases the efficiency of the setnet fishers.

Motion failed no support.

PROPOSAL 197 GILLNETT SPECS.AND OPERATIONS

MOTION TO ADOPT AND SECONDED

DISCUSSION, This proposal if adopted by the board would also help Port Heiden and Cinder Rivers King salmon and Coho stocks and Bristol Bay migrating stocks.

In late June and early July Port Heiden and Cinder Rivers Chinook salmon stocks are at their peak run timings. The waters in all northern sec. areas are very shallow. 30 feet deep is pretty much the deepest it gets in the inner and outside districts of this fishery. 75 mesh nets go all the way to the bottom in this whole fishery. Migrating Chinook usually travel deep and a reduction of depth would allow more Chinook to get thru. Coho travel to Port Heiden and all northern sections in the last week of July until the middle of September. And our support for a depth reduction applies here for the same reasons. When the board adopted this proposal to allow 75 mesh deep nets in the early 90's and allowed area m fleet to move north is when the Coho and Chinook salmon issues for Port Heiden and Cinder River began. Local fishers from Port Heiden, Pilot Point, Ugashik, Eggeik and Nelson Lagoon had a sustainable Chinook and Coho fishery and no sockeye issues. The past Boards actions severely affected conservation and the historic harvest of these fish by local residents, and allowed the benefits of this resource to mostly non Alaska resident fishers, mostly targeting non local stocks.

All in favor unanimously

PROPOSAL 198 FISHING SEASONS.

MOTION TO ADOPT AND SECOND

DISCUSSION. We support this proposal for the same reasons as our comment in proposal 197.

Motion carried all in favor

PROPOSAL 199 NORTHERN DIST. SALMON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

MOTION TO ADOPT AND SECOND

DISCUSSION.

NO ACTION.

**PROPOSAL 200 FISHING SEASON, PERIODS, GEAR, REGISTRATION,
CINDER RIVER**

MOTION TO ADOPT AND SECOND

DISCUSSION, Historically the majority of any fishing in Cinder River was done by local area T Pilot Point and Ugashik residents. Fishing for Chinook from June 10 thru the end of June on a small weekly fishing schedule. Coho harvest times fished majority by local residents were August 10 to Sept 10 with the same small weekly fishing schedule. Except for a couple years for Coho, 100 percent of fishing was performed on the inner section of Cinder River. This proposal if approved would restrict historic fishing time for local residents in June and if allowed on the outside section would have a very low harvest, if any of Cinder River stocks and possibly a harvest of 100 percent Bristol Bay stocks.

This proposal if adopted by the Board would reallocate historically locally caught fish to non-local and mostly non-Alaska residents. It could

also possible harm Chinook and Coho stocks in the area that local resident fishers depend on.

Motion fails, all oppose.

PROPOSAL 201 FISHING SEASONS

MOTION TO ADOPT AND SECOND

Motion was made to amend proposal to (outside port heiden closed jan.1 to Dec 31) and second

DISCUSSION, WASSIP data indicates that sockeye run timing for illnick drops off to nothing by June 26 and for port heiden sockeye stocks around the 5th of July. Very low harvest number of these targeted stocks are harvested in these times to justify an outside section fishery. High run percentages of Port Heiden Chinook salmon stocks are present in these time frames which are depressed. And high numbers of Bristol Bay stocks are harvested in this time.

After July 5th Bear River and Bristol Bay stocks are pretty much the only components of the catch in this sec. The past boards were told by the Dept. that low interception was occurring and that all fish from area m and Bristol bay go north, way off shore and then come back thru the fishery traveling south to their home rivers, The dept. (because the lack of data) stated low numbers were beeing intercepted and justified it with very high return per spawner rates to justify why area m's catch was very high.

Any fishing after the 25 of July in any outer section north of the Three Hills section would impact the Coho stock of Port Heiden and Cinder

River, which are week. Any fishing allowed north of the Three Hills section after the 26 of June would harvest weak stocks and unnecessarily allow a high interception percentages of Egegik and Ugashik stocks to continue. Since the early nineties the northern sections of Illnik and Port Heiden have been an expanding mixed stock fishery (proven by wassip) that has reallocate catch away from historic local fishers to non-local and to mostly non Alaska resident fishers.

All in favor of amended proposal

PROPOSAL 202 fishing season

Motion to adopt and second

No action because support for 201

Our comments would be the same for this proposal

**PROPOSAL 203 NORTHERN DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

NO ACTION BECAUSE SUPPORT FOR 204 WHICH IS SIMILAR

PROPOSAL 204 NORTHERN DIST.SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

MOTION MADE AND SECOND

DISCUSSION, because of wassip study an Amendment is needed to support.

Motion made to exclude all wording in sec. 1 and 2 except, this section will be open to both area T and area M permit holders from January 1 to December 31 use the existing inner Port Heiden section as the fisheries boundaries . And second

DISCUSSION, the inside section of Port Heiden has mostly been fished by local Port Heiden resident T permit holders, except in July. Area M's drift and set net fishers never utilize the inner section even if it's open and the outside section is closed in any month of the year. The inside section of Port Heiden has been fished commercially by local Port Heiden , Pilot Point and Ugashik fishers from the 1960 to 2002. Most boats navigated with only a compass and fathometer. The inner Port Heiden section is as large as the Egegik section and with global positioning the area M fleet could fish on the inside sec. with no problems.

However they will not fish on the inside, so we support this proposal to utilize this sustainable resource, we believe 6 or 7 local residents with area T setnet permits will be able to control escapement.

All in favor as amended

PROPOSAL205 FISHING DIST.AND SEC. NORTH AREA M

MOTION TO ADOPT AND SECOND

DISCUSSION, with the data from the wassip studies, we only support this proposal in concept as an avenue for the board .We support

enforceable terminal districts with G.P.S. lines.to stop interception of migrating stocks

MOTION PASS ALL SUPPORT

PROPOSAL 207 NORTHERN DISTRICTSALMON FISHER MANAGEMENT PLAN

MOTION TO ADOPTED AND SECOND

DISCUSSION, we support this proposal because of our concerns for Coho in the Port Heiden, Cinder River, smaller stream, and for the proposer concerns. Bear River late sockeye stocks would better be harvested in a reduced Bear River terminal district out of concerns for migrating stocks.

All in favor

PROPOSAL 208/209 FISHING DISTRICT AND SECTIONS. AS BLOCK

MOTION TO ADOPT AND SECOND

DISCUSSION, with the wassip studies data, we strongly support these proposals. It proves that much of area ms areas are expanded mixed stock fisheries since the early 90's. And disputes any reason presented to the board in the past to allow it to continue. It has reallocated fish away from local fisher that historically have harvested these stocks.

Bristol Bay managers stated from year to year escapement numbers are shuffled to get escapement from different parts of the run. He

stated that fishing time and prefers escapement times can be effected in Eggeik and in Ugashik if area m fleet is fishing in the northern illnick sections

In past years continues fishing has harmed smaller streams in the Port Heiden area that subsistence users count on.

ALL IN FAVOR

PROPOSAL 213 BAG LIMITS POSESSION limits

Motion to adopt

Discussion we support this with our discussion on this proposal summited at the Bristol Bay board meeting

All IN FAVOR

PROPOSAL250 SET NET PERMIT STACKING EGEGIK AND UGASHIK

DISCUSION, OUR COMENT APPLY FROM THE BRISTOL BAY MEETING

MOTION PASSED 6 SUPPPORT, 4 OPPOSE, 6 ABSENT

NO ACTION ON PROPOSALS 203/206/210/211/212/214

BOG PROPOSAL

MOTION MADE TO AJORN AND SECOND AT 5.45 PM

ALL IN FAVOR