

**UNALASKA FISH & GAME LOCAL ADISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 18, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER:

10:06 AM in the Unalaska Library Conference Room

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Don Goodfellow
Tim Mahoney
Steven Gregory
Kristian Laxfoss
Jennifer Shockley

ABSENT:

Roger Rowland (unexcused)

Margaret "Augie" Kochuten (excused)

Frank Kelty
Mike Holman
Dustan Dickerson

GUESTS PRESENT:

Jim Paulin, Hal Lewis, Melissa Goode (ADF&G), Heather Fitch (ADF&G)

Additional guests appeared telephonically: Mark Gleason.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

None.

APPROVE AGENDA:

Agenda was reviewed and Goodfellow motioned to adopt agenda with Shockley seconding the motion. The agenda was approved 8-0.

APPROVE PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes for September 7, 2013 were reviewed and adopted 8-0.

LEGISLATIVE:

None.

ADF&G UPDATE:

Update prepared by ADF&G Staff.

ADF&G Heather Fitch – Groundfish:

1. Nothing significant to report
2. DH P-Cod 17 mil. GH (1 week after Fed season ends)
3. Sable fish open w/Fed season
4. Adak processing plant – probably will open

ADF&G Melissa Goode – Crab:

1. No vessels registered for bairdi - Bering Sea Eastern district
2. No vessels registered for bairdi – Bering Sea Western district
3. 39 vessels registered for opilio - 23% of quota harvested (12.4 million lbs)
4. No ice issues on fishing grounds yet

OLD BUSINESS:

Proposals 326 -5AAC 34.XXX Closed Waters and 5AAC 35.XXX Closed waters. Close all commercial King and Tanner crab fisheries in state, except Southeastern Alaska.

Motion to support, by Goodfellow, seconded by Holman.

Discussion: ADFG staff no comment, ADFG staff comments not completed. Committee member's discussion this proposal had no support by the committee members, and we couldn't see the correlation of shutting down all of Alaska's crab fisheries would have on rebuilding Chinook salmon stocks in Cook Inlet. This proposal would cause great economic harm to all sectors involved in the states crab fisheries.

Motion to support failed 0-8

Proposals 347-5ACC 35.500. Description of Registration Area J and 5ACC 35.505. Description of Registration of Area J districts. Amend description of area and districts as follows.

Motion to support by Shockley, second by Goodfellow.

Discussion: ADFG proposal to clarify demarcation lines within state fishery management areas. The committee members felt this basically a housekeeping issue and had no problems supporting it.

Motion to support passed 8-0

Proposal 348 5 AAC 34.612 Harvest levels for golden king crab in Registration O. Increase harvest limit for the Aleutians Islands golden king crab fishery as follows

Motion to support proposal, Goodfellow, and seconded, by Dickerson.

Discussion: ADFG staff provided historical catch data on the fishery and CPUE data on legal, sub-legal and female numbers from observer sampling. Committee members had a good discussion on the proposal; the main focus was that many felt 15%-10% was too much of an increase, with a somewhat declining CPUE numbers. Committee members also pointed out that the department still hasn't completed a harvest strategy for this fishery, and their still hasn't been any survey completed but it was noted that industry was working on funding a survey. Proponents of an increase felt that the fishery had performed very well for over 20 years that there are only 5 vessels working the fishery with less gear and they felt an increase of at least 10% was warranted.

Committee member Goodfellow proposed an amendment to a 5% increase seconded by Dickerson the amendment passed 5-3.

The motion to support the amended main motion passed the committee 5-3.

Proposal 349. 5 AAC 34.610. Fishing seasons for Registration Area O Modify the Aleutian Islands golden king crab season as follows: 5 ACC 34.610 (b) Fishing seasons for Registration Area O

Motion to support proposal, Goodfellow, seconded, by Dickerson.

Discussion: ADFG staff explained the proposal that would change the fishery start date from August 15 to May 15 with a closure date of February 15th. This would allow the golden crab harvesters to fish in better weather conditions and may allow for the fishery to be completed before the fleet has to deal with severe weather conditions, the processor representative on the committee that this would help them because they have low crew amounts near Christmas and are working on maintenance issues at that time year. It was discussed that the North Pacific Council approves the SAFE and OFL documents for this fishery at the June Council meeting, so a May 15th start may cause a major problem.

Committee member Goodfellow proposed an amendment to the opening date of June 15th this would allow for the North Pacific Council to approve the Safe and OFL in June this was seconded by Dickerson the amendment passed 8-0

The amended main motion to support 349 passed 8-0.

Proposals 350-356. (350) 5 AAC34.60X- Description of Districts (351)5AAC 34.6XX- Adak District Red King Crab Management Plan (352) 5AAC34.6XX Closed Waters (353)5AAC 34.606. Area Registration. (354) 5AAC 34610 Fishing season for Registration Area O (355) 5 AAC 34.628 Operation of other gear in Registration Area O (356)-5AAC 34.640 Registration Area O inspections and inspection points.

A motion to support proposals 350-356 was made by Dickerson second by Gregory.
The committee decided to take up all six proposal as they all had to do with establishing and assisting the establishment of a viable small Red King Crab fishery sometime in the near future in the Adak area. ADFG staff walked the committee through the each proposal and their affects.
The committee was supportive of the efforts of ACDC to get a fishery going and supported proposal's 350-356 by a vote of 8-0

Proposal 357 5 AAC34.600 Description of Registration Area O. Amend description of Aleutian Island king crab registration as follows

Motion to support by Goodfellow seconded by Shockley

Discussion: ADFG staff explained the proposal which would standardize demarcation lines between management areas. This was and ADFG proposal housekeeping in nature.

Motion to support the proposal passed 8-0.

Proposal 358 5 AAC34.917 Saint Matthew Island Section Blue King Crab Harvest Strategy. Revise the St. Matthew Island blue king crab harvest strategy, as follows:

Motion to support by Gregory and seconded by Goodfellow.

Discussion: ADFG spoke to their proposal, that it would basically lower the threshold level for the fishery from 2.9 million pounds to a threshold of 1.609 million pounds of mature male Blue king crab which would put it in line with federal overfishing levels. This would be helpful for harvesters work the St Matthew Blues King Crab fishery.

The motion to support 358 was passed 8-0

Proposal 359 5 AAC34.925 Lawful gear for Registration Area Q Allow groundfish pots in the St Matthew island blue king crab fishery as follows:

Motion to support, by Mahoney and seconded by Gregory.

Discussion: ADFG staff explained the proposal it would allow 10 groundfish pots to harvest cod to be used as bait in the St Matthew Blue King crab fishery. This would put the area in line with other Bering Sea fisheries that allow 10 groundfish pots to be used for bait during crab fisheries. The committee had no problem supporting the proposal.

Motion to support passed 8-0

Proposal 360 5 AAC34.051 King Crab gear marking requirements and 5 ACC 34926 King Crab marking requirements for Registration Area Q

Eliminate king crab pot marking for Registration Q Bering Sea as follows: The committee had a hard time with this proposal and potential impacts of supporting it.

A motion to take no action, by Shockley, seconded Goodfellow was passed 8-0

Proposal 361 5 AAC34.925 Lawful gear for Registration Area Q Modify gear marking requirements for longline pots in the Bering Sea golden king crab fishery, as follows:

Motion to support proposal by Goodfellow and seconded by Shockley.

Discussion: ADFG staff explained their proposal which would put longline gear marking in line with marking requirements for longline gear in the Area O golden king crab fishery. The committee took this proposal as a housekeeping measure.

The Motion to support passed 8-0

Proposal 362 -5 ACC35.525 Lawful gear for Registration Area J Specify vertical placement of escape rings placement in the Bering Sea Tanner and snow crab fisheries, as follows:

Motion to support by Goodfellow, seconded by Shockley.

Discussion: ADFG staff explained their proposal, which would specify were the escape rings would be placed for gear in the Area J fisheries; housing issue.

The motion to support passed 7-0 with one member being absent from the room.

Proposal 363 -5ACC39.670 Bering Sea / Aleutian Island Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Crab fisheries Management Plan operation. Clarify vessel check-out provisions in rationalized crab fisheries.

Motion, to support by Holman and seconded by Goodfellow.

Discussion: ADFG staff outlined their proposal, this would require vessels check out of the area they are fishing within 72 hours after pulling there last pot, by telephone, fax transmission or electronic e-mail. This would benefit enforcement and fishery managers the committee supported the proposal.

The motion to support proposal 363 passed 7-0 with one member being absent from the room.

Proposals 364-367 (364)-5ACC39.143 Onboard observer certification and decertification. (365) 5 AAC39.143 Onboard observer certification and decertification. (366) 5 AAC39.146 Onboard observer briefing and debriefing. (367)5AAC 39.645 Shellfish onboard observer program. These 4 proposals

had to do with the observer program and all came from ADFG

Motion to support proposals 364-367 by Shockley and seconded by Goodfellow.

Motion to support proposals 364-367 passed 8-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bering Sea Crabbers are looking for support from the Unalaska AC when presenting to BOF about readjusting harvest strategy related to crab size (carapace size of mature males shrinking).

AC voted 8-0 to support

April 10, 2014 is the date proposals for Misc Shellfish & Dungeness are due.

Elections will be held in June 2014.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Next meeting is expected to be held sometime in June.

ADJOURNMENT: 11:41 AM


Frank Kelty, Chairman Date Approved 9/20/14 Mike Holman, Secretary Date Approved 9/20/14