

UNALASKA FISH & GAME LOCAL ADISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 24, 2013

CALL TO ORDER:

6:02 PM in the Unalaska Library Conference Room

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Roger Rowland
Don Goodfellow

Steven Gregory

Jennifer Shockley

Frank Kelty
Mike Holman

ABSENT:

Zac Nehus (excused)

Kristian Laxfoss (excused)

Reid Brewer (excused)

GUESTS PRESENT:

Jim Paulin, Dustan Dickerson, Evie Dickerson, Alfred Dalrympole, Dalibor Machalek, Vick Lekanoff, Britta Baechler, Charles Trebesch, Vincent Tutiakoff, Donald Aus, Tom Robinson, Melissa Good, Kathy Grimnes, David Gregory, Tim Schliebe, Doug Leggett, Rande Leggett, Rufina Shaishnikoff, Mary Schwenzfeir, Sylvia Ettefagh, Jim Touza, Nick Tutiakoff, Brian Rankin, Hal Lewis.

Additional guests appeared telephonically: Dan Martin, Chris Norris, Bent Paine, Don Tracy, Jeff Wadley and Tyler Polland.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

None.

APPROVE AGENDA:

Agenda was reviewed and Goodfellow motioned to adopt agenda with Shockley seconding the motion. The agenda was approved 6-0.

APPROVE PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes for August 25, 2012 were reviewed and approved 6-0.

LEGISLATIVE:

Seats A, B, C and the alternate seat are open. Kelty advised that Nehus was uninterested in continuing to serve on the committee due to time conflicts. Two letters of interest had been received; one from Tim Mahoney and another from Margaret Kochuten. Alternate AC member Reid Brewer was not in attendance but had indicated to Kelty he was interested in an open seat.

1. Seat C – Brewer was nominated to fill seat C. It was approved 6-0.
2. Seat B – Don Goodfellow indicated he would like to continue to serve on the board and was approved to fill seat B unanimously.
3. Seat A – Margaret Kochuten was nominated and unanimously approved to fill seat A.
4. Alternate Seat – Tim Mahoney was nominated and unanimously approved to fill the Alternate Seat.

Officer Elections:

1. Secretary – Holman was nominated and elected to continue in this capacity.
2. Vice Chairman – Goodfellow was nominated but declined. Gregory was nominated and elected to fill this position.

3. Chairman – Kelty was nominated and elected to continue as the Chairman.

ADF&G UPDATE:

Update prepared by ADF&G Staff –presented by Trebesch and Baechler.

Groundfish:

1. One vessel – catch is confidential

Crab:

1. Unalaska Tanner Crab
 - a. 6 vessel registered
 - b. GHL of 35, 000 lbs. –
 - c. CPU is averaging 10
2. Brown King Crab
 - a. Eastern is closed
 - b. Western has three vessels (23 landings)
 - i. 68% caught
 - ii. Average of 4.4 lbs.
3. Opilio
 - a. 40 vessels registered (102 landings to date).
 - i. 25% caught
 - ii. Average of 1.4 lbs.

OLD BUSINESS:

Review and action on proposals #162, #163, #164 and #214 in preparation for February 26, 2013 Board of Fisheries meeting.

Proposal #162 – Unalaska Bay Trawl Closure: ADF&G representative Trebesch provided staff comments on this proposal and covered the fisheries history and explained the observer coverage requirements for this area. Vince Tutiakoff (Unalaska Native Fisherman Association [UNFA] President) provided an explanation of why they submitted the proposal to ADF&G. Brent Paine (United Catcher Boats) explained their opposition to this proposal. Other public comments include:

1. Hal Lewis – asked for clarification on amount of Pollack caught in Unalaska Bay – average of 3.2 million lbs. per year and between 3-5 vessels fish the bay each year.
2. Silvia Ettefagh – Called attention to the lowered amount of by-catch by fleet after the 2010 compromise that put restrictions on Unalaska Bay.
3. Dustan Dickerson – (VP of UNFA) further explained the reason behind the proposal and the impact trawling in Unalaska Bay had on the community.
4. Tom Robinson – Asked for clarification on size of halibut being taken as by-catch (estimated to be between 7-8 lbs).
5. Dan Martin – (skipper of F/V Commodore) explained he has trawled in Unalaska Bay since 1989 and the Pollack in Unalaska Bay are exceptionally large and good for fillets.
6. Brent Paine – explained the voluntary hotspot closures that the trawl fleet has been using (in Unalaska Bay it was closed 8/7/12 – 8/14/12 and again from 9/14/12 – 9/18/12 because of Chum Salmon).
7. Hal Lewis – asked question about trawl fleet size.
8. Brian Rankin – Asked about the amount of by-catch in Unalaska bay (referred him to handout provided by ADF&G).
9. Tom Robinson – asked AC members to “keep an open mind” about the subsistence lifestyle.
10. Nick Tutiakoff – long time sport/subsistence fisherman commented he was having increasing trouble catching fish in the bay and had to travel further out of the bay every year.

11. Brian Rankin – discussed the safety issues of the small vessels having to travel further out of the bay to catch fish.
12. Silvia Ettefagh – believed the reduction in halibut and salmon numbers are unrelated to trawlers as she is seeing the same problem in Southeast Alaska.
13. Rufina Shaisnikoff – believes the problem could be described as a medical issue and there is a need to clean up the bay.

AC member Rowland moved to consider the proposal and Goodfellow seconded the motion. AC members provided comments regarding this proposal. Rowland stated he would not support this proposal as the compromise closure that was agreed to in 2010 was adequate. Shockley believed there was not enough evidence to identify the trawl fleet as being the primary reason for the reduction in fishery resources within Unalaska Bay, but believed that closing the bay to all trawling would be helpful. Kochuten stated that Unalaska Bay is unhealthy and she would no longer eat anything caught in the bay. She also stressed that her family has been put in danger by the trawlers as they fished in the bay. Gregory commented that a closure would affect a very small number of trawlers that fish in Unalaska Bay (3-5 vessels) and that he supported closing the bay to all trawling. Goodfellow stated he was opposed to further reducing the trawl fleet's fishing area in Unalaska Bay and that the fleet was already greatly restricted because of Chinook Salmon by-catch cap. Holman indicated he supported closing all of Unalaska Bay to trawling. Kelty reminded the AC members that in 2010 the AC committee had supported this closure 100% and sponsored the same proposal to the BOF. Kelty spoke about the community's perception that trawling in Unalaska Bay was affecting the local fishery resources and that local processing plants did not have their vessels trawl in the bay. Kelty pointed out that a trawling closure in the bay would have almost no economic impact to the City of Unalaska as the Pollack fleet which currently fished in the bay delivered their catch outside of the community. The amount of Pollack caught in Unalaska Bay amounts to less than 1% of the Pollack quota.

The AC members voted 5-2 to support proposal #162 with Rowland and Goodfellow the two dissenting votes.

Proposal #163 – Modification of State water Black cod opening to coincide with Federal opening: ADF&G representative Trebesch provided staff comments on this proposal. UNFA VP Dickerson briefly explained reason for proposal. AC member Rowland motions to consider proposal and Goodfellow seconded motion. Kelty spoke in favor of proposal as did Rowland.

AC members voted 7-0 to support proposal #163.

Proposal #164 - Clarification of Black Rockfish season: ADF&G representative Trebesch provided staff comments on this proposal and why ADF&G submitted the proposal. AC member Rowland made motion to support proposal and it was seconded by Shockley.

AC members voted 7-0 to support proposal #164.

Proposal #214 - Closure of Iliuliuk River above bridge to fishing: ADF&G Trebesch, Tracy and Wadley all provided staff comments on this proposal. AC member Gregory explained the reason for submitting the proposal and outlined the problem. ADF&G indicated that they would not support the proposal as written but suggested some amended language that prohibited fishing for any salmon species above the 'Church Hole' in the Iliuliuk River drainage; to include the lake and inlet streams. The proposal language was amended to reflect a total closure of sport fishing for all species of salmon and include the entire Unalaska Lake drainage area upstream of the Church Hole on the Iliuliuk River. The motion to support the amended proposal was made by Shockley, the second was made by Kochuten.

The amendment passed 7-0 and the main motion passed 7-0 (as amended).

NEW BUSINESS:

BOF Proposal Review

Proposal #218 – Establish escapement goals for each river system: ADF&G Wadley provided staff comments on this proposal indicating they did not support the proposal. Discussion was held between AC members and ADF&G staff about need for establishing escapement goals for Unalaska Rivers. Gregory made motion to take no action on this proposal and it was seconded by Goodfellow.

The motion to take no action on proposal #218 passed 7-0.

Proposal #220 – Groundfish area registration: ADF&G representative Trebesch provided staff comments on why they submitted this proposal. AC member Rowland motioned to support the proposal and it was seconded by Kochuten.

The motion to support proposal #220 passed 7-0.

Proposal #221 – Groundfish possession and landing requirements: ADF&G representative Trebesch provided staff comments on why they submitted this proposal. AC member Rowland motioned to support the proposal and it was seconded by Kochuten.

The motion to support proposal #221 passed 7-0.

Proposal #226- Shark fishery management plan: ADF&G representative Tracy provided staff comments and explained why they had submitted the proposal. AC member Gregory made motion to support the proposal and Rowland seconded the motion.

The motion to support proposal #226 passed 7-0.

Proposal #227 – Emergency order providing authority to restrict sport proxy fishing: ADF&G representative Tracy provided staff comments and explained why they had submitted the proposal. AC member Gregory made motion to support the proposal and Rowland seconded the motion.

The motion to support proposal #227 passed 7-0.

Proposal #243 – Forage fish management plan modification to include pacific Herring: ADF&G representative Wadley provided staff comments and expressed a neutral position. AC member Goodfellow made a motion and it was seconded by Rowland.

The motion to support proposal #243 failed 0-7.

Proposal #245 – Fishing season for Area O: ADF&G representative Baechler provided staff comments on this proposal and advised that the Department was neutral on this issue. Kelty provided some anecdotal information regarding stock decline before Gregory made a motion to support the proposal and Rowland seconded the motion.

The motion to support proposal #245 passed 6-1.



Proposal #246 – Lawful gear for registration area O: ADF&G representative Baechler provided staff comments on this proposal and advised that the Department was neutral on this issue. Gregory made a motion to take no action on the proposal and Rowland seconded it.

The motion to take no action on proposal #246 passed 4-3.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Next meeting is expected to be held sometime in May, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:50 PM

		9/7/13	6/0
Frank Kelty, Chairman	Date Approved	Mike Holman, Secretary	Date Approved