

Togiak
Fish and Game Advisory Committee
Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 10:00am

- I. Call to Order by Chairman Moses Kritz
- II. Roll Call
- Members Present:
Moses Kritz, Frank Logusak, Joe Alexie, Keith Fayer Sr, Jimmy Coopchiak, Kenneth Nukwak, Mickey Sharp, Thomas Dock.
 - Members Excused
Peter Lockuk Sr.
 - Members Absent:
Jonah Lomack, Lester Moore, Roger Wassillie, Dan Nanalook Jr, Tessa Nickerson, Norman Gloko, Julius Henry, William Sanchez (Alternate).
- III. Approval of Agenda
Frank moves to adopt, 2nd by Jimmy, carries unanimously.
- IV. Introductions
- Staff
Tim Sands and Jordan Head, Commercial Fisheries; Joseph Wittkop, AWT; Lee Borden, Sport Fish; Todd Rinaldi and Bryan Riley, Wildlife; Pat Walsh, Andy Aderman, and Kenton Moos, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.
 - Guests
Bob Duby and Cathy Albright, Togiak Fisheries; Mike Gilbert, Copper River Seafoods; Cody Larson, Bristol Bay Native Association; Gene Sandone, Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation.
- V. ADF&G Staff Updates
- Bryan Riley, short update on Brucellosis
 - Bacterial disease, currently being found in Mulchatna Caribou
 - May explain some of the decline in herd
 - Humans can contract it
 - Symptoms include fever, chills, loss of appetite, and sometimes serious complications. Pets can also get it.
 - People should take caution when butchering animals, wash hands, cook meat thoroughly, don't give pets raw scraps.
- Moses- Which herds in the state are affected?
- Todd- Dept. is seeing high levels in MCH and 40 mile herds but doesn't think we are at the height of epidemic with MCH. Evidence suggests perhaps the heard has moved past that.
- Frank- Would like to see this info broadcast widely to the public.
- Member question- How does the disease circulate in the herd, and does it get on feed?

Bryan- disease is primarily spread through birth fluid and placenta. If animals lick the baby it can get transferred.

Todd- bacteria also found in joint fluid, reproductive organs. Eventually the herd will gain some resistance. Not sure what the threshold is for that. Currently finding evidence in blood analysis, but not so many dead animals on the tundra or other signs. TNWR and ADF&G are getting word out through Face Book, and radio station. All seasons are closed, so there shouldn't be any harvest

- Todd Rinaldi and Andy Aderman, update on moose
 - RM575 (antlered) 23 bulls reported taken, still waiting on 77 reports.
 - RM576 (antlerless) 65 animals reported taken, this is 3 times normal. High number of females reported taken.
 - TNWRs last moose survey was Oct 2019. Estimated 2100 moose. This was a 10% decline from the 2018 survey. Population still over objective.
 - TNWR usually collars moose every year but did not this year due to pandemic. Currently banned from chartering private aircraft.

Moses- Are the moose moving from 17A to 17B at all?

Andy- Adults stay put. Young ones sometimes move. Movement is based much on snow conditions. Tend to move toward the valley north of Togiak or toward the coast if the snow is deep.

Frank- Interested in what is known about the caribou population toward Goodnews. Also concerned about under reporting that may take place.

Andy- Caribou in southwest are usually sort of scattered. Surveys during calving time have at most turned up 50-100 caribou in area. If there is some way TNWR can interface better with the community he is open to ideas. Reporting is important to management. Even unsuccessful hunt reporting is important. Especially for caribou.

Bryan- concurs. ADF&G is also interested in exploring how to encourage reporting.

- Jordan Head, heard from Frank comment regarding yellow spotting on salmon.
 - Yellow spotting on sockeye can have multiple causes, many not harmful.
 - Can be a sign of Jaundice
 - Yellow bellies can be a normal occurrence and are usually not infections.
 - Call DLG office if you see something weird.
 - Send Pictures

Frank moves to accept staff reports, 2nd by Kenneth, unanimous approval

VI. Public Comments

- Bob DUBY is interested in discussing Kulukuk setnet distance from shore as a possible AC proposal. Currently a net cannot be more than 500 feet from shore. This was a change, that we weren't aware of until enforcement informed us a couple of years ago. Bob would like to see it set at 1000 feet.

Walter- agrees AC should discuss.

Frank- Interested in hearing how this differs from other areas in Bristol Bay.

Tim- In most cases inshore end of net needs to go dry at mean low tide, so in Togiak the 500 foot rule would be due to steeper shorelines.

Moses- Believes this is something AC can address

Trooper Wittkop- has seen a fair number of violations of 500 ft rule. The way it is written, the general rule is 1000 feet, but with a 500ft restriction for west shore of Kulukuk, Anchor Point, and West part of Togiak. These are rocky steep areas where there are also conflicts between drift and set. When AWT traveled to Togiak winter before last this was not a well understood regulation. Other things noted.

- Was told tides rarely reach 18 foot.
- Generally, mudflats allowed to go out further.
- In rocky areas nets don't go dry.

Frank- Notes gear conflict between set and drift is an issue. Set regularly gets coked off by large drift boats. 500 foot doesn't work well.

Trooper Wittkop- Notes that while enforcement is difficult, please report.

Moses- would like to look into the comment more before the next meeting.

Kenneth- would like to see a draft proposal in writing for the next meeting.

Keith- Clarifies just looking for 1000 ft for all of kulukak.

Kenneth- agrees, but need to word carefully, and decide where to measure from, and make sure it is affecting correct areas.

Keith- notes minus tides still have water against the rocks.

Gene- BBEDC can help with proposal drafting.

Moses- suggests Bob may reach out to Gene.

- Mike Gilbert is interested in the AC considering a proposal to address the transfer date due to complaints about competition by out of area fishermen. Mike notes median point of 195,000 fish not reached until July 31st suggests pushing transfer date back until August 1st.
Moses- bring it to the next meeting and we can explore it.
Walter- As Alaskans, who do we exclude or include. We have to think about that.
- Jimmy- would like to see AC address king line and king sport issues.

VII. New Business

I. Discuss Board of Fisheries Proposals for Submission by May 10th deadline

- Moses confirms- three issues mentioned in public comments to be brought in writing to the AC for the next meeting.
 - Kulukuk set net distance from shore
 - Transfer date
 - King line

II. Discuss Changes to Board Meeting Schedule

- Taryn O'Connor-Brito, provided short update on changes to board schedule.

- BOG cycle pushed back until next year. Special meeting on March 18th will address wheather to re-open call for proposals.
- BOF plans to take up two cycle's worth of meetings next year, extended call for proposals until May 10th. Special meeting on March 8th will address schedule.
- Taryn will keep the AC updated as this develops.
- AC doesn't have any comments on schedule at this time.

VIII. Miscellaneous Business:

- I. Discuss of approval of minutes and other items for submission.
 - AC secretary excused today
 - Taryn and Walter taking notes
 - Minutes will be available for approval for the next AC meeting.

- II. Discuss date and agenda items for next Togiak AC teleconference
 - Next meeting call of the chair date TBD
 - Purpose of meeting to approve fisheries proposals for submission.
 - Walter would like to see Jimmy's concern about king salmon on agenda.

IX. Jimmy moves to Adjourn around 1:00pm

Minutes Recorded by Walter Kopyly
Minutes Approved by Peter Lockuli Sr.
Date 1/05/2022