

**Minutes**  
**Naknek Kvichak Fish and Game Advisory Committee**  
**Wednesday, September 28, 2022, 7:00pm**  
**and Monday October 3, 2022, 7:00pm**  
**Dolly's Hall**

I. Call to Order: 7:23 by Regan

II. Roll Call-

Members Present 9/28/22:

Everett Thompson, George Wilson Jr, Marc Watson, John Wise, Ralph Zimin, Joey Klutsch, Joe Klutsch, Richard Wilson, Patricia Edel, William Regan

Members Absent 9/28/22:

Graham Morrison

Members Present 10/3/22:

Everett Thompson, George Wilson Jr, Marc Watson, John Wise, Ralph Zimin, Joe Klutsch, Richard Wilson, William Regan

Members Absent 10/3/22:

Patricia Edel, Joey Klutsch

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 5 members

III. Fish and Game Staff Present: Taryn O'Connor-Brito, Boards staff; Lee Borden sports fish; Travis Ellison Com fish; David Bump, Wildlife Troopers

IV. Guests Present: Cody Larson, BBNA

V. Approval of Agenda Thompson moved to approve, Watson 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimous

VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes Watson moved March 30, 2022, minutes, Thompson 2<sup>nd</sup> pass unanimous

VII. Elections for membership:

Everett Thompson nominates Ralph Zimin, William Regan Jr, John Wise, and Patricia Edel to retain their seats on the committee for another term and reports Graham Morrison not interested in running for another term. No further nominations. Members unopposed and retained by unanimous consent.

VIII. Reports

- a. Chair's report, Regan would like a letter sent off to the state board of fish to address or answer our questions that we have on our river system with concerns to king salmon, rainbows in regards to our board proposals to address the issues here.
- b. ADF&G Borden stated that the latest report done on the Naknek river system showed that the overall rainbow population is doing well and mirrors 1999 study done. Abundance of older large sized fish, mid-size was low and smaller class rainbows was doing very well too.

Ellison stated a record 2022 commercial fishery. Largest harvest and run on record. Discussed Naknek, Kvichak district catches and also allocation of setnet to drift permit harvest records. It has been trending towards setnet harvesting more than historic average but with the size of run and number of drift boats it's hard to manage.

Other board members talked at length over the king salmon decline and what has the state of Alaska done to limit the draggers and area M fisherman to limit their harvest of king salmon. Every commercial entity has given up some time, area or both in protecting the kings, why hasn't the other user groups in our region been held to the same level?

IX. Public Comment: None

X. New Business:

Board of Fisheries Bristol Bay Finfish Proposals (see table below).

AC called a recess on 9/28/2022 at 10:18pm following discussion of proposal 38 and returned at 7:00pm on 10/3/2022 to continue the agenda picking up with proposal 39.

XI. Everett Thompson selected to represent AC at BOF Bristol Bay meeting

XII. Next meeting date tentatively set for January 25<sup>th</sup>

XIII. Other

XIV. Adjourn 9:35pm

## Alaska Board of Fisheries: Bristol Bay Proposals

November 29 – December 3, 2022 | Anchorage, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support/ Support as amended/ Oppose/No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (pros & cons), Voting Notes, Amendments
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
<a href="#">11</a>	Make numerous amendments to the Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Management Plan.		
support	10	0	Wilson stated that he was on this committee that drew up this proposal and all user groups were at attendance and had input in creating this. Full support
<a href="#">12</a>	Make several changes to the management plan to reduce commercial king salmon harvest and increase sockeye salmon harvest.		
No action	10	0	Felt like proposal 11 did a better job.
<a href="#">13</a>	Structure fishing periods in the Nushagak District so that pulses of king salmon, not subjected to commercial fishing pressure, may enter the Nushagak River.		
Oppose	0	10	Wilson said that this person was in the previous working group that created proposal 11, I felt let down with yet another stab at commercial fisherman from the sport industry. We all have been getting along for years and with proposals like this it will continue a fight with no end.
<a href="#">14</a>	Reinstate provision that set gillnets are the only lawful gear for subsistence fishing for salmon in the Naknek, Alagnak, and Wood River Special Harvest Areas.		
support	10	0	Full support with no discussion
<a href="#">16</a>	Repeal requirement that subsistence salmon fishing permits for the Naknek River Drainage may only be obtained at the King Salmon office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.		
support	10	0	Board full support limited discussion
<a href="#">17</a>	Limit guided angler access to sport fishing in a section of the Naknek River.		
Support	10	0	Klutsch felt that previous board cycle didn't address our issues and concerns for which this proposal is in front of us again to help address problem with too many operators on the Naknek river, full support from local ac committee members
<a href="#">18</a>	Prohibit the use of salmon eggs for sport fishing.		
Oppose	0	10	No support from ac Naknek main river is close from March thru November to bait fishing anyway.

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<a href="#"><u>19</u></a>	Prohibit the use of certain sport fishing tackle in a section of the Naknek River.		
Support	10	0	Edel and Klutsch rainbows with swallow hooks deeper in mouth and mortality is higher with egg pattern hooks, Ideal tackle for targeting mid-size rainbows which are our future stocks which has been hit hard on our river
<a href="#"><u>21</u></a>	Prohibit harvest of rainbow trout by nonresident anglers in a section of the Naknek river drainage.		
Support	10	0	Borden stated only about 20 are taken by non-residents and about 160 rainbows are taken by Alaskan residents on the Naknek river systems. Not much of an issue
<a href="#"><u>22</u></a>	Close Big Creek to sport fishing for salmon.		
Support	7	3	
<a href="#"><u>23</u></a>	Allow retention of king salmon less than 20 inches in length in Big Creek.		
Opposed	0	10	Edel said this goes against what everyone has been trying to do in protecting our kings. Borden said jacks are the first fish into a new area of habitat also are spawners as well so they contribute to the overall population.
<a href="#"><u>24</u></a>	Reduce king salmon bag and possession limits and prohibit harvest of female king salmon in the Naknek River drainage.		
Support	10	0	Klutsch said that sports hunters are having to distinguish between sex's or size limits from hundreds of yards away. Sports fishers should be able to tell between a male and female king. Difficult to manage and enforce
<a href="#"><u>25</u></a>	Reduce king salmon bag and possession limits and prohibit harvest of female king salmon in the Naknek River drainage.		
Support	10	0	Similar to proposal 24 same action
<a href="#"><u>26</u></a>	Close tributaries and upper section of the Naknek River to sport fishing for king salmon.		
Support	10	0	Here is another local resident trying to help conserve kings for the future and will have ac full support
<a href="#"><u>27</u></a>	Create a nonresident annual limit for coho salmon in the Naknek River drainage.		

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Support	10	0	There isn't much data on coho population and local operators are seeing a decline in numbers. This is a good place to start.
<a href="#">30</a>	Create a youth-only sport fishery in the Naknek River drainage.		
Support	10	0	There are other areas in Alaska that has this type of youth fisheries and is very much needed here. Across the board in all industries getting youth involved and excited about a field is difficult. This would provide much needed access without other commercial operators being involved and pushing out youth's from fishing
<a href="#">31</a>	Require reporting of king salmon harvest in guided sport fisheries and commercial fisheries in Bristol Bay.		
Oppose	0	10	Wise said com fisherman are already required to report all kings caught. The sports commercial fishery needs to have reporting done.
<a href="#">32</a>	Require reporting of king salmon harvest in guided sport fisheries and commercial fisheries in Bristol Bay.		
Oppose	0	10	Similar to proposal 31
<a href="#">34</a>	Increase minimum distance between units of drift and set gillnet gear in the Ugashik District.		
Opposed	1	9	The area is upriver and getting into navigable waters
<a href="#">35</a>	Increase minimum distance between units set and drift gillnet gear.		
Oppose	1	9	Board member stated there are regulations already on the books for this matter we don't need to duplicate it
<a href="#">36</a>	Limit the length of drift gillnet tows to 100 feet.		
Oppose	3	7	Majority of the members felt the long tow lines are getting out of hand, needs to have something on the books. Another felt we don't need others to dictate how another individual fishes. We have enough restrictions on gear and length why this as well.

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<a href="#">37</a>	Limit the length of drift gillnet toelines to 100 feet.		
Oppose	3	7	Same action as proposal 36
<a href="#">38</a>	Limit the length of drift gillnet toelines to 25 fathoms.		
Oppose	3	7	Same action as proposal 36
<a href="#">39</a>	Prohibit placement of set gillnet gear on the shore fishery lease site of another set gillnet permit holder.		
Oppose	0	8	There is regulation on the books as to requirements of set net gear.
<a href="#">40</a>	Increase area available to set gillnet fishermen in the Graveyard Point area.		
Oppose	0	8	Ellison said it would open a little more area on the west side of Kvichak district and increase opportunity. A board member commercial fishes over the top end of Kvichak and there is no set net sites for at least a mile down stream. There isn't any reason to get more area that the set net fishers don't even use currently
<a href="#">42</a>	Repeal provisions allowing operation of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet from a vessel with two CFEC permit holders onboard.		
Oppose	0	8	A board member stated that original intent was to remove 100 fathoms of gear out of the water and allow another permit holder that didn't have a working vessel to fish with another and still participate in the fishery. Another felt both the management and processors don't want the conditions of weather they can have dual permit stacking change every three years. Hard to run a business with that uncertainty
<a href="#">43</a>	Repeal provisions allowing operation of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet from a vessel with two CFEC permit holders onboard.		
Oppose	0	8	Similar proposal as 42
<a href="#">44</a>	Review provisions allowing operation of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet from a vessel with two CFEC permit holders onboard.		
Oppose	0	8	There is dual permit system already in place. No need to change what is and has been working

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<a href="#">45</a>	Provide drift gillnet vessels with a single permit holder onboard more fishing opportunity per opening than vessels with two permit holders onboard.		
Oppose	0	8	Difficult to inforce and making special area and time for single permit holders isn't reasonable.
<a href="#">46</a>	Allow permit stacking in the Bristol Bay commercial salmon drift gillnet fishery.		
Oppose	0	8	Everyone feels like the current model has been working since it started, we don't need to change the dual permit stacking issueat this time.
<a href="#">47</a>	Allow permit stacking in the Bristol Bay commercial salmon drift gillnet fishery.		
Oppose	0	8	Same proposal as 46
<a href="#">49</a>	Reestablish a General District Salmon Management Plan.		
Oppose	2	6	Some felt this would allow those that want to fish late especially in Egegik district they can because a select few go way over the line and makes it in possible to fish without breaking the law. When troopers have less enforcement, it becomes a real issue. Others felt that those sockeye milling around have not headed up towards there rivers of origin and could be all caught there for harm a small river or stream system
<a href="#">50</a>	Reestablish a General District Salmon Management Plan.		
Oppose	0	8	This idea was tried years ago and harmed Kvichak river system for years, this is a bad idea. Early fishing is about conserving Kings
<a href="#">51</a>	Reestablish a General District Salmon Management Plan.		

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Oppose	2	6	Tax base would become an issue and along with delivering of sockeye to tenders traveling from different districts. How can management distinguish their origin. Others felt that the open waters would make those that want to fish late have to find fish and become fisherman instead of sitting at district lines and be the first net in the water
<a href="#">52</a>	Reestablish a General District Salmon Management Plan.		
Oppose	2	6	Same as proposal 51
<a href="#">53</a>	Reestablish a General District Salmon Management Plan.		
Oppose	2	6	Same as proposal 51
<a href="#">54</a>	Adopt an Eastside Bristol Bay late-season management plan.		
Oppose	2	6	Same as proposal 51
<a href="#">55</a>	Align Naknek Section southern boundary line with Naknek-Kvichak District southern boundary line.		
No action	8	0	Some discussion.
<a href="#">56</a>	Allow drift gillnet fishermen to make 'test sets' under certain circumstances.		
Oppose	0	8	Management would complicate to manage. Other did like when you didn't have to drop your registration card for district to fish until the 25 <sup>th</sup> .
<a href="#">57</a>	Repeal set and drift gillnet allocations in the Naknek-Kvichak District.		
Oppose	0	8	Overall wanted to keep the current allocation management plan in place. There have been years that only one user group in the Kvichak district was able to fish, making an exclusive area. The districts need to be managed per there district allocation of drift to set net plans.
<a href="#">58</a>	Provide increased commercial salmon fishing opportunity in the Naknek River Special Harvest Area.		

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Oppose	0	8	No one on the ac wanted to fish in river again. Commercial fishing belongs out in the regular district.
<a href="#">59</a>	Repeal provisions directing the department to avoid continuous fishing with set gillnet gear in the Egegik District.		
No action	8	0	Due to action on prop 60
<a href="#">60</a>	Align the Ugashik District fall fishing schedule with the Naknek-Kvichak District and Egegik District fall fishing schedules.		
Support	8	0	It made sense to align all district late fishing to the same schedule.
<a href="#">61</a>	Require reporting of king salmon harvest by size class on fish tickets.		
Support	8	0	we can see how complicated it would be to try and manage on a fishing vessel during a storm with loads of fish on deck. To try and make sure the size of kings caught and reported properly would be a huge issue.
<a href="#">62</a>	Allow all commercial gear types to fish for herring simultaneously in Bristol Bay.		
Support	8	0	Any time we can help local fisherman keep what little they have left the better local resident fisherman will be in the future

Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: George Wilson Jr \_\_\_\_\_

Minutes Approved By: \_Everett Thompson\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_11/14/22\_\_\_\_\_