

**Homer Advisory Committee  
Dec 13, 2022  
Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Building  
2181 Kachemak Drive**

- I. Call to Order: 6:10 by Dave Lyon, chair
- II. Roll Call  
Members Present (13):  
Dave Lyon (chair), Thomas Hagberg (vice chair), George Matz (secretary), Wes Humbyrd, Doug Malone, Bob Nathanson, Michael Craig, Dan Anderson, Matt Hakala, Joey Allred, Marvin Peters, Tom Young, Malcom Milne,  
Members Absent: Morgan Jones, William Roth, Losif Martishev.  
  
Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8  
  
List of User Groups Present: None
- III. Fish and Game Staff Present: Jason Herreman, Thomas McDonough, Michael Guttery
- IV. Guests Present: Andrew Fetterhoff, Gabe King, Jim Herbert, Brent Cathem, Avery Cathem, Sue Christiansen, Dave Seaman, Penelope Haas, Ander Gustafson, Joe Brewer.
- V. Approval of Agenda: Approved
- VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Previously approved.
- VII. Reports: Jason Herreman, with support from Thomas McDonough gave a report on this year's moose harvest for GMU 15. He essentially said that the number of hunters and harvest were close to the average. There was also discussion about winter range for 15C moose. Recent ADF&G studies show that not all moose migrate down to lower elevations, like the Homer bench.  
  
Michael Guttery gave a brief review as to how ADF&G conducts sea duck surveys. In open waters, such as west of the Homer Spit, surveys are done by ADF&G biologists using boats that follow transects. In tandem, a USFWS plane fly's the same transect. In fiords such as Sadie Cove, surveys are done by boat following the shoreline. The surveys cover all of Kachemak Bay and take a couple of days to complete depending on weather. He said a limiting factor with doing surveys is funding, costing about \$30,000. Consequently, sea duck surveys in Kachemak Bay are not done every year.  
  
Trends for sea ducks vary. Examples he gave are.  
Bufflehead: increasing by 2.04% annually

Goldeneye: decreasing by -0.74% annually  
Harlequin ducks: increasing by 1.17% annually  
Long-tailed ducks: decreasing by -0.37% annually  
Mallards: decreasing by -7.14% annually

Michael participated in the open discussion we had when considering sea duck proposals. There was some discussion about the Sea Duck Survey citizen science project done the last two years in early March by Kachemak Bay residents. Michael reiterated that getting sea duck population data is difficult, particularly abundance estimates. He did acknowledge however that this kind of survey could provide an index of abundance and if done over a series of years could provide a trendline that could be useful for management purposes.

- VIII. Public Comment: There was no formal testimony, but it was an open meeting and the public frequently made comments, particularly with regard the sea duck proposals. Everyone was respectful.
- IX. Old Business: At our November meeting we had a lengthy discussion about our elections and the who's terms are expiring. See minutes for the Nov. meeting for more detail. The upshot of the discussion was that having elections in January works best for the Homer AC. Having elections during the summer, when we normally don't have meetings, runs the risk of not having a quorum. Having elections in Nov. or Dec. gets complicated with travel plans etc. by members and those who may want to become an AC member. In addition, we need to reconcile when we have elections and when terms begin with the Boards Section roster for the Homer AC. We also need to take into account that we extended everyone's term by a year during the pandemic when we didn't have meetings for a year.

Secretary George Matz went over the data and came up with an AC member spreadsheet from 2020 till now that makes these adjustments. He also recommended that we no longer list the terms as expiring on June 30 and change it to Dec. 31 with new terms starting at our Jan. elections. This not only matches how we operate but is more consistent with AC regulations that say terms should last three years. The Boards Section approach resulted in 2 ½ year terms.

A motion was made and seconded that terms take effect immediately after our Jan. elections and expire on Dec. 31 three years later. The motion was approved unanimously.

Attached is a spreadsheet that lists the expiration date for each current member's term. The spreadsheet also sorts each AC member according to their term expiration date in chronological order to allow easy search.

- X. New Business: Brief discussion about Jan. elections and which AC members terms expire.

- XI. Set next meeting date: Jan. 10, 2023

<b>Alaska Board of Game Southcentral Region Meeting Proposals</b> March 17-21, 2023   Soldotna, AK			
<b>Proposal Number</b>	<b>Proposal Description</b>		
<b>Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action</b>	<b>Number Support</b>	<b>Number Oppose</b>	<b>Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes</b>
<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>			
118	Change the general season, resident bag limit for moose in Unit 15 to include bulls with fork antlers		
	0	13 - 0	Jason did not think it is timely to increase moose harvest in 15C by allowing hunt for bulls with forked antlers. He said that biologist have the authority to do this if it were justified.
127	Extend the TM549 moose hunting season in Unit 15C, Southwest of Point Pogibshi		
	12	1 - 0	The average harvest from this area is only two moose. Any increase in harvest will likely be minimal and sustainable. Also, most of the land here is privately owned, so this has limited application.
128	Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 15C		
			See November minutes
129	Expand the hunt area boundaries for the antlerless moose hunt in Unit 15C		
	11	2 - 0	Jason said that this proposal dilutes the original intent of this hunt which was to provide additional hunting opportunity and to reduce conflict between people living on the Homer Bench and moose starving during winter months. This has since proven to be a popular hunt. However, circumstances have since changed. More residential development on the Homer Bench has limited the area available for this hunt. Also, we now know that moose are still in the backcountry above Homer despite the deeper snows. Given these changes, it makes sense to expand the boundaries of the hunt to include a larger percentage of the local moose population. This could also reduce potential conflict with some residents. Those opposed are not in favor of cow hunts.
131	Reauthorize the antlerless moose season on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B		

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	13	0 - 0	No discussion needed.
163	Rescind the bag limit restrictions for sea duck hunting in Unit 15C		
	0	11 - 2	The gist of this proposal runs counter to the discussions that the AC has had over the past several months in response to local residents who are not opposed to sea duck hunting but believe that sea duck populations in the Kachemak Bay area have been in decline for some time (for a number of reasons) and that current harvest regulations are essentially based on past population estimates rather than current conditions. This can result in nonsustainable harvest levels and even local extirpation as we have seen with other species. No one has supported the basis of this proposal that "harvest assessments need to be examined from a fly-way wide or large region perspective." In contrast local residents, including duck hunters, are asking for a sustainable harvest of sea ducks that is based on current local populations or trends and local harvest data. A recurring point of discussion is that since most sea ducks are taken for trophy, not eating, reducing harvest eliminates waste, not hunting opportunity.
164	Reduce the bag limit for goldeneye in Units 7 and 15		
	11	0 - 2	This is a Homer AC generated proposal that was the result of a number of discussions with local Kachemak Bay residents. ADF&G biologists said at this meeting that goldeneye are "decreasing by -0.74% annually."
165	Reduce the bag limit for goldeneye in Unit 15C		
	11	0 - 2	Considered in tandem with #164.
166	Reduce the bag limit for bufflehead in Units 7 and 15		
	12	0 - 1	This is a Homer AC generated proposal that was the result of a number of discussions with local Kachemak Bay residents.
167	Reduce the bag limit for bufflehead in Unit 15C		
	12	0 - 1	Considered in tandem with #166.
168	Reduce the bag limit for harlequin duck for Units 7 and 15		
	0	11 - 2	The Homer AC submitted this proposal. ADF&G biologists said that Harlequin trends show an increasing population. Also, the proposal would reduce the Kachemak Bay daily bag limit from one to two which was not considered to be significant. Accordingly, the AC decided not to support its own proposal. After some further consideration the AC decided by a vote of 11-2-0 to withdraw the proposal. There was some question as to whether this can be done.

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169	Reduce the bag limit for harlequin in Unit 15C		
	0	11 - 2	Considered in tandem with #168.
170	Reduce the bag limit for long-tailed duck in Units 7 and 15		
	0	13 - 0	The Homer AC submitted this proposal. The concern raised by a duck hunting guide is that 1 duck is essentially closing out the hunt and not worth the effort. There is not much hunting pressure for this species since it is mostly in open water. Any harvest would not amount to much, whether or not the bag-limit is reduced. The lower populations of Long-tailed Ducks in Kachemak Bay now compared to past years may be due mostly to closing of the cannery and no fish waste that attracted ducks. There was a motion to withdraw the proposal, which passed 12 – 1 – 0. The one objection was because it might still be beneficial for the Board of Game to have this discussion.
171	Direct ADF&G to implement a method for accurate reporting of sea duck harvest for Units 6, 7 and 15		
	12	1 - 0	The Homer submitted this proposal. While AC members would like to see management of sea duck hunting based on harvest data specifically from Kachemak Bay, and not Pacific Flyway data which is admittedly useless when applied to local, and even state-wide, management, but there are extenuating issues such as budgets. The AC encourages the Board of Game to discuss the logistics as to how we can have local management based on local harvest. Jason Herreman mentioned that estimating black bear abundance is also difficult and that black bear harvest in 15C is managed based on harvest data, not abundance surveys.
172	Require mandatory harvest reporting for sea ducks in Kachemak Bay in Unit 15C		
			No Action. See comments on proposal #171.

Adjournment: 8:20

Minutes Recorded By: George Matz

Minutes Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: December 18, 2022