

MINUTES

KOYUKUK RIVER Fish and Game Advisory Committee Meeting MINUTES

Tuesday, February 15th, 2022 by Teleconference

- I. Call to Order: 1:54 pm by Jack Reakoff
- II. Roll Call
Members Present: Jack Reakoff, Darrel Vent, Charles Ned, Jack Wholecheese, Vincent Simon, Janet Bifelt (alternate for Hughes, appointed 2/15/22), Hugh Bifelt
Members Absent (Excused):
Members Absent (Unexcused): Shawn Bergman, Shawn Huffman, Harding Sam, Jared Sam, Wilmer Beetus
Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 6
- III. Fish and Game Staff Present: Kyle Campbell, Glenn Stout, Sara Longson, Shane Ransbury, Sam Decker, Bob Rebarchik
- IV. Guests Present: Bruce Ervin,
- V. Approval of Agenda: (not addressed)
- VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: 2/3/2022-tabled until next meeting (and previous years minutes that were tabled: 2/2/2021) –
- VII. New Business: Recommendations on Board of Game regulations proposals (see pages 2-6)
- VIII. Select representative(s) for board meeting: Jack Reakoff
- IX. Set next meeting date: TBD
- X. Other:
Bruce Ervin shared concerns with Proposal 244 that would eliminate all community subsistence harvest hunts and requested that members oppose it.

Discussion of gill net mesh size requirements and the Board of Fisheries 2022-2023 Call for Proposals, and the poor salmon runs last year.

Brief discussion of vacant and expired seats, and options for elections.

Adjournment: 5:24pm, by Charles Ned

Minutes Recorded By: Kyle Campbell (DFG Boards Support)

Minutes Approved By: Jack Reakoff

Date: 2/23/22 [by email]

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Alaska Board of Game [Statewide Regulations Meeting Proposals](#)

March 4-12, 2022 | Fairbanks, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description (for full descriptions, please visit the online proposal book) 2021-2022 Proposal Book: Alaska Board of Game, Alaska Department of Fish and Game		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<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>			
129	Require the use of expanding (soft point) bullets for big game hunting, excluding wolf and wolverine		
SUPPORT	7	0	<p>Members are concerned with proposals that serve to reduce wounded/unrecovered game and wanton waste.</p> <p>Members are in support of prohibiting the use of full metal jacket bullets in high caliber rifles for hunting moose and caribou.</p> <p>Additional comments from members: ammunition can be difficult and expensive to purchase, and sometimes you have to use what you can get. This has the potential to affect a lot of people.</p>
135	Repeal the restriction on the use of aircraft for locating Dall sheep for hunting		
OPPOSE	0	7	Although it may be difficult to enforce the restrictions, it is very important to not allow aircraft to be used for locating sheep during the hunting season, especially given current population trends.
136	Rescind the restriction on use of aircraft for locating Dall sheep for hunting		
OPPOSE	0	7	This committee is strongly opposed to removing restrictions on using aircraft for spotting sheep during sheep season.
137	Repeal the restriction on the use of aircraft for locating Dall sheep for hunting		

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OPPOSE	0	7	This committee is strongly opposed to removing restrictions on using aircraft for spotting sheep during sheep season.
138	Restrict aircraft use for locating Dall sheep for hunting, for all open seasons		
SUPPORT	7	0	Members are strongly in favor of restricting aircraft use for sheep hunting. Comment about upper Koyukuk area and aircraft use for sheep hunting and spotting: It's disturbing for subsistence users in the region to see the poor condition of meat salvaged from non-subsistence sheep hunters flying out of Bettles and other communities, and increased aircraft use by non-subsistence hunters in many parts of the region over the years has created intense competition for this limited resource. The AC discussed drafting a proposal to further limit the use of aircraft for sheep hunting in the region.
139	Restrict the use of aircraft for making multiple, consecutive approaches near Dall sheep for hunting		
SUPPORT	7	0	Members are in support of precluding aircraft from making multiple approaches on Dall sheep. Members feel like their voices have not been heard by the administration on this issue in the past, and would like to see the use of aircraft for spotting Dall sheep for hunting to be eliminated altogether.
162	Require the salvage of the meat or hide of snowshoe hare		
SUPPORT	7	0	Support for the reasons stated in the proposal.
163	Count wounded big game animals towards the hunter's bag limit for all units and require additional action in the field from hunters that attempt to take game		
SUPPORT	7	0	Members discussed circumstances in which this proposal would help prevent wanton waste of big game animals. Enforcement may be difficult, but along roadways where wounded animals are more likely to be spotted by others, this proposal, if adopted, would allow for a mechanism for

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			enforcement and would encourage hunters to track and retrieve wounded game rather than to move on and continue to hunt for other (not wounded) targets.
164	Count wounded big game animals towards nonresident hunter's bag limit for all units, excluding the one sheep and one bear every four years		
SUPPORT	7	0	See comments for Proposal 163
172	Clarify the legal use of highway vehicles, snow machines and off-road vehicles in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area (DHCMA) for hunting and trapping. Clarify the use of firearms, and transport of furbearers and trapping bait when trapping in the DHCMA		
OPPOSE AS WRITTEN; MOTION TO SUPPORT AS AMENDED CARRIED 7-0	0	7	<p>Motion to submit recommendations for amendment carried 7-0</p> <p>Recommend amendments:</p> <p>(1) <i>Clarification to allow snowmachine use in Dalton highway corridor for both access to trap lines and to transport legally defined big game bait. Licensed trapping is a very important management tool to harvest fur bearers under trapping regulations. Travel to and from homes within or outside the Dalton Highway Corridor for management by licensed trappers should not be impeded. Firearms to take free ranging furbearers has always been allowed in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area under trapping licenses and should continue. Restricting trappers' ability to take predators would be detrimental to big game populations and could cause the reduction of opportunity for subsistence and other users.</i></p> <p>(2)</p>

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<p>Proposal 172 (continued)</p>			<p><i>Clarification to allow residents of north of the Yukon River to travel to their homes from the Dalton Highway, residents of Wiseman, Coldfoot, Steven’s Village, Anaktuvik Pass, Allakaket, Alatna, Hughes, Huslia, Evansville, Bettles, & Nuiqsut should be permitted to travel from the Dalton Highway to their homes with legally taken game. Access by residents using licensed highway vehicles should be allowed year-round on winter roads to these villages in order to transport game parts, gear, or hunters & hunting gear, as defined in regulation. Specifically, the residents should have access to the oil field roads to Nuiqsut, the winter roads to Steven’s Village, Anaktuvik Pass, Bettles, Evansville, Allakaket, Hughes, Huslia, and Alatna, and the year-round roads to property and businesses in Wiseman.</i></p> <p><i>(3)</i> <i>Clarification to allow licensed highway vehicles to transport hunters, game parts, and gear within <u>one mile</u> of the highway. The current half-mile restriction does not allow subsistence and other hunters to access boat launching sites into the Koyukuk and Sagavanirktok drainages that have side road accesses outside the quarter mile limit. Some hunters are currently accessing legal boat launch sites up to 18 river miles from logical accesses. This clarification to allow licensed highway vehicles should be changed to state that licensed highway vehicles (excluding ATVs) may transport game parts, hunters, or gear within <u>one mile</u> of the highway.</i></p>
173	Repeal the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area		
OPPOSE	0	7	Repealing the DHCMA would be highly detrimental to wildlife populations and habitat.
244	Eliminate all community subsistence harvest hunts		

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OPPOSE	0	7	Members listened to public comment, and are not in support of eliminating subsistence harvest opportunities without sufficient rationale.
245	Eliminate the requirement to salvage rib meat on the bone for moose, caribou and bison		
OPPOSE	0	7	Removing rib meat from the bone increases the risk of wanton waste/meat spoilage. Leaving meat on the bone helps prevent this.
261	Reauthorize resident grizzly/brown bear tag fee exemptions throughout Interior and Northeast Alaska		
SUPPORT	7	0	Support for the reasons stated in the proposal.
271	Establish a definition for "position" as it applies to using a snowmachine to take game		
OPPOSE AS WRITTEN; MOTION TO SUPPORT AS AMENDED CARRIED 7-0	0	7	<p>Motion to oppose the proposal as written: carried 7-0</p> <p>AC Comments: This proposal should not be passed as written, it fails to fully consider the use of snowmachines for hunting and trapping in rural areas. Restrictions that apply to hunters using snowmachines to harvest caribou should not be uniformly applied to subsistence hunters and trappers harvesting wolves and wolverines. ***** ****</p> <p>Motion to submit recommended amended language: carries 7-0</p> <p>Recommended amended language:</p> <p><i>"except that a snowmachine may be used by a hunter to select an individual wolf or wolverine for harvest with no speed or distance restrictions. A wolf or wolverine may be shot from a stationary snow machine."</i></p>

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Proposal 271 (continued)			<p>***** ***</p> <p>Motion to recommend proposed definition of position to apply to the harvest of caribou only: carries 7-0</p> <p>Recommend proposed definition of position to be applied to the harvest of caribous only as follows:</p> <p><i>“a snowmachine may be used to position caribou and caribou may be shot from a stationary snowmachine. "position" means a snowmachine may be used to approach within 300 yards of a caribou at speeds under 15 miles per hour, in a manner that does not involve repeated approaches or that causes a caribou to run. A snowmachine may not be used to contact an animal or to pursue a fleeing caribou.”</i></p>

Minutes Recorded By: Kyle Campbell (DFG Boards Support)

Minutes Approved By: Jack Reakoff

Date: 2/23/22 [by email]