

Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee
01/12/2023
Zoom

I. Call to Order: [5:07] by Mitch Seybert

II. Roll Call

Members Present:

Mitch Seybert

Mike Enright

Kim Rice

Catie Bursch

Tracey Vrem

Jordan Dyer

Brian Cato

Mary West

Members Absent (Excused):

Timothy Enright

Members Absent :

Jimmy Christiansen

John Christiansen Jr

Eddie Clark

Gerald Olson

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: Seven (Due to vacancies or Egegik and Port Heiden)

List of User Groups Present: Commercial fishing, Subsistence fishing, Subsistence Hunting, Guided hunting.

III. Fish and Game Staff Present:

- a. Taryn O'Connor-Brito, Boards Support Southwest Region Coordinator
- b. Jeff Wadley -ADFG Westward Regional Coordinator
- c. Aaron Tiernan ADFG BB Egegik/Ugashik Com fish
- d. Charles Russel – ADFG N. AK Peninsula Com fish biologist
- e. Lisa Fox – ADFG S. AK Peninsula Com fish biologist
- f. AK state trooper Travis Lons

- IV. Guests Present:
 - a. Dave Bendinger OBI seafoods
- V. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Motion by Tracey Vrem. Seconded by M. Enright. Agenda approved unanimously.
- VI. Reports
 - a. Chair's report – Thanks to ADFG staff for showing up in the evening. Looking forward to working together.
 - b. ADF&G staff – Aaron Tiernan on new BB BOF changes. Trooper Long on drift boat lengths. Charles Russel spoke on Chignik escapement goals and triggering SE mainland and Cape Igvak fishing. Lisa Fox answered questions on changing boundaries and WASSIP.
 - c. Others
- VII. Public Comment
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
 - a. Board of Fish Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Island/ Chignik Finfish Proposals
 - b. Board of Fish Statewide Finfish Proposals

Alaska Board of Fisheries: Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Island/Chignik February 20-25, 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>			
98	Modify waters closed to subsistence fishing for salmon to increase access for subsistence users who are not commercial salmon fishery permit holders.		
No action			
99	Prohibit retention of king salmon and establish closed areas in the King Salmon River and Ridgerunner Creek.		
No action			
100	Prohibit retention of king salmon in King Salmon and Milky Rivers and Ridgerunner Creek.		
No action			
101	Prohibit retention of king salmon in King Salmon River and Ridgerunner Creek.		
No action			
102	Prohibit retention of king salmon in King Salmon River and tributaries of Bear River.		
No action			
103	Reduce the bag and possession limit for coho and sockeye salmon in the salt waters and freshwater drainages of Cold Bay.		
No action			
104	Repeal the closed water provisions for salmon fishing in Swanson Lagoon within the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.		
No action			
105	Amend the Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan to reflect changes to Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement goals.		
No action			
106	Amend the Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan to increase inriver escapement of sockeye salmon prior to opening a commercial fishery by emergency order.		
No action			
107	Modify the Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan to allow more commercial fishing time by opening commercial salmon fishing periods regardless of sockeye salmon escapement.		
No action			

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108	Amend the Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan to implement commercial salmon fishing periods in June.		
No action			
109	Amend the Chignik Area Management Plan to allow period openings to harvest more salmon in the Central District and repeal the inriver run goal in August and September.		
No action			
110	Amend the Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan to restrict commercial fishing periods in Chignik Lagoon until the escapement goal has been met.		
No action			
111	Amend the Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan to increase commercial salmon fishing time and area in the Eastern District in August.		
No action			
112	Amend the Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan to include a harvest cap in the Eastern District to reduce commercial salmon fishing time.		
No action			
113	Amend the Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan to allow post-June commercial salmon fishing periods.		
No action			
114	Amend the Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan to allow post-June commercial salmon fishing periods.		
No action			
115	Amend the Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan so that pink, chum and coho salmon stocks in the Western and Perryville Sections of Registration Area L will be managed based on the strength of the pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks in the Stepovak and Shumagin Islands Sections of Registration Area M.		
No action			
116	Modify the Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan to manage the Western and Perryville Districts of Registration Area L based on the strength of the pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks in the Southeast District Mainland (SEDM) Section of Registration Area M.		
No action			
117	Amend the fishing districts, sections, and subsections to increase fishing time and area by creating new sections in outside waters of the Chignik Management Area.		
No action			

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118	Amend the districts, sections and subsections and the management plan to increase commercial fishing time and area in the Western and Perryville Districts in August.		
No action			
119	Amend allowable gear in the Chignik Management Area to include troll gear, create a management plan to include a commercial troll fishery and amend regulations in Chapter 29 Salmon Troll Fishery to include the Chignik Management Area.		
No action			
120	Modify fishing periods in the Northern District.		
Oppose	0	8	Motion by Brian Cato. Seconded by Tracey Vrem. We support the existing abundance-based management to allow management biologists to have more control over individual run
121	Amend the fishing season in the Three Hills Section to increase potential fishing time and aligning sections to similar fishing periods.		
Oppose	0	8	Motion by Catie Bursch. Seconded by Jordan Dyer. Concern this may take Nelson Lagoon fish while this run is in decline.
122	Amend fishing seasons to allow more commercial fishing time by allowing fishing periods in the Cinder River Section.		
Oppose	0	8	Motion by Catie Bursch. Seconded by Brian Cato. Fishermen from the local area have fished setnet and drift boats in Cinder River quite a bit in the past and had enough water to operate. It is not too shallow to fish. If two setnetters went in and fished they could take care of the over escapement in a very clean way without putting more demand on enforcement with new outer district and line fishery. This area would be too close to the terminal fishery of Ugashik and would result in large numbers of Ugashik fish being harvested in an interception fishery only 7 miles away.
123	Amend fishing seasons to allow more fishing time and area for set net gear in the Cinder River Section.		

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Support/ Support as amended/ Oppose/N o Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (pros & cons), Voting Notes, Amendments
Oppose	0	8	Motion to open; Brian Cato. Seconded by Jordan Dyer. Fishermen from the local area have fished setnet and drift boats in Cinder River quite a bit in the past and had enough water to operate. It is not too shallow to fish. If two setnetters went in and fished they could take care of the over escapement in a very clean way without putting more demand on enforcement with new outer district and line fishery. This area would be too close to the terminal fishery of Ugashik and would result in large numbers of Ugashik fish being harvested in an interception fishery only 7 miles away.
124	Amend fishing seasons, fishing periods and gear to allow more commercial fishing time to all Registration Area M gear types in the Cinder River Section.		
Oppose	0	8	Motion by Brian Cato. Seconded by Mike Enright. Fishermen from the local area have fished setnet and drift boats in Cinder River quite a bit in the past and had enough water to operate. It is not too shallow to fish. If two setnetters went in and fished they could take care of the over escapement in a very clean way without putting more demand on enforcement with new outer district and line fishery. This area would be too close to the terminal fishery of Ugashik and would result in large numbers of Ugashik fish being harvested in an interception fishery only 7 miles away.
125	Amend closed waters to change the boundary line in the Outer Port Heiden Section.		
Oppose	0	8	Motion by Catie Bursch. Seconded by Jordan Dyer. There is not any evidence or explanation how this pivot of the line would help make a more orderly fishery. The fishermen already have a system to call in on the radio to each other to coordinate. There will always be winds and tides that make it difficult to stay behind a line. Even though the area of OPH stays the same, we believe the interception of BB fish will increase with line moving up the beach to the North 1/2mile.

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126	Amend closed waters and Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan to reduce commercial salmon fishing time and area in the Outer Port Heiden Section.		
Support	8	0	Motion by Jordan Dyer. Seconded by Brian Cato. This proposal would put more fine-tuned attention on the salmon rivers along the N. Peninsula. These rivers now have smaller fish and less diverse age classes due to over-escapement. Quality would be increased by controlling over-escapement as the tenders wouldn't have to travel as far.
127	Amend fishing seasons to increase fishing time in the Caribou Flats Section.		
Oppose	0	8	Motion by Catie Bursch. Seconded by Brian Cato. We feel that the upper end of the escapement goal would be a more appropriate trigger.
128	Amend Gillnet specifications and operations to reduce commercial salmon harvest in the North Peninsula using gillnet depth reductions.		
Support	8	0	Motion made by Catie Bursch. Seconded by Brian Cato. We are in support of this proposal but wonder if there should be discussion about keeping the mesh at 29 deep in Nelson Lagoon?
129	Allow use of monofilament gillnet web in the Northern District.		
Oppose	0	8	Motion by Brian Cato. Seconded by Catie Bursch. Could change harvest to be more efficient.
130	Amend the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan to allow more fishing time in the Northwest Stepovak Section.		
No action			
131	Amend the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan to allow commercial salmon fishing with set gillnet gear, and after July 11, purse seine gear concurrent to open commercial fishing periods for salmon in the Chignik Management Area.		
No action			
132	Amend the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan to reflect changes to Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement goals.		
No action			

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133	Amend the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to reduce commercial salmon fishing time and area for purse seine gear.		
No action			
134	Amend the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.		
No action			
135	Amend the South Unimak and Shumigan Islands Management Plan to reduce commercial salmon fishing time in the Shumagin Islands Section.		
No action			
136	Amend the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to implement a chum salmon harvest cap to reduce commercial fishing time.		
No action			
137	Amend the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to reduce commercial salmon fishing time.		
No action			
138	Amend the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to require the department to place observers onboard commercial salmon fishing vessels.		
No action			
139	Amend the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to restrict commercial salmon fishing time.		
No action			
140	Amend the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to reduce commercial salmon fishing time.		
No action			
141	Amend the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to require the department to manage the June fishery by emergency order to close those areas within the management plan. Amend 5 AAC 09.330. Gear. to allow other gear types to be used in the commercial fishery.		
No action			
142	Amend South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan and Post-June Salmon Management Plan to allow more fishing time for set gillnet gear only.		
No action			

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143	Amend the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula to close the set gillnet fishery in response to department immature salmon assessment.		
No action			
144	Amend the Post-June Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula to allow for fishing periods starting August 1 in the Southeastern and South Central Districts.		
No action			
145	Amend the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula to increase commercial salmon fishing time in the South Alaska Peninsula.		
No action			
146	Amend the Post-June Salmon Management for the South Alaska Peninsula to increase commercial salmon fishing periods.		
No action			
147	Amend the Post-June Salmon Management for the South Alaska Peninsula to increase commercial salmon fishing periods for set gillnet gear.		
No action			
148	Amend a suite of management plans to reduce commercial fishing time in the South Alaska Peninsula area.		
No action			
149	Amend management plans for the South Alaska Peninsula area to reduce commercial fishing time.		
No action			
150	Amend districts and sections, Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan and South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan by including the Volcano Bay Section of the Southwestern District into the South Central District.		
No action			
151	Amend gillnet specifications and operations to allow offshore anchoring of the up to 25 fathom seine web lead.		
No action			
152	Amend the closed water boundary in Stepovak Bay to increase commercial fishing area in the Stepovak Flats Section.		
No action			

Alaska Board of Fisheries: Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues Proposals

March 10-13, 2023 | 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>			
87	Define eel stick.		
No action			
153	Define escape mechanisms for collapsible 'slinky' groundfish pots.		
No action			
82	Modify the dates sinking of gillnets is allowed in the Yukon Area from October 1 to April 30.		
No action			
154	Allow the use of purse seine drums.		
No action			
155	Allow a person using a spear or speargun to take fish while swimming at the water's surface.		
No action			
156	Prohibit the use of felt soled wading footwear while personal use fishing in freshwater.		
No action			
157	Allow a person holding CFEC permits for multiple salmon net areas to commercial fish for salmon in more than one net area per year.		
Oppose	0	8	Motion by Catie Bursch. Seconded by Brian Cato. Although not the intent of the proposal, this could make too much opportunity for consolidation of permits to one individual.
158	Allow a person holding CFEC permits for multiple salmon net areas to commercial fish for salmon in more than one net area per year.		
No action			No action

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support/ Support as amended/ Oppose/N o Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (pros & cons), Voting Notes, Amendments
<u>159</u>	Close commercial fishing for a given species within one-fourth of a mile of any area closed to sport fishing for that species.		
No action			
<u>160</u>	Require surrender of proceeds gained from sale of wild king salmon caught in hatchery terminal harvest areas.		
No action			
<u>161</u>	Create and establish Alaska Board of Fisheries policy regarding the management of groundfish fishery resources in waters of Alaska <i>(To be heard at the Pacific cod meeting and deliberated during the Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues meeting)</i> .		
No action			
<u>162</u>	Allow the Kenai River Special Management Area -DNR decal to serve as proof of ADF&G sport fishing guide vessel registration.		
No action			
<u>163</u>	Prohibit guiding in personal use finfish fisheries.		
No action			
<u>164</u>	Establish registration and reporting requirements for personal use guides and transporters.		
No action			
<u>165</u>	Prohibit compensation for guide services in subsistence fisheries.		
No action			
<u>166</u>	Establish a statewide bag limit for personal use finfish fisheries.		
No action			
<u>167</u>	Require in-season reporting of subsistence and personal use salmon harvest within 5 days of harvest.		

Alaska Board of Fisheries: Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues Proposals

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Oppose	0	8	Motion made by Brian Cato. Seconded by Mitch Seybert. Too much burden on rural residents to report their take within 5 days. Many folks fish at rural fish camps with no internet and must travel a distance to get to a post office. To have them travel to the village just to mail a report every 5 days is asking too much.
168	Extend emergency order authority to allow restrictions of sport fisheries in contaminated waters.		
No action			
169	Amend the list of banned invasive species.		
No action			

I. Miscellaneous Business:

- a. Discuss committee representative(s) for board meeting
 - i. Motion made by Catie Bursch seconded by Brian Kato to approve Mitch Seybert to represent the LBBAC at the BOF for AK Peninsula cycle in March 2023. Approved by unanimous consent.
- b. Appoint individual to approve minutes for submission to BOF
 - i. Motion made by Mitch Seybert and seconded by Jordan Dyer to approve Jordan Dyer to approve minutes before next meeting. Approved by unanimous consent.

II. Set next meeting date

III. Other

Adjourn 8:12 pm

Minutes Recorded By: Catie Bursch. 1/12/23

Minutes Approved By: Jordan Dyer. 2/26/23