

Kodiak AC - Transporter Working Group

January 20, 2023

Called to Order 1:35 p.m.

Attendees: Brandon Bartelson, Paul Chervenak, Jason Bunch, Tyler Polum, Eric Howard, Andy Berestoff, Bill Dunker, Paddy O'Donnell, Sam Rohrer, Nate Svoboda, Mike Zweng, Keith Aitkins, Rolan Ruoss, Mike Flores, Melissa Berns, Alexis Kwatchka, Rebecca Skinner

Kodiak Guide Area map, list of Transporters with Kodiak addresses, list of Transporters state-wide, and guides by Kodiak Area were attached as meeting materials on Kodiak AC website.

Identify Issues:

1. Too many transporters operating in Kodiak, creating congestion
2. Most concerns articulated relate to Marine Transporters, not Air Transporters
3. Hunting pressure from Transporter activity is impacting subsistence and local harvest (for food)
4. Unclear whether hunting pressure is Alaska-resident or non-resident hunters
5. Overall deer population may not be threatened, but there could be localized depletion in specific areas with a lot of hunting pressure (particularly protected waters for boats), and those areas make a slower comeback after winter die-off events

Challenges:

1. Patchwork of Federal, State, and Private land, with different regulatory schemes for guides
2. Limiting Transporters by area will require changes to Alaska law
 - a. But desire to maintain entry ability to Transporter work by local youth
3. Limited availability of data on how many transporters operate in Kodiak area, & company names
 - a. Collected through both Transporter Report and ADFG Harvest Report
4. Want to maintain business opportunity and community revenue from hunting businesses

Currently in the Works:

1. BOG Proposal 73 to reduce Kodiak bag limits to 2 deer for resident, and 1 deer for non-resident; comment deadline March 3, 2023
2. Big Game Commercial Services Board – several proposals that touch on transporter issues (live-aboard requirements for Marine Transporters, requirement for Transporter to ensure upland use permits, identification marking requirements for boats and planes); comment deadline March 29, 2023.

Upcoming Meetings with Public Comment opportunity:

Board of Game Southcentral Mtg March 17-22, 2023; **comment deadline 3/3/23**, info at this [link](#)
Big Game Commercial Services Board webpage at this [link](#), but note that the March 29th meeting agenda and materials are not posted yet.

Next Transporter Working Group meeting will be week of February 13th