

**Kodiak Advisory Committee  
February 28, 2023  
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game**

- I. Call to Order: **5:31p - Paul Chervenak, Chairman**
  
- II. Roll Call  
Members Present: **Paul Chervenak, Julie Kavanaugh, Andy Finke, Coral Chernoff, Oliver Holm, Tyler Schmeil, Brandon Bartleson, Alexis Kwachka, Rebecca Skinner (Late)**  
  
Members Absent (Excused): **Ron Kavanaugh, Duncan Fields, Theresa Peterson, Wallace Fields, Patrick O'Donnell**  
Members Absent (Unexcused): **Roland Ruoss, Nathan Rose, Garman Squartsoff, Jon McElwain**  
Number Needed for Quorum on AC: **8**
  
- III. Fish and Game Staff Present: **Nate Svoboda, Bill Dunker, Nat Nichols, Taryn O'Conner (Board Support)**
  
- IV. Guests Present: Kavik Anderson, Dick Rohrer, John Sturgeon, Lila Swantes, Bob Lochman, Dan Burch, Tristan Dilley, Michael Horstman, Brandon Payne, Michael Brady (USFWS Kodiak NWR), Joy Erlenbach (USFWS), Bill Pyle (USFWS), Jason Bunch, Josh Boyle AK State Troopers, Mike Zweng, Jeff Stephan, Caleb Oswell, Chris Sibrel, Chris Flickenger, Julian Hiner, Stig Yngve
  
- V. Approval of Agenda- Move to approve Agenda/ Julie K Second/ Alexis K **VOTE 8-0**  
  
**Note Rebecca Skinner AC Member joined meeting until 10:00pm; 9 members present**
- VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes- Minutes were approved by Chair Paul Chervenak for timely submission+
  
- VII. Reports
  - a. Chair's report
  - b. ADF&G
  - c. Others
  
- VIII. Public Comment- Taken up during deliberation of individual proposals

- IX. Old Business – Transporter Working Group; Oral report by TWG member Rebecca Skinner. Two meetings held January 20<sup>th</sup> and Feb 14<sup>th</sup> . See attached TWG notes. Letter to be drafted by TWG for AC approval for the Dec 2023 Big Game Commercial Services Board meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT: Reductions in bag limits most likely would not reduce # of transporters or level of business. (More discussion on this @ Proposal #73)

- X. New Business-Unit 8 proposals below
- XI. Select representative(s) for board meeting **Move to select Paul Chervenak to travel to Board of Game / Alexis K Second Tyler Schmeil VOTE 8-0**
- XII. Other  
**Move to approve minutes of this meeting by Paul Chervenak for timely submission - Julie K / Second Alexis VOTE 8-0**
- XIII. Adjourn 11:23 pm

Alaska Board of Game Southcentral Region Meeting Proposals			
March 17-21, 2023   Soldotna, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
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>			
65	Establish a fall, registration goat hunt for residents and nonresidents in Unit 8, that portion of the Aliulik Peninsula		
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	Pro: -problem with easy access to goats and over harvest -problem with trespassing on Native lands

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			<p>Oppose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-breaks off a small part of RG480/changes limit</li> <li>-might be better to subdivide all of RG480 to better manage</li> <li>-Still working on stabilizing or decreasing goat numbers in RG480</li> <li>-always have extra harvest in accessible areas, goats will fill in</li> </ul> <p>-area selected doesn't match regulatory areas; ridge boundaries not appropriate for goats</p> <p>USF&amp;W Opposed (Management uses hunter harvest to decrease numbers for population control</p> <p>-Easy access areas that get depleted are repopulated by inaccessible areas</p>
66	Create an archery only, resident goat hunt within the Unit 8, RG480 hunt area		
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-would decrease traffic in that area, increase in others</li> <li>-would likely push hunters to other "easily" accessed areas</li> <li>-would likely reduce goat harvest, <b>opposite of what we need</b></li> <li>-current archery hunters successful</li> <li>-possibly more wounded goats</li> </ul> <p>-currently Bow hunting is legal</p> <p>- Archery only hunts have been utilized to fully utilize available animals when the remaining number to hunt is small and the traditional "all weapons" season would be too difficult to manage. This is opposite that and allocative without any need.</p> <p>-Public has rarely seen another individual/hunter(s) while goat hunting; no concerns about overcrowded grounds</p> <p>USFW Opposed would reduce over all opportunity reduce harvest and impede management for reduced or stable population</p>
67	Decrease the number of tags for the DG478 and DG479 goat hunts in Unit 8, to guarantee allocation of the weapons restricted, late season registration hunt		

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<b>Oppose</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<p>Current goat population trends in DG479/480 are STABLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-How often no registration hunt-not very</li> <li>-No Lack of Opportunity</li> <li>-Impedes management intent for a stable or reduction of population</li> </ul>
68	Modify the Unit 8, caribou hunting season from a general season harvest ticket to a registration hunt		
Support	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-best for managing caribou herd</li> <li>-provides authority to establish a quota; and thus emergency order authority</li> <li>-greatly increased interest last five years</li> <li>-increased interest necessitates increased management</li> <li>- herd is at it's lowest range in 20+ yrs</li> <li>USFW Supports but disagrees that 500 animals is the upper range. Suggests it should be 400</li> <li>*Noted that there is a low calf count; important food source</li> </ul>
69	Exclude Kodiak Island from the hunt area for elk in Unit 8 Remainder		
<b>Opposed</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>--elk browse blueberries &amp; elderberries, etc. like deer and this proposal could reduce an important food source (including for bears)</li> <li>-elk are more destructive to terrain/ecosystem</li> <li>-huntable population would increase bear/hunter conflicts</li> <li>-concerns of cross breeding Roosevelt with Rocky Mt Elk and</li> </ul>

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			-disease transfer (Roosevelt Elk are currently a pure strain)  *Noted that Elk are strong swimmers and leave Afognak Island when population is high  -USFW Opposed- degradation of food source  -lease holder for domestic Elk does not always maintain herd inside of fenced lease/ should not be the driver for closures  *note the domestic herd is a closed herd, was tested for disease (negative)
70	Modify the Unit 8, Raspberry Island hunting season and bag limit by changing the antlerless elk drawing hunt to an antlerless registration hunt		
<b>Support</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	-small % of current draw tags used or successful -would open up more opportunity -better management of the resource; can be closed by emergency order when optimum # is taken
71	Establish a drawing permit hunt for elk, open to take by bow and arrow only in Unit 8, Southwest Afognak		
<b>Opposed</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	-would disrupt elk during the breeding season; Bulls are extremely vulnerable during rut -harder to take proper care of meat in warmer weather -would disrupt bears during critical feeding time -less companions to help haul out meat-more bear conflicts/loss -success rate would drop for hunts following
72	Establish a drawing permit hunt for elk, open to take by bow and arrow only in Unit 8, Raspberry Island		
<b>Opposed</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	-See #71
73	Reduce the bag limit for deer in Unit 8, Remainder		
<b>Support As Amended</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	-was submitted by hunter that has seen broad localized depletion; hard to fill freezer; 2019-2021 deceptively hard winters

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			<p>-potentially discourage res/non-res participation                      -hinder resident opportunity (amendment addresses this concern)                      -potentially reduce marine transporter overcrowding                      -excessive # of hunters may be moving bear off of critical habitat                      -each non-res tag eliminated = \$1200 to state of AK (\$300 tag x PR funds)  <b>Amend –“In the remainder of unit 8, reduce the bag limit to <del>two deer</del> per year for residents and one deer per year for nonresidents.”</b></p> <p><b>VOTE 9-0</b></p> <p>-amendment provides continued opportunity for residents to fill freezer                      -heard from Transporter Working Group that there was not initial concern that a reduced nonresident bag limit would decrease clients</p> <p>*Noted that this would only slightly reduce nonresident take; Kodiak’s liberal bag limit has made it a more appealing destination; This would reduce pressure in easy access areas that have localized depletion</p> <p>USFW opposed to the proposal as originally written</p>
74	Require that meat must be left on the bone when hunting deer in Unit 8		
Support As Amended	9	0	<p><b>Amendment 1:</b></p> <p><b><u>“All deer harvested in unit 8 must remain bone-in until processed at a land-based location until the meat has been transported from the field or processed for human consumption.”</u></b> VOTE 9-0 Support</p> <p><b>Amendment 2:</b></p> <p><b><u>“All deer harvested in unit 8 must have the edible meat of the front quarters, hindquarters, and ribs naturally attached to the bone remain bone-in until the meat has been transported from the field or processed for human consumption.”</u></b> VOTE 9-0</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Language adopted from AS 5AAC 92.220 Salvage of game meat, furs and hides</li> <li>-Amendments clears up uncertain language</li> <li>-would hopefully reduce wanton waste, a major problem</li> <li>-better use of meat</li> <li>-legal to trim blood shot</li> <li>-greatly help enforcement</li> <li>-may result in bear/hunter conflicts if two trips required to get meat out of the field</li> <li>-USFW Opposed may lead to more Bear/Hunter conflicts as is- IE. Additional packing trips</li> </ul>
75	Count brown bear wounded by hunters in Unit 8 against the bag limit of one bear every four calendar years		
<b>Opposed</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b> <b>2 Abstain</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-what is current reported wounding rate-1.5/yr</li> <li>-would possibly create more dishonesty; no net gain</li> <li>-ethical way to operate</li> <li>-hard to implement</li> <li>-probably not affect too many (only registration hunt)</li> </ul> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">Abstain-undecided</p>
76	Lengthen the brown bear registration hunt seasons for RB230 and RB260 in Unit 8		
<b>Opposed</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	*Note AC member Skinner was excused. 8 members present

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-proposer wanted to highlight garbage issue</li> <li>-maybe resident only (guides not trying to permit grab)</li> <li>-concerns about interrupting denning activity</li> <li>-potential increase sow harvest</li> <li>-greater opportunity for illegal harvest elsewhere</li> <li>-bears in question very nocturnal, most land off limits to hunting may not help</li> <li>-many people concerned/afraid # of bears near town</li> <li>-livestock loss * member of public lost livestock with @ \$30,000-40,000 in 2022;</li>   <li>-Many people have given up raising laying hens (food security)</li>   <li>-Children in Womens Bay can't play outside or walk to Bus stop.</li>   <li>-This was not occurring during the decades prior to 2010. Long term residents rarely encountered bears and usually never ran into a bear (mid 1950's through 2005)</li>   <li>-Could utilize first snowfall to track problem bears</li>   <li>-Better utilization of Bears than a "Defense of Property or Life" kill</li>   <li>-noted the public sees problem bears throughout the day</li>   <li>-reduced quality of life; unable to pick berries, hike/walk, play outside in yard, safety at risk</li> </ul>
77	Eliminate brown bear permits the following season, when a female bear is taken in Unit 8		
<b>Support</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-2 year lag due to draw system</li> <li>-resident /non-resident equally</li> <li>-1<sup>st</sup> step in management plan if a population question</li> <li>-Department's #3 is AC's preferred alternative (Both res and non-res permits taken 2 years out for simplicity)</li> </ul>



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78	Require all hunters to apply for Unit 8 brown bear drawing permits		
<b>Opposed</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<p>Kodiak’s bear management system for last 40+ years very successful                      Complex, intricate system developed over time-must be very careful changing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-alternate list-does not happen often in the state, but is a useful tool</li> <li>-proposal states major generalizations</li> <li>-close to half of the Island uses “alternate” list</li> <li>-going after a few permits in some areas due to the USFWS area selection system</li> <li>-these permits “not applied for” are utilized</li> <li>-guided non-res hunters a very important part of the Kodiak Brown bear management plan (Consistent harvest of large adult males and low harvest of females is biologically important)</li> <li>-filling of non-res tags major economic benefit to State and local communities</li> <li>-Loss of local revenues for lodging, transport, provisions, incidentals, taxes                      (constitution requires “maximum benefit to the people”- aren’t human food source)                      (\$1160 for lic/tag matched 3 fold by PR funds = \$4640/permit)</li> <li>-proposal is a total loss-permits sitting vacant: no income to state or economy; loss of traditional harvest data for management</li> <li>-takes lots of effort to book hunts, may not be booked by draw deadline</li> <li>-G/C agreement and alternate list put into place to thwart anti hunters</li> <li>-some guides leave permits on table-required by federal system to have “reasonable” opportunity</li> </ul>
79	Transfer under-subscribed nonresident brown bear permits for Unit 8 to the resident allocation		
<b>Opposed</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-must be careful changing current very successful management plan</li> <li>-rely on historical harvest data</li> <li>-Department factors in some unused permits when figuring allocation</li> <li>-residents have higher sow harvest, biological ramifications</li> <li>-% of unused res draw permits transferred to non-res allocation?</li> </ul>

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80	Adjust the allocation for Unit 8 brown bear permit hunts, DB101 - DB193		
<b>Opposed</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-some guides leave permits on table-required by federal system to have “reasonable” chance</li> <li>-loss of Conservation donations for hunts that are not specified by the deadline</li> </ul>
<b>Opposed</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-system looks at Island wide %’s, not individual area</li> <li>-bear density different in different area</li> <li>-bears ranges are larger than particular area</li> <li>-other factors used, access to an area, etc.</li> <li>-areas around villages have higher numbers to reduce bear/human conflicts</li> <li>-#’s in place since 1976, working very well</li> <li>-Seeks to codify current averages that are higher than required for residents when the regulatory language favors this result. If the percentages change- the averages would most likely change again due to this language. (“No less than 60% to residents; No more than 40% to nonresidents”)</li> </ul>
81	Require all snares set on the Kodiak road system to include breakaway mechanisms		
<b>Support</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Prop 109, 2019-BOG passed then rescinded</li> <li>-Kodiak Rd system very popular for outdoor activities</li> <li>-have inexperienced, enthusiastic population (USCG)</li> <li>-domestic pets and untargeted wildlife are regularly injured</li> <li>-traps are set in high use areas</li> <li>-Have not rec’d any help from ATA as promised</li> <li>-this is “best practices” way to operate</li> <li>-AWT would like identification on snares for enforceability</li> <li>-Approximately .03-.05 cents per trap to comply (inflation may increase to .10 cent)</li> </ul>

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209	Reallocate drawing Elk permits to Registration permits.		
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b> <b>2 Abstain</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-May or may not provide opportunity for village residents</li> <li>-Permit usage rate higher than average</li> <li>-permit success rate higher than average</li> <li>-Would take more than 16 permits from general draw</li> <li>-Native Corp already close some of their lands to general public and charge a high fee for elk hunting when public access open</li> <li>-registration hunt on Afognak Island available every year</li> <li>-subsistence hunt available every year</li> <li>-most likely new registration hunt (proposal 70) on Raspberry Island also available</li> <li>-Sets bad precedence-Other villages /groups may want permit registrations in their locality</li> <li>-Inconsistent with other registration processes</li> <li>*In support it is desirable to help villagers and elders; land use permits are normal way of doing business in other states;</li> <li>Abstained -Felt that the pros and cons were both strong arguments.</li> </ul>

Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: Julie Kavanaugh

Minutes Approved By: Paul A. Chervenak

Date: March 3, 2023