

Togiak Advisory Committee
Thursday, February 10, 2022
Togiak Traditional Council Chambers

- I. Call to Order: [10:00am] by [Peter Lockuk]
- II. Roll Call
Members Present: Thomas Dock, Peter Lockuk, Jimmy Coopchiak, Moses Kritz, Joe Alexie, Terry Evatt, Mickey Sharp, Roger Wassillie, Kenneth Nukwak
Members Absent (Excused): Walter Kanulie
Members Absent (Unexcused): Jonah Lomack, Kieth Fayer Sr., Lester Moore, Dan Nanalook Jr. Tessa Nickerson, Norman Gloko, Julius Henry.
- III. Fish and Game Staff Present: Taryn O'Connor-Brito, Tim Sands, Joe Wittkop, Lee Borden, Andy Aderman, Lisa Olson, Bronwyn Jones, Robin Dublin
- IV. Guests Present: Matt, Larry Lund, Heidi Kritz, Jordan Larsen, Cody Larson, Rene Rogue, Jeff Regnart, Aubrie Gosuk, Brianna Katchatag, Teo Pauk, Tony Zock, Zach Larsen
- V. Approval of Agenda: Roger Wassille motion to approve, seconded, Subsistence will be available @ 11am to discuss prop 22(BOG) added to agenda after fisheries proposals. Gayla H wants to discuss BOF props 282 and 271, approved unanimously.
- VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Jimmy C. motion to approve, Seconded, unanimous support.
- VII. Reports
 - a. Chair's report: None
 - b. ADF&G: Taryn O'Connor-Brito-BOG to take public testimony by phone for statewide Game meeting. Deadline to sign up Feb. 28, 5pm. More information on meeting webpage.

Sport fish update-Lee Borden, 2021 July 7 high count 38 anglers on river. 2007 highs at 50. Survey done 5 days/week for July 2021. 2020 survey 425 fish, covid year, recent avg. 900 fish.

Moses K-curious if "king line" has made any difference. Lee-Dept doesn't do enumeration on kings. Sport fish catch per unit of effort has been stable, seeing small than average fish. Moses-would like to see 5 year avg. data on kings, wondering if king line is a good deal.

Commercial Fisheries: Tim Sands-Average Commercial Fish catch(kings) last 20 years – 5000; last ten years 2500; in 2005-10000 was highest; in 2021 only 792; statewide kings are down; harvest in Nushagak low in 2021; data points to ocean survival issues; trawl bycatch can't explain number of missing fish across state.

Moses- not satisfied w/the answers w/communities in conservation mode and AYK shutdown, state not giving funds to local biologists to see what is happening.

Tim-Ocean research beyond his scope, suggested reaching out to legislatures.

Moses-sees ships out there on internet but no way to tell what they are doing or if they are trawling or fishing crab.

Tim-suggest NMFS may be able to answer questions regarding trawl fleet. Could ask them to provide AC w/presentation on trawl fleet.

Jimmy-question on Area M, what is their catch, also concerned about the deep mesh nets they use.

Tim- chum catch 2.3 million in 2021, averaging for 20 years 900000, used to be capped at 700000, not sure when cap went away. Prop 282 from Chignik for Area M before Board of Fish, Taryn emailing prop 282.

10 minute break

Kenneth N joined at 11:10 am

Tim Sands-Area M King harvest 15605, Sockeye harvest 7476000.

Jimmy-no spawning streams for kings in area M, concerned about storm loss and deep mesh nets.

- c. Others: USFWS TWNR-Andy Aderman-moose season closed-please return hunt reports. Preliminary numbers 64 moose taken, expects more to be reported. Planning caribou capture project on west coast next week, planning moose survey in mid-March. Curious about travel conditions, Moses and Peter-good but cold.

Ken asked Andy how many caribou are near Kulukak area, answer about 200+.

BBNA: Heidi Kritz-update on Round Island, permits being arranged. National Geographic reached out to her and Moses Toyukak about travel & conservation article published. In January (BBC) British Broadcasting CO., reached out doing series called "Frozen", research on walrus and wanted permission from QWC to do short episode at Round Island and was approved. They will come this summer and have been encouraged to reach out to Togiak. They will be there June 24-July 15 want to feature local perspectives. Heide will send article to Trad. Council.

BBNA-Gayla Hoseth-BOG prop 271 RAC seats open for nomination through Feb 28, AMBCC/YKC emperor geese discussion

Jimmy suggest Walter for RAC.

Kenneth would like to see prop 271 discussed, Jimmy made a motion, seconded, unanimous support.

VIII. Public Comment-none

IX. New Business

- a. Set net distance from shore-original brought up by Bob Duby(TFI) in 2020; Tim Sands reads Regulation 5AAC 06.331 (i) (m) further explained by Trooper Wittkop
 - (m) *majority of district 1000 ft from 18 ft high tide line
 - (i) *three rocky areas are 500 ft from 18 ft mark
 - *questions arise about 18 ft mark. Hasn't been strictly enforced give margin of error, been pretty lenient, not much gear conflict, Jimmy agrees 8-10 ft high is common.
- b. Togiak Transfer date-originally brought by Mike Gilbert
 - Jimmy working w/BBEDC on language and talking to Togiak Fish, catch rates go down on July 27th when large boats arrive, will have language for next meeting
- c. Sports Fish (king salmon) Jimmy working on proposal for 5AAC 67.022 (z)
 - Issues to address: not enough king salmon getting to spawning grounds in Togiak river and tributaries.
 - Solutions recommended: 1. Barbless, unbaited, artificial flies & lures
 - 2. less than 20" bag limited at 5 fish; 3. 20 inches or greater are to be immediate release.
 - AC will discuss further at next meeting, Taryn would like a copy to distribute when ready.
- d. Other proposals
 - Gayla-proposal 282 for statewide BOF; relates to Chignik which has declared two disaster seasons; would reduce fishing time in July on south side of Alaska Peninsula.
 - Moses moves to adopt BOF prop 282, seconded by Jimmy.
 - Gayla-important to emphasize conservation issues, Moses and Jimmy agree.
 - Prop 282 unanimously approved.
 - BOG proposal 22: Bronwyn Jones-subsistence-explains proposal and it would set a Customary and Traditional finding for Nushagak Peninsula Caribou, same exists for Mulchatna herd, Nushagak AC supported but delayed suggesting A+S, Jimmy moved to support BOG prop 22 and was seconded, questioned proposal 22 unanimous approves.
 - Proposal 271-Board generated it to define "positioning" in winter hunting by snowgo.
 - Gayla-Nushagak AC has formed working group to discuss. ACs need to send message to defer so all ACs have chance to weigh in. Gayla reads prop.
 - Jimmy-What did Nushagak do?, Taryn – Nushagak opposed as written and created a subcommittee to address language.

Ken plans to attend subcommittee meeting suggest Moses and Walter also attend.

X. Discussion of Approval of Minutes For Submission:
Walter to draft & Peter to approve for submission to BOG by Feb 28 deadline & BOF by Feb24 deadline. Taryn send notes and audio for Peter and Walter.

XI. Next Meeting Date and Agenda: Call of the Chair

XII. Adjourn: 12:37pm

Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: Walter Kanulie

Minutes Approved By: _____

Date: _____