

Anchorage Advisory Committee
March 5, 2024
William J Hernandez Hatchery

I. Call to Order: 6:01 by Kevin Taylor

II. Roll Call

No	First Name	Last Name	Profile	Present/ Excused/ Unexcused
1	Kevin	Taylor	Chair	Present
2	Martin	Weiser	Vice Chair	Present
3	Willow	Hetrick	Secretary	Excused
4	J R	Gates		Unexcused
5	Ed (Harold)	Horton		Present
6	Joel	Doner		Present
7	Scott	Crowther		Present
8	Lynette	Moreno Hinz		Unexcused
9	Bryce	Eckroth		Excused
10	Neil	DeWitt		Present
11	Matt	Moore	Chair Game	Present
12	Ernie	Weiss		Present
13	Nicole	Schmitt		Present
14	Kneeland	Taylor		Present
15	Joni	Earp		Unexcused

Number Needed for Quorum on AC:

List of User Groups Present: None

III. Fish and Game Staff Present: Fari.

IV. Guests Present: None.

V. Approval of Agenda

VI. Reports

- a. Chair's report: None
- b. ADF&G: None
- c. Others: None

VII. Public Comment: None

VIII. Old Business: None

IX. New Business:

- Joint Board Proposals- On-Time Comment deadline March 11, 2024. See table below.
- Update on BOF Upper Cook Inlet Meeting

Board of Fish adjourned today. Highlights by user group/issues:

Hatchery

- Proposal 43, trying to get production reduced by 25% of 2000 numbers as was promised in 2000. Proposal was unanimously opposed. Encouraged public to bring hatchery issues to Statewide meetings in the future. Virgil from Fairbanks AC submitted RC Jan 8th report that shows sockeye sizes are smaller on even years when pinks are present. First report showing there may be competition issues between species. Marty has copy of report if anyone is interested, also submitted as RC.
- Commissioner said that until peer-reviewed research shows there's direct impact on natural fish, won't reduce hatchery. Feel that limits best available science in fishery that is huge and dynamic; need data and analysis but not exclusively to make management decisions because can't always wait for research.

Personal Use

- Proposal 193 passed: Only change to personal use on Kenai, Anchorage was only AC who opposed it, all others supported it.
- Proposal 196 failed 2-5: Request for no anchoring in the dip net area for a boat.
- Proposal 190 failed 0-7: Personal use guides and licensure to have same licensure as sport guides. Dept of Law said BoF couldn't act on that because fishery prohibits non-residents participating in the fishery, but Constitution says that we can't prohibit other States' users from participating in a commercial activity.

Sport

- Most stayed status quo, didn't expand fisheries in Northern District. In Kenai River passed action plan for late run Chinook. Many of the proposals were superseded by the Action Plan. No real changes to guide time or areas. A few changes on bait and incidental catch of kings, ex: increased no-bait, single hook section below Skilak. Limit on Kenai for sockeye means 6 per day, limiting commercial use.
- Proposal 69 failed: To define bag limit as who hooked the fish.
- Flag nets to conserve kings but catch sockeye. Did not pass but Department was interested in learning more. Planning to issue Commissioner tags to test it out.
- Sport limits for sockeye were raised.

Board was reluctant to liberalize or restrict coho until they have a way to assess Coho. Department is being pushed to get data in Inlet but especially Kenai. Northern District only enumerated by Deshka weir, installing second weir.

Commercial

- Late Run King Action Plan. Shuts down any commercial fishing until 3 consecutive years of 15,000, one year needing to be 18,000. Expect to be in this Action Plan for 2 cycles. No commercial activity until ~14,000 late run kings, then the setnet fleet can fish with many restrictions.
- Proposal passed to allow dipnets in setnet fishery (saltwater). We don't know what each proposal looks like in regulation until the regs come out. Most of the passed commercial proposals were amended. Hard to get copies of what the changes are on the website. CFEC, who issues the permits, doesn't have dipnets as an approved gear type yet – Board got the ball rolling to start that process. Many feel that this was open-ended and not discussed thoroughly enough, need to see how this is fleshed out in regulations.
- There are Kenai kings caught in other fisheries around Alaska.
- Buyback for set-netters is in the legislature for second year.
- Wish fisheries had been managed for all to be able to enjoy – sport and commercial. Frustration that the RC process changes regulations past public/AC opportunity for comment. Overall feeling of sadness that we're at this place.

- Schedule AC Election Meeting for April or May

J R	Gates	June 30, 2024
Ed (Harold)	Horton	June 30, 2024
Joel	Doner	June 30, 2024
Scott	Crowther	June 30, 2024
Lynette	Moreno Hinz	June 30, 2024

Schedule for April 2nd at hatchery. No absentee elections.

- X. Select representative(s) for board meeting:
 - Joint Board Meeting: March 25-28, 2024: Ernie
 - Nicki will attend Fairbanks meeting and send email to sub-committee members early next week to get feedback on testimony.
- XI. Set next meeting date: April 2, 2024 @ 6:00 pm
- XII. Other: Matt Moore award for outstanding contribution to AC. Congrats, Matt!

Adjourn: 8:08pm

Joint Board of Fisheries and Game Meeting Proposals

March 25-28, 2024 | Anchorage, 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>			
1	Require one-month public notice for advisory committee election meetings and 14 days-notice for regular meetings.		
	0	9	Don't have enough time during the Board comment process (especially sub-committees) for two week notice; if someone wants to get on the AC, they don't need more public notice - they can get on the AC when there are out-of-term vacancies. This falls in excess of the State of Alaska guidelines for notice. 1 abstention.
2	Require all advisory committee meetings be accessible via call-in option.		
	2	8	Oppose: Feel that it's easy to make it in-person and is better participation when in the room; Support: feel it adds accessibility
3	Reduce the terms for advisory committee officers from two years to one.		
	10	0	Support: Feel it allows new Board members to vote on leadership positions' Anchorage AC already does this.
4	Clarify the responsibilities for advisory committee chairs.		
	10	0	Anchorage AC currently does this, already in the manual feels is good codification
5	Clarify the responsibilities for the officer position of secretary/recorder		
	10	0	Support: Anchorage AC currently does this, already in the manual feels is good codification; Note that this would need to be amended if proposal 4 passes (2 years to 1 year)
6	Allow advisory committees with community designated seats to appoint alternates for those communities.		
	--	--	Take No Action See Proposal 7
7	Clarify the process for appointing advisory committee alternates, allow alternates for communities having more than one designated seat, and establish one year term limits for alternates.		
	9	1	Oppose because feel that it takes power away from the elections; would rather see public appoint alternates instead of the committee. Support because provides representation and flexibility for rural ACs with members who will participate.
8	Allow advisory committees the discretion to set membership term dates.		

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	0	10	Regional coordinators are already juggling various term lengths; effort for ACs to get full three year terms; Oppose because want all the elections to happen in the Spring, have uniform election date before the summer months
9	Limit the number of consecutive terms advisory committee members can serve.		
	1	9	Oppose because sometimes there's not enough people to serve, don't want to limit people who participate. If this was to pass, estimate Southcentral would lose 100 AC members, could shut down whole Acs. Recognize that some AC members have been in too long and should move along, but don't feel a regulatory fix is the right move. Feel that experience can be helpful on an AC. Support because the AC system is stale and needs refreshing.
10	Designate one seat on each advisory committee for non-consumptive representation.		
	0	9	Oppose because there are communities that don't have a non-consumptive users; hard enough to get active AC members and don't want to limit participation. What would be the definition of non-consumptive user? Taking language from proposal 11 provides clarity. 1 abstain.
11	Designate non-consumptive user seats for the Anchorage, Cooper Landing, Fairbanks, Homer, and Matanuska Valley advisory committees.		
	2	8	Support because have been to elections where hundreds of people attended; seeking to open up the system to non-consumptive users; designated seats exist on many other ACs. Oppose because don't get many people seeking these positions; don't want to get too detailed in user group designations; feel elections work out over time and encourage non-consumptive users to participate in the process as is; discussion that definition of "non-consumptive" is too vague.
12	Clarify the provision that advisory committees may not reject a nomination for an undesignated seat when membership is less than the number of members authorized.		
	10	0	Common sense proposal that ensures fair participation
13	Clarify the process for declaring vacancies and filling expired seats.		
	10	0	Common sense proposal.
14	Adopt an absence policy allowing advisory committees to remove members who miss more than 50% of meetings without reasonable justification.		
	1	9	Oppose because current regulations are 3 consecutive meetings without excused absences and that seems sufficient; read this to

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			only apply to regularly scheduled meetings. Some rural ACs rarely meet, so half attendance is hard to get; don't feel it's needed. Support because it provides for permissive removal, not mandatory removal
15	Allow advisory committees to provide additional recommendations.		
	0	9	Concern about extending meetings, seeing how it impacts Board meetings. Feel the Board process is sufficient for getting AC and community input. 1 abstain.
16	Dissolve seven advisory committees in the Southeast Region due to inactive status.		
	--	--	Take No Action
17	Establish a process in regulation for developing board proposals.		
	8	2	Generally opposed to Board generated proposals; many in support of having another public review after BGP; comment that BOF generally waits for BGP to be taken up at the next regular meeting but BOG has written BGP and passed them same-day; RCs are so detailed and so vast, need more time than 24 hours to review; One comment oppose because haven't experienced this issue at BOF; other opposed because feels that this proposal is very needed but that the notice outlined in the proposal is not enough (need more than 24 hours)
18	Adopt a regulation or a Joint Board policy to limit certain types of amendments.		
	8	2	Support because overall discontent with Board morphing proposals; some would only want this proposal to pass if proposal 17 passes to ensure there's public review of the proposals; many proposals can't wait three years (ex: caribou). Oppose because believe Boards should have authority to amend, don't want to hamstring that; concern about definitions of legal guidelines being ambiguous.
19	Redefine the boundaries for the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area.		
	--	--	Take No Action

Adjournment: 8:08pm

Minutes Recorded By: Nicole Schmitt

Minutes Approved By: Kevin Taylor

Date: 3/7/24