

**Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee
December 6, 2023
Burchelle High School**

I. **Call to Order:** 7:01 pm by Herb Mansavage, chair

II. **Roll Call**

Members Present:

Herb Mansavage, chair
Dan Montgomery, vice chair wildlife
Gene Sandone, vice chair fisheries
Neil DeWitt
Dominic Nickles
Hunter Hongslo
Danny Lewis
Bob Casell
Andy Couch
Casey Dinkle
Austin Manelick

Members Absent:

Aaron Bloomquist
Birch Yuknis
Chad Schierman (resigned)
Chad Lipse (resigned)

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8

III. **Fish and Game Staff Present:**

Israel Payton, Director, Sport Fish Division
Samantha Oslund, Assistant AMB, Northern Cook Inlet, Sport Fish Division

IV. **Guests Present:**

Nick Weeks
Lew Weeks
Tod Henniger
Bill Schevk
Ed Soto
Bruce Privett
Noel Lowe
Joshua Yundt
Manny Eicholz

V. **Approval of Agenda**

Add election of representative to the Unit 19 Sheep management working group.

VI. **Reports**

a. **Chair's report**

none

b. **ADF&G:**

Israel Payton, Director, Sport Fish Division. Provided information on the proposed federal fishing regulations for the Cook Inlet EEZ. A court decision stated that the federal government will manage the salmon fisheries within the Cook Inlet EEZ in Upper Cook Inlet. The current proposed management scenario would allow 2 12-hour periods per week.

VII. **Public Comment** none

VIII. **Old Business** none

IX. **New Business**

- Bob Cassell was elected to serve as the Matanuska Valley AC representative to the Unit 19C Dall sheep working group. Dan Montgomery was elected as the alternate.
- Review and prepare AC comment on Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Cook Inlet Salmon; Amendment 16-
 - Draft AC comments on the Federal Management Plan for fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Cook Inlet Salmon; Amendment 16 Fisheries were provided by Andy Couch in the form of a letter. Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee requests the National Marine Fishery Service to limit drift gillnetting in the Cook Inlet EEZ to no more than one 12 hour period per week for the proposed season of July 19 — August 15, thereby providing a reasonable harvest opportunity for drift permit holders, while also ensuring better Northern Cook Inlet salmon spawning escapements and providing more reasonable salmon harvest opportunities for all other Upper Cook Inlet user groups compared to the suggested EEZ fishing schedule currently listed in Amendment 16.
 - The AC unanimously approved the letter as written. This letter was submitted on time before the deadline of December 18, 2023.
- **Advisory Committee Elections with terms expiring.**
 - People elected to The Mat Valley AC:
 - Bob Cassell (6/30/26)
 - Gene Sandone (6/30/24)
 - Casey Dinkle (6/30/24)

Danny Lewis ((6/30/24)
Ed Soto (6/30/26)
Steve Bartelli (alternate)
Bruce Privett (alternate)

- **Assign Fisheries Subcommittee members:**
 - Gene Sandone, chair, Andy Couch, Neil DeWitt
 - Subcommittee will meet December 13, 2023 (time and place to be determined)

X. **Set next meeting date:**

- Call of the chair
- Upper Cook Inlet AC On-time Comment Deadline: Feb 8, 2024

XI. **Other**

XII. **Adjourn**

Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: Gene J Sandone
Minutes Approved By: Will be approved at next meeting
Date: _____