

**Anchorage Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**October 8, 2024**  
**William J Hernandez**

I. Call to Order: 6:03pm by Chair, Kevin Taylor

II. Roll Call:

No	First Name	Last Name	Profile	Terms	Present/ Excused/ Unexcused
1	Kevin	Taylor	Chair	June 30, 2025	Present
2	Martin	Weiser	Vice Chair- Chair Fish	June 30, 2025	Present
3	Willow	Hetrick	Secretary	June 30, 2025	Present
4	Bryce	Eckroth		June 30, 2025	Unexcused
5	Neil	DeWitt		June 30, 2025	Present
6	Matt	Moore	Chair Game	June 30, 2026	Present
7	Ernie	Weiss		June 30, 2026	Excused
8	Nicole	Schmitt		June 30, 2026	Present
9	Kneeland	Taylor		June 30, 2026	Present (online)
10	Joni	Earp		June 30, 2026	Present
11	Michelle	Bittner		June 30, 2027	Present
12	Ed	Horton		June 30, 2027	Excused
13	Scott	Crowther		June 30, 2027	Present
14	Tom	Vania		June 30, 2027	Present
15	Lynette	Moreno Hinz		June 30, 2027	Present
16	J R	Gates	Alternate	June 30, 2025	Unexcused
17	Vacant		Alternate	June 30, 2025	N/A

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8

III. Fish and Game Staff Present: Leila Williams (Board Support), Brittany Blaine (Area Management Biologist, Anchorage/Prince William Sound/North Gulf Coast), and Fari Fernandez (Information Officer).

IV. Guests Present: Ryan Astalos, Aaron Elliot, Jeffrey Gruenke, and Nathaniel Kurk.

V. Approval of Agenda: Neil DeWitt moved to approve the agenda as written, Scott Crowther seconded, and it carried unanimously.

VI. Reports:

a. Chair's report: Tonight, the Anchorage AC will be identifying the subcommittees

and vote on ACRs.

b. ADF&G: Introduction to Leila Williams.

c. Others: None.

VII. Public Comment

- Ryan Astalos-Brought up the Board of Fish proposals upcoming at the Cordova meeting, specifically proposals 14-17 which are related to the PWS trawl fishery. Proposal 16 would close the fishery all together and Mr. Astalos supports this proposal. This is a state managed fishery but the same boats that fish in the Gulf of Alaska also fish in the PWS. There is too much bycatch in the PWS, and the nets are fishing too close to the bottom. Wanted the Anchorage AC to address these proposals with real consideration for the bycatch. If the fishery is not completely closed, then would like the AC to support proposals that ensure an observer on the vessels.

Response from Brittany Blaine – the Department will not have a rockfish management plan developed for the Board. She did mention that the sport fishery catches more rockfish than the commercial fishery and there is no directed commercial rockfish fishery in PWS. The commercial fleet has been exceeding the allotted 150,000 pounds of rockfish bycatch the last few years, including 2024.

VIII. Old Business: None.

IX. New Business:

- Prepare comments for AK Board of Fisheries 2024/2025 Agenda Change Requests.

ACR 2 - There was discussion about the ACRs that the Department was bringing forward to discuss. The Anchorage AC is unhappy with the timing of the Susitna River proposal and thinks that immediate action must be taken by the Department to protect this fishery, regardless of the ACR being out of cycle. The Anchorage AC discussed the declining Chinook escapement counts for the Deshka which reflects the Anchorage AC's concern that the Chinook escapement for the entire Susitna River is declining.

ACR 3- same comment as above.

ACR 4, 5 and 6 (are similar) – Department is going to take these up. Suggested handling these as a group as they don't differ too much. There was an experimental dip net fishery for sockeye in Cook Inlet this past summer. There were not many fish caught because the fishery is limited to the weather and whether the fish were

present at the time of the opening. This fishery claims 100% king release with 0 mortality. Those in support were for reasons stated; would allow the test fishery to continue and is important to continue to gather data. Those opposed think that these proposals do not meet the criteria to review the proposal out of board cycle. Voted on the batch of proposals being heard out of cycle as follows – 8 in support and 2 in opposition.

ACR 7 – does not meet the criteria by the Board.

ACR 8 – This proposal is asking to add seines as a gear type in the fishery. Those in support of this ACR cited the gear types were supported. Also, if they Department takes up this proposal, more data will be brought to understand the fishery. More opportunity needs to be provided to the seine fishery. There could also be more Commissioner tags issued. Those opposed think that these proposals do not meet the criteria to review the proposal out of board cycle. Voted on this proposal being heard out of cycle as follows – 6 in support and 6 in opposition.

ACR 11 – Creating a Kvichak Special Harvest Area. For the first time in a while, the Naknek River fell behind the Kvichak River, and this proposal would set up an area similar to that of the Naknek. The commercial fishermen fish in the river as to not accidentally catch fish that are headed elsewhere. The Kvichak is a difficult fishery because it is tidal. There is already a precedent for this proposal and think that in the next Board cycle (which is Bristol Bay) this proposal would be successful and is not pressing enough to be heard out of cycle. This could be a good management tool for the future but may not be an emergency. Voted on this proposal being heard out of cycle as follows – 1 in support and 11 in opposition.

ACR 14 – The Kodiak cycle would be in another two years. There was a regulation that was changed during the 2023/2024 meeting that didn't consider 'joint ventures' who were left out of the consideration, which was an unforeseen effect of the regulatory change. Voted on this proposal being heard out of cycle as follows – 12 in support and 0 in opposition.

- Confirm subcommittee assignments.

#### **Game**

1. Willow Hetrick
2. Matt Moore
3. Nicole Schmitt
4. Kneeland Taylor
5. Joni Earp
6. Michelle Bittner
7. Ed (Harold) Horton
8. JR Gates

9. Neil DeWitt

**Fish**

1. Kevin Taylor
2. Martin Weiser
3. Bryce Eckroth
4. Ernie Weiss
5. Scott Crowther
6. Tom Vania
7. Lynette Moreno Hinz

- Discuss comment deadlines and schedule subcommittee meetings:

Martin Weiser, Fish Subcommittee Chair, will email the Fish Subcommittee to set meeting dates.

--PWS and Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Finfish and Shellfish (except shrimp) proposal comments must be brought to the Anchorage AC at the November 12, 2024, meeting of the full committee. 103 proposals will be discussed in subcommittee meetings.

--The Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish proposal comments must be brought to the Anchorage AC at the December 3, 2024, meeting of the full committee.

--The Statewide Shellfish, PWS Shrimp and Supplemental Issues proposal comments must be brought to the Anchorage AC at the January 7, 2024, meeting of the full committee.

Matt Moore, Game Subcommittee Chair, will email the Game Subcommittee to set meeting dates.

--The Central/Southwest region proposal comments must be brought to the Anchorage AC at the December 3, 2024, meeting of the full committee.

--The Statewide regulations meeting, proposal comments must be brought to the Anchorage AC at the February 4, 2024, meeting of the full committee.

BOF Meeting			
Meeting	Location	Comment Deadline	Meeting Dates
Work Session	Anchorage	Tuesday, October 15, 2024	October 29-30, 2024
PWS and Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Finfish and Shellfish (except shrimp)	Cordova	Tuesday, November 26, 2024	December 10-16, 2024
Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish	Ketchikan	Tuesday, January 14, 2025	January 28-February 9, 2025
Statewide Shellfish, PWS Shrimp and Supplemental Issues	Anchorage	Tuesday, February 25, 2025	March 11-16, 2025

BOG meeting			
Meeting	Location	Comment Deadline	Meeting Dates
Work Session	Wasilla	TBD	January 9, 2025
Central and Southwest Region	Wasilla	Friday, December 27, 2024	January 10-17, 2025
Statewide Regulations	Anchorage	Friday, March 7, 2025	March 21-28, 2025

X. Set next meeting date: the first Tuesday in November is election day so the Anchorage AC will meet November 12, 2024.

XI. Other: None.

XII. Adjourn: 7:07pm.

Minutes Recorded By: Willow Hetrick

Minutes Approved By: Kevin Taylor

Date: October 8, 2024