

11- 25- 2025 Petersburg Advisory committee meeting
Substitute Secretary: Eric Castro

Paul Robbins ADFG Wildlife Bio also present

Chair s

- Just running through the proposals:
- Motion made,
- Public notices have been given, and Paul Robbins is in
- Deciding to go through the proposals; will prioritize some
 - While we have selected these proposals to go over, if any public members choose another unselected proposal, we'll take those on also.
 - Jake made recc to go over proposals that impact SEAK
 - Starting at Regionwide
 - Ted Sandhofer says only 13 that might be pertinent to local
 - Voting "Yes" to discuss on proposal 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10-13, 16-18
 - Sitka (19,23)
 - Juneau (40-42)
 - KTN or POW (44-46←discuss these together,47,48←together also,55,56←together)
 - PSG (57-69) all of them
 - None should take extraordinary time
- Megan recommends the group tackle Board of Fish proposals also
 - BOF
 - 169,170-173,174,176,177,178,179,180,182,
- Megan thinks that Bristol Bay comment period ends end of December
 - Nush King salmon closure
 - Letter to troopers to state about better defining 32ft limit
 - There's something about a trim tab that sits under the jets that might extend length of vessel. There are no regs on that now.
 - Question about any members of public interested in Bristol Bay present, and Don said that he hasn't heard anything—but also hasn't asked. We will table for future meeting.
 - One week notice for regular meetings. Don says second week of December best for him.
 - Task Force and MREP first week in December
 - Frank needs to be present to attend. Wrangell is holding meetings on 12/8 and 12/11.
 - Frank says that he can be available on 12/10.
 - Dave asked for the Troopers to be present on that meeting also
 - Sam said that she can reach out to Troopers for us
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- Jake makes motion to adopt Proposal 1
 - Dave against proposal
 - States problem on POW poaching with spotlights
 - ADFG has no statement
 - Question called by Paul
 - Unanimously opposed (15)
- Proposal 2
 - Dave says this proposal is strictly for deer. All seem opposed.
 - Unanimously opposed (15)
- P3
 - Jake feels this goes against “fair chase”, and is opposed. Don thinks will hurt populations.
 - Unanimously opposed (15)
- P4
 - Dave agrees with proposal. He and Don are concerned with populations.
 - Unanimous support (15)
- P5
 - Kaleb moves to adopt and seconded by Meghan
 - Kaleb states this just changes waiting period from 4 years to 1 year. Unit 1 is all the mainland.
 - Ted doesn’t have problem with resident getting brown bear every year, but he doesn’t see language only including residents
 - Dave doesn’t support because this is such a large area (all Unit 1 is mainland).
 - Frank only manages Unit 1B. He agrees with Dave and is concerned with sustainability. Most folks don’t harvest brown bears and harvest is mostly localized.
 - Opposed (14), 1 abstention (Kaleb)
- P6 and 7
 - Frank has nothing to share and doesn’t know if there’s a conservation concern
 - 35% of wolf harvest in Dec, 22% in Jan so most harvest isn’t month of major harvest
 - Dave is in favor. He thinks it keeps all the same. Extends a month from end of April to end of May. Mitkof and Kupreanof is a “predator vanishment area” so that’s why there’s a difference.
 - Don thinks it will make easier for users. Hunters would be less confused with just one date.
 - Unanimous support (15)
- P8
 - Frank says will create mtn lion harvest in units 1-5, bag limit of one.
 - Since 1989, there have been 5 sightings
 - Wrangell lion was a very young male with “needle sharp teeth”
 - 2024 around Totem Bay
 - Adult male mtn lion captured in wolf snare on Kuiu
 - All have been males, and 3 were young males

- He spoke to BC Mtn Lion expert and they said that populations were sparse and it was typically a young male dispersing.
- ADFG is neutral on topic; emphasize that they don't do anything except document observations.
- Mtn lion is deer specialist.
- Jake asked if this is considered a "native species" and Frank says they aren't
- Frank doesn't know of lions serving as a vector for disease
- Don is concerned with challenges of enforcement
- Dave is in favor of this proposal. He feels that "they're coming" and just like other species that have migrated in, we should make a season to legalize hunting. He mentions that brown bear hunt
- Joel doesn't want people to get in trouble for harvesting a lion, like others that we know who've been in trouble for killing brown bear. He feels that can be a revenue generator for the state
- Jake also supports and doesn't want others to get charged legally and feels that no one should be in trouble for killing a nonnative species
- Meghan and Heather don't support.
 - Support (11), opposed (3), abstained (1 by Nyle)
- P9
 - Jake doesn't think that residents should get in trouble for hunting/trapping a nonnative species
 - Kaleb doesn't feel it should be a season, just take the reins off and consider it a non-game species
 - Frank clarifies that this wouldn't be an invasive species, but just a very slow migration into the area, moving in like others. Frank says that other states all view as a game species.
 - Idea from public that regs could be established to allow for hunt (or allowable take) like the elk off Etolin.
 - Elk were translocated from Oregon to Etolin Island, Alaska back in 1987. Since these elk were artificially established on a new area, efforts were taken to reduce chances of elk migrating to adjacent islands.
 - Kaleb asked Frank if these mountain lions could unequivocally be considered wild. States that some areas of country have farm raised.
 - "Hatchery lions"
 - Meghan opposed because it still states hunting
 - Support (12), opposed (3)
- P10
 - Dave is support because it can be a hassle to go through the process
 - Support (15)
- P11
 - Dave adopts and seconded by Bob
 - Dave feels that the proponent wants to set up a game cam on his traps, and that it doesn't make the trapper more effective

- Don also feels that it could actually be beneficial and allow trappers to remove unintended game
 - Support (15)
- P12 and 13
 - Dave thinks that a few years should be given to see what happens. Poachers are going to poach. Those using these tools to hunt illegally will continue to do so. Wants it to go through one board cycle before taken away.
 - Don said that in MI it is legal. If this is a tool to harvest animals ethically, then we should be able to.
 - Support (1), opposed (13), abstained (1)
- P16
 - Jake thinks this won't help our region.
 - Nyle feels this is written for waterfowl guides and seaducks. This removes crane for those that come through in September.
 - Heather opposes
 - Ben adamantly opposes current regs, but also opposes this proposal
 - Support (0), opposed (15)
- P69
 - Frank speaks for the small game biologist who says that any extension would conflict with nesting season. That's why ends May 15. Season opens August 1. Her thoughts that we'd have to delay into late-Sept to have those individuals grown to size of adults.
 - Jake asked if males are active in nesting period and Frank stated that they wouldn't be.
 - Kaleb states that his proposal is different and it's Unit 3 specific. Unit 3 is only sooty grouse, but those other proposals might have spruce grouse also. He's never flushed a female with a great bird dog in the spring, and have only been males. He proposed late spring to allow for school children to have a couple extra weekends in May.
 - Meghan says that conflict with nesting season is a no-go for her, and that her dog has flushed females before
 - Dave isn't in support of extending the spring season any more because he's shot grouse that have had eggs in them
 - Jeff doesn't support this because he sees many females in the spring. He spends lots of time hunting grouse, and lots on Kupreanof. He does see chicks and hens and active nesting and doesn't see going so long into the season.
 - Support (2), opposed (10), abstained (3)
- P17
 - Dave thinks it's a great idea. Definitely try to shoot males but kids may not know the difference.
 - Don thinks that no one should get in trouble
 - Support (0), opposed (15)
- P18

- Nyle still hunting for males and hearing them hooting in late May and doesn't think there will be population decline
- Dave doesn't like season going earlier, but likes changing the opening date 10 days later
- Kaleb notes that this has more impact to the Board because includes Units 1-5 and also includes areas with Spruce grouse
- ADFG states that any extension past May 15 will conflict with nesting season
- Heather doesn't like extension into nesting season
- Jake wanted to extend, but hearing comments of concern from state says no
- Support (3), opposition (11), abstained (1 - Paul)
- P19
 - Kaleb says that Unit 4 is the only spring brown bear hunt that doesn't end on May 31. Wants residents to have time to hunt. He clarifies that this is a registration hunt and it could be kept open 12 days longer for residents, but also could be closed by state if reached quota.
 - Don supports anything that increases access for locals
 - Dave in strong support and well written
 - Support (15)
- P23
 - Dave moves to adopt, seconded by Don
 - Unit 4 is clarified as the A,B,C islands
 - Don isn't ever for out of state persons to have more animals. Sees it as a way to extend their seasons through "hunter-transport". Too many nonresidents don't harvest sustainably. The number of lodges here in SEAK will have new hunts that focus on deer harvest.
 - Ted notes that Angoon is very concerned with harvest near the community and is opposed to giving nonresidents more deer
 - Meghan agrees with comments and asks why they've recommended
 - ADFG recommends this proposal, but the state thinks that this will get very little nonresident participation. There's a lot of deer noted in Unit 4, but that there might be very little more pressure on this resource.
 - Kaleb pointed out that the Kodiak hunt being closed to nonresidents and now those hunters might be moving
 - Ted says that hunting is good now, but after a couple bad winters we might lose out populations. We need to look at this long term, not short term; doesn't support
 - Ben asks why any nonresidents would need more than 2 deer. Not in support
 - Support (0), opposed (15)
- Chair speaks and asks if all in support of meetings limited to two hours
- Next meeting December 10 @ 1800

Additional Notes by Megan O'Neil

6:04pm called to order

- Max, Don, Joel, Brandon seats are expired
- o Brandon ware – sport charter seat, full three year term
- o Kaleb baird – troll seat, full three year term
- o Three undesignated seats – Don Speglmyre, Joel randrup, Heather Bauscher. Full three year terms
- Alternate one year seat- Eric Castro
- Chair, Heather Bauscher.
- Vice Chair, Don Spiglmyre.
- Secretary for tonight, Eric Castro.
- o Proposal 1, no adfg 0-14
- o P2, no 0-14
- o P3, not subsisting off of goats like deer, 0-14
- o P4, yes,
- o P5, all of unit 1 is too much, maybe if this was a smaller area, may have concern with sustainability. Most people don't shoot more than one brown bear. Conservation concern. 0-13 kaleb abstain
- o P6 & 7, align other wolf seasons with mitkof and other areas. All end May 31. Longer ones are 'predator control araes', mainland is not. Those months have almost no wolf harvest, mostly December-Feb. yes 14-0
- o P8, BC mountain lion expert and number adjacent to SE is sparse and no hunting, usually young dispersing male. Record deer harvests, mountain lions not an issue. Have trail cameras and can run into a brown bear anywhere on mitkof island. Brown bears spreading in BC too. Yes 10-3-1abstain
- o P9, recognized as big game species in everyother state. 10-3
- o P10, no unan
- o P11, yes unan
- o P12-13, no unan
- o P16, no unan
- o P69, small game biologist, an extention of the season in unit 3 would conflict with nesting season. Dates. August 1st, young small grouse just on their own not the size of full adults. Would have to delay into September for full sized birds. Do males have to do with nesting part? Concern for season extention. No 2-4-3 abstain
- o P17 no unan
- o P18 no
- o P19 yes,

