

# East POW AC Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting December 13, 2025 in Thorne Bay @ City Hall

Call to Order: 10:05am

## Roll Call:

Members present: 15

15 Members total

Number needed for quorum: 8

East POW AC Members	Officer	Designation	Present	Absent	Expiration
Dave Egelston	Chair		x		June 2028
William Pattison	Vice Chair	Whale Pass	x		June 2027
Matt Beck		Whale Pass	x (online)		June 2026
Amy Jennings		Thorne Bay	x (online)		June 2028
Kim Redmond		Thorne Bay	x		June 2026
John Ryan		Hollis	x (online)	x (excused)	June 2027
Lew Hiatt		Hollis	x (online)		June 2026
George Nix		Kasaan		x (excused)	June 2028
Eric Hamar		Kasaan	x (online)		June 2028
Doug Rhodes		Coffman Cove	x (online)		June 2027
		Coffman Cove			
Kurt Whitehead	Secretary			x (excused)	June 2028
Glen Holt				x (excused)	June 2026
Augie Dunne			x (online)		June 2026
Luther Jenson			x		June 2027
Keri Bergman			Alternate		June 2027

**ADFG Staff Present: Sam Kirby (ADFG board support-online), Ross Dorendorf (online) & Mark Williamson (ADFG Unit 2 biologists)**

**Guests present:** Keri Bergman & Luther Jenson were both elected.

**Elections:** Elections for officers were held as well as the open seats. No one was selected for the Coffman Cove seat and it will continue to remain open until it gets filled. The one undesignated/unfilled seat was filled by Luther Jenson. Keri Bergman was elected as an alternate. The officers were elected as follows: Dave Egelston-Chair, Will Pattison-Vice Chair, Kurt Whitehead-Secretary.

**Reports: None**

**ADFG: None**

**Public: Lee Burger, Christian ?**

**Old Business: ADFG Props**

**New Business: Elections, BOG and Statewide BOF Props**

**Prop 1:** Prohibit the take of big game animals b/n civil twilight sunset until civil twilight sunrise the following day in units 1-5

**Discussion:** At an earlier meeting, AST gave us a report on how a civil twilight regulation for deer/big game in SE AK would improve enforcement and curb illegal/unethical hunting. Many cases have been lost b/c the "hunters" shut off their headlights prior to firing a shot and the jury found them innocent b/c they shot without using a spotlight. Civil twilight gives the hunter more hunting opportunity than the standard 30min before/after sunrise/sunset that the lower 48 uses. There is lots of info online about it and this prop will certainly curb illegal activity. We are strongly supportive of enforcement and creating regs that will allow them to prosecute poachers. If passed, this will be a very positively impactful reg for all of SE AK. It is nearly impossible for enforcement to patrol the myriad hunting areas and roads in SE AK and when they finally catch poachers, for them to get off on a technicality is crazy. Every hunter conservationist should endeavour to make better regs, mentor others and be better sportsmen/women. *This is a transformative reg that will create a level playing field, draw a definite line in the sand, improve enforcement and has very little if any downside. We encourage all of you to research civil twilight with an open mind and think about the positive benefits to this regulation. We strongly support this prop!*

**Vote: Support: Unanimous**

**Prop 2:** Prohibit the take of deer b/n civil twilight sunset until civil twilight sunrise the following day in units 1-5

**Discussion:** Same as above.

**Vote: Support: unanimous**

**Prop 3:** Allow same day airborne take of goats in Units 1-5

**Discussion:** ADFG is neutral and could still manage by reducing season length. ***Many members are strongly opposed to same day airborne***, especially for mtn. goats that are generally easy to hunt other than navigating the terrain. Goats don't move much other than during the rut and their defense mechanism is living near escape terrain making them easy targets to hunt the same day. If allowed, the season would be significantly shortened and limiting opportunity.

**Vote: Opposed: Unanimous**

**Prop 4:** Amend the definition of a "taken" mountain goat in Units 1-5 to align with the definition of a "taken" brown bear in Units 1-5.

**Discussion:** This is a matter of hunting ethics and every hunter conservationist should consider a wounded animal a tagged animal.

**Vote: Support: Unanimous**

**Prop 5:** Increase the brown bear bag limit in Unit 1 Remainder, to one bear every regulatory year instead of one bear every four regulatory years.

**Discussion:** The majority felt the current bag limit is good and/or could be open to a bear every 2 or 3 years but did not like the 1 bear/year b/c that would increase the take significantly. The minority felt there are plenty of bears and wanted to increase the take.

**Vote: Opposed: split: 8-No/4-Yes**

**Prop 6/7:** Align the wolf hunting seasons in Unit 1 by extending the seasons in Unit 1A, 1B & 1C to May 31.

**Discussion:** This is a good proposal that will consolidate seasons.

**Vote: Support: Unanimous**

**Prop 8/9:** Establish a season for mountain lions in SE AK from Aug.1-June 15.

**Discussion:** 5 confirmed mtn. lions in SE AK all in unit 3, all males that likely migrated from the mainland. One member stated he would rather have trappers be able to keep them if incidentally taken.

**Vote: Support: split: 10-Yes/2-No**

**Prop 10:** Remove the sealing requirement for beaver in Units 1-5.

**Discussion:** ADFG would lose data and sealers would lose income if requirement is removed.

**Vote: Opposed: Unanimous**

**Prop 11:** Allow the use of cameras or other sensory devices that can send wireless messages for trapping furbearers in Units 1-5.

**Discussion:** ADFG is neutral but this could increase safety as well as efficiency. This will allow trappers to dispatch their catch faster and prevent theft of trap and/or animals and increase ethics.

**Vote: Support: Unanimous**

**Prop 12/13:** Prohibit the use of night vision devices for taking furbearers in Units 1-5.

**Discussion:** Night vision is incredible technology and makes it way too easy to kill anything and makes illegal activity a very real threat. Enforcement already have their hands full with spotlighting in SE AK and allowing night vision as well is just nuts. Regulation complexity isn't much of an opposing argument; our reg book is already thick. Hunter conservationists should do whatever we can to limit illegal activity. Many members are strongly opposed.

**Vote: Support: Unanimous**

**Prop 14/15:** Increase the bag limit of fisher from 1 to 3 per season & Remove the bag limit for trapping fisher in units 1-5

**Discussion:** Currently, there is no citation by enforcement if trappers exceed their 1/year bag limit.

**Vote: Support: Unanimous**

**Prop 16:** Shift the season dates for hunting migratory birds and waterfowl in Units 1-5 to October 8-January 22.

**Motion to amend prop 16 as follows: Shift the season dates for hunting migratory birds and waterfowl in Units 1-5 to Sept. 15-Dec. 31; eliminating the split season.**

**Discussion:** One member is opposed b/c we lose ability to shoot pintails, teal and other early season birds. Many are opposed to the current split season. Several members want an October 1 start date with no split season. The split season mainly benefits the northern SE AK hunters. The duck season has gone back and forth every cycle trying to accommodate the duck hunters in northern SE AK that want an earlier season start date and the southern SE AK hunters that want a later start date. Maybe a better option would be dividing SE AK with a northern season vs a southern season.

**Vote: Support: Unanimous**

**Prop 17:** Change the bag limit for grouse in the Southeast Region

**Discussion:** This prop is confusing b/c it doesn't clarify which grouse species.

**Vote: Opposed: Unanimous**

**Prop 18:** Shift the hunting season for grouse in Units 1-5 to Aug. 10-May 31

**Discussion:** Two members spoke about how they've never seen female hooters and would like to see the season extended to allow additional opportunity.

**Vote: Split: Opposed: 7-No/5-Yes**

**Prop 37/39:** Reduce the bag limit for deer in Unit 2 from 4 to 3 bucks.

**Discussion:** Inaccurate reporting is an issue as well as illegal/unethical reporting. We want a more conservative harvest and support both of these props and defer to the Boards decision.

**Vote: Support: Unanimous**

**Prop 38:** Reduce the resident bag limit for deer in Unit 2 from 4 bucks to three.

**Discussion:** We agree with the departments comments.

**Vote: Opposed: Unanimous**

**Prop 39/40/41:** Reduce bag limit for deer in Unit 2 from 4 bucks to 2 bucks and/or 1 buck.

**Motion to amend Prop 40 & 41 as follows: Reduce bag limit for deer in Unit 2 from 4 bucks to 2 bucks.**

**Discussion:** If passed, prop 39 would solve some of the social conflicts b/n res and non-res hunters. Very few non-res are successful enough to take 2 bucks but there is a physiological benefit for them being able to harvest 2 bucks which is a real benefit to hunting SE AK. Many of us agree there isn't a biological concern although we would all like to see more deer on the landscape but the conflicts in the field, near the trailheads and along the roads is frustrating for many of us locals.

**Vote: Support: Unanimous**

**Prop 42:** Change the non-res start date for deer hunting season in Unit 2 to Aug. 15.

**Discussion:** If passed this would affect state and native lands and would closely align seasons. Under federal regs, non-federally qualified users start date is Aug. 16.

**Vote: Support: Split: 11-Yes/1-No**

**Prop 43:** Increase the deer bag limit and extend the season length for residents and non-res on the Cleveland Peninsula

**Discussion:** This would allow KTN residents additional opportunity

**Vote: Support: Unanimous**

**Prop 44/45/46:** Limit the non-res permits for Unit 1A goat drawing DG005/DG006/DG008, to "up to" 20% of the available permits

**Discussion:** This is not the way to address the problem and if passed would have unintended consequences.

**Vote: Opposed: Unanimous**

**Prop 47:** Eliminate meat salvage requirement in May for black bear in Unit 2 for residents only

**Discussion:** If passed this would be the only unit in the state that meat salvage wouldn't be required in May for black bear. This prop is ethically wrong and most of us are strongly opposed to this prop. We live on an island where groceries are cost prohibitive and wasting quality protein is morally and ethically wrong.

**Vote: Opposed: Unanimous**

**Prop 48:** Increase the unit 2 wolf population objective to maintain the unit wide population within a range of 200-300 wolves.

**Discussion:** There are relatively few wolves that emigrate onto PoW and ADFG feels Unit 2 wolves have poor genetic diversity. The current harvest is nearly at the max allowed for sustained genetic diversity. There was a genetic bottleneck in the 1970's and ADFG is doing everything it can to avoid potential petitions to list under the ESA.

**Vote: Opposed: Unanimous**

**Prop 49:** Change the season start date for wolf trapping in Unit 2 to Dec. 15 or Jan. 1

**Discussion:** ADFG can adjust their management if the dates are changed.

Several members opposed the later dates b/c of freezing Wx. One member reported there are too many hunters and too many deer in the field in November. Several members reported they would prefer a start date of Dec. 1 to avoid the deer and deer/duck hunters.

**Vote: Support: Split: 8-Yes/2-No**

**Prop 50:** Move the start date of the wolf trapping season in Unit 2 to Dec. 15

**Discussion:** The hair board survey stops around Dec. 15 as well as the deer/deer hunting traffic decreases significantly, which is why we proposed this date. One member doesn't like the freezing Wx in December

**Vote: Support: Split: 9-Yes/1-No**

**Prop 51:** Extend the wolf trapping season to 45 days in Unit 2

**Discussion:** This won't improve wolf management

**Vote: Opposed: Unanimous**

**Prop 52:** Add Unit 2 as an area for intensive management of wolves

**Discussion:** The threat of another ESA petition to list would be very real if this is passed

**Vote: Opposed: Unanimous**

**Prop 53:** Require an online trapping education course for trapping wolves in Unit 2

**Discussion:** This prop is largely a result b/c of the increased deer bycatch due to the Nov. 15 start

**Vote: Opposed: Unanimous**

**Prop 54:** Require ID tags to be attached to traps/snares in Unit 2

**Discussion:** This can be as easy as a AK DL #. Most trappers will likely be more legal & ethical if they are required. There is virtually no downside to having them required. One member stated it adds an undue burden to trappers.

**Vote: Support: Split: 9-Yes/1-No**

**Prop 55/56:** Prohibit the use of night vision and infrared devices for taking forbearers in Unit 2

**Discussion:** All of our proposals show we are doing everything we can to rebuild our deer herd and improve ethics/limit illegal activity and this prop follows the same logic

**Vote: Support: Unanimous**

## Statewide BOF Props:

**Prop 162:** Prohibit commercial transport services in subsistence fisheries.

**Discussion:** This prop could be applied to PoW's fisheries but the issue is much larger up north especially in the Copper River basin.

**Vote: No Action**

**Prop 11:** Closed waters in Bering Sea Area

**Vote: No Action**

**Prop 163:** Define all trawl gear operated inside state waters as non-pelagic and develop new performance and monitoring standards to allow state-waters pelagic trawling to occur on a case-by-case basis

**Discussion:** Trawlers in western Alaska are very negatively impacting every fishery in Alaska b/c they kill everything that enters their nets. The trawl bycatch is a severe injustice to every Alaskan. In 2023, the trawl bycatch totals were 35,655 king salmon, 122,279 chum salmon, 4.4 million lbs. of halibut, 1.14 million lbs of crabs, 7.3 million lbs of herring and 9 orcas.

**Vote: Support: Unanimous**

**Prop 164:** Establish bottom contact monitoring requirements for trawlers in state waters

**Discussion:** Trawlers in western Alaska are very negatively impacting every fishery in Alaska b/c they kill everything that enters their nets. The trawl bycatch is a severe injustice to every Alaskan. In 2023, the trawl bycatch totals were 35,655 king salmon, 122,279 chum salmon, 4.4 million lbs. of halibut, 1.14 million lbs of crabs, 7.3 million lbs of herring and 9 orcas.

**Vote: Support: Unanimous**

**Prop 165:** Establish salmon excluder requirements for all trawlers in state waters

**Discussion:** Trawlers in western Alaska are very negatively impacting every fishery in Alaska b/c they kill everything that enters their nets. The trawl bycatch is a severe injustice to every Alaskan. In 2023, the trawl bycatch totals were 35,655 king salmon, 122,279 chum salmon, 4.4 million lbs. of halibut, 1.14 million lbs of crabs, 7.3 million lbs of herring and 9 orcas.

**Vote: Support: Unanimous**

**Prop 166:** Amend definition of mechanical jigging machine

**Discussion:** This prop will help enforcement b/c there are issues in the fishery with the longline fishery.

**Vote: Support: Unanimous**

**Prop 167/168:** Prohibit vessels from having other ground fish gear or equipment onboard while participating in a ground fish fishery using jigging machines or hand troll gear

**Discussion:** This requirement is already in place in SE AK. This is a common sense prop.

**Vote: Support: Unanimous**

**Prop 169:** Create definition of ground fish coil spring.

**Discussion:** This is a good prop

**Vote: Support: Unanimous**

**Prop 170:** Reduce permitted egg take level of each hatchery permit containing pink/chum salmon by 25%

**Discussion:** The chum salmon production pays for the coho/king salmon in most hatcheries in SE AK. This would have severe negative impacts on the SE AK hatcheries/fisheries.

**Vote: : Opposed: Unanimous**

**Prop 171:** Amend Prince William Sound hatchery permits to reduce pink salmon production

**Vote: No Action**

**Prop 172:** Moratorium on pink/chum hatchery production

**Discussion:** The chum salmon production pays for the coho/king salmon in most hatcheries in SE AK. This would have severe negative impacts on the SE AK hatcheries/fisheries.

**Vote: Opposed: Unanimous**

**Prop 173:** Provide emergency order to define fishing boundaries when regulatory markers are lost, destroyed or absent

**Discussion:** This is a commonsense prop

**Vote: Support: Unanimous**

**Prop 174:** Allow the engine of a purse seine vessel or skiff to be shut off when net is deployed

**Discussion:** We are confused why boats would turn off engines while fishing and it doesn't seem safe.

**Vote: Opposed: Unanimous**

**Prop 175:** Modify dip net mesh-size & configuration

**Vote: No Action**

**Prop 176/177/178:** Allow anglers fishing from the same vessel to pool bag & possession limits

**Discussion:** Several members are highly opposed to this b/c of the increased take, the additional burden on our resources and having the best anglers on the boat catching bag limits for others that might not even be able to fish and/or are children etc. This reg will allow increased take and places more emphasis on the taking of fish and less on the experience. Party fishing is detrimental to our industry and our resources and we do not need increased stress on our fish. This would increase the take of all fish and the king salmon anglers who come during the beginning of season will trigger the season to be closed sooner and negatively impact the anglers coming at the end of the season due to current in season management.

**Minority report:** One member supports b/c of seasickness, poor health and other factors why angler might not be able to catch their own fish.

**Vote: Opposed: Split: 7-No/1-Yes/1-Abstain**

**Prop 179:** Establish a statewide annual limit for king salmon of 10 fish larger than 20 inches.

**Discussion:** The king salmon management plan and the pacific salmon treaty dictates how we manage our kings in Alaska

**Vote: No Action**

**Prop 180:** Establish a statewide annual limit for king salmon of 5 fish

**Discussion:** The king salmon management plan and the pacific salmon treaty dictates how we manage our kings in Alaska

**Vote: No Action**

**Prop 181:** Align regulatory and statutory language for sport fishing gear

**Discussion:** This is a commonsense prop

**Vote: Support: Unanimous**

**Prop 182:** Establish bow fishing as a lawful sport fishing gear for species without a bag or possession limit

**Discussion:** This prop comes up every cycle and has always been voted down for good reasons. This is a bad prop. Walking around on eggs in salmon steams and the wounding loss to our salmon would be very detrimental especially in SE AK. Many members are strongly opposed.

**Vote: Opposed: Unanimous**

**Prop 183:** Amend regs requiring conditions of fish available to inspection while in possession

**Discussion:** We couldn't find the definition of "processed or prepared for human consumption" in ADFG but in SE AK it's legal to fillet salmon at sea if the carcasses are retained. If someone wanted to break the law, without a definition of "processed or prepared for human consumption" it seems you could eat the whole thing at sea and still be legal.

**Vote: Support: Unanimous but ONLY if there is a definition for "processed or prepared for human consumption" included.**

**Prop 184:** Align the sport fish definition of rockfish with the statewide definition

**Discussion:** This is a commonsense prop

**Vote: Opposed: Unanimous**

**Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) of 1972:**

**Motion:** Send a letter of support to amend the MMPA

**Discussion:** The State of Alaska is looking for letters of support to update the act which can only be changed in Congress. The MMPA has never been substantially updated.

The State of AK is looking for the ability to change the MMPA so they can allow the limited take of all animals on the MMPA.

A change to the MMPA would give ADFG the ability to manage our resources in the MMPA.

Lots of discussion on getting further input from absent members and drafting a letter of support later.

**Vote: Support: Unanimous**

**BOG representative in Wrangell: Will Pattison**

**Vote: Support: Unanimous**

**Meeting Adjourned: 4:26pm**

**Next meeting: TBA**

**Minutes recorded by: Kurt Whitehead**

**Minutes approved by: Dave Egelston**

**Date: Jan. 19, 2026**