**Minto Nenana Fish and Game Advisory Committee**

**1/27/2014**

**Nenana Tribal Hall Conference Room, Nenana**

1. Call to Order: 11:30 by Tim McManus
2. Roll Call:

Members Present:

Freddie Titus- Minto

Lori Baker- Minto

David Titus- Minto

Rachel Titus- Minto

Phillip Titus- Minto, Co-Chair

Florrinda Alexander- Undesignated

Tim McManus- Nenana, Co-Chiar

Kana Evans- Nenana

Jeri Knabe- Nenana

Victor Lord- Nenana

Members Absent:

Rondell Jimmy- Nenana

Steven Ketzler- Nenana

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 6

1. Approval of Agenda: yes
2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: 4/22/2013; yes
3. Fish and Game Staff Present: Tony Hollis, WC, Alida Trainor, SUBS, Nissa Pilcher, BDS, Eric Newland\* CF, Breena Apgar-Kurtz\* CF

\*on teleconference

1. Guests Present: none
2. New Business:

Discussion on AC Funding

Members are concerned that they will not have funds to meet twice this year to gather to discuss fish and wildlife issues. These issues happen all year long, and not just once a year.

**ACTION ITEM:** Draft letter to representatives expressing members concern with the lack of funding for this important advisory committee process to increase funding for meetings.

Unanimous Support

**Discussion on maps found in Hunting Regulation Book**

Members expressed concern that cooperation land is not referenced on the hunting maps in the state regulation booklet. People see land that isn’t designated something, and assume that they can hunt on it even though the land is private. While most people adhere to the private property signs and then don’t hunt on the land, some do, and those hunters are more likely to be disrespectful and wasteful.

ACTION ITEM: Draft letter to Commissioner Campbell and appropriate Department of Wildlife Conservation staff expressing those concerns.

Unanimous support

**Commercial Fisheries 2013 season summary and 2014 projections**-Eric Newland & Breena Apgar-Kurtz

| **STATEWIDE BOARD OF FISHERIES 2014 MEETING COMMENTS** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **BOG or BOF** | **Proposal Number** | **Proposal Description** | |
| **Supports or Opposes?** | **Number Support** | **Number Oppose** | **Comments/Discussion (list Pros and Cons)/Amendments to Proposal** |
| BOF | 371 | Remove the dip net size restrictions for the Yukon Area districts 1-3 commercial summer chum salmon fisheries. | |
| Comment |  |  | AC members asked the Department about the need for this change, the current regulations, the duration of the dip net commercial openers, a more detailed description of the dip net fishing gear, the effectiveness of the gear  Our communities have more reliance on the summer chum to fill our subsistence needs now more than ever. We get the end of the run up here, and if all of the fish are taken down river, then we don’t get any. We understand that the commercial fishermen in Districts 1-3 are just trying to make a living- they have to buy food and gas too, but we are very concerned with this proposal and the potential ramifications. We choose to not oppose or support it at this time, but would like the Board of Fisheries to understand our reservations. |
| BOF | 372 | Define and allow use of a lead for commercial fish wheel gear. | |
| Support | 10 | 0 | Department asked about if there had been any enforcement issues with the current lack of definition.  This is already common practice, although when we are subsistence fishing we don’t always use them since we are only trying to fill the smokehouse. This should be in the regulations since this is an actual part of a fishwheel, our kids know what they are. |
| BOF | 373 | Remove the exception for a dead king salmon to be taken, but not retained, in the Yukon Area districts 1-3 dip net and beach seine commercial summer chum salmon fisheries. | |
| Support | 10 | 0 | Department asked about current practice in place for what happens to the Chinooks that are currently caught during the commercial fishery, and current enforcement difficulties.  Our committee believes that it would be difficult to make the argument that more then a handful of Chinooks could be incidentally killed during these fisheries, and that this potential loophole should be changed to help preserve the fragile Chinook run. |
| BOF | 376 | Establish monofilament purse seines as a new legal gear for the Yukon Area districts 1-3 commercial summer chum salmon fisheries. | |
| Comment |  |  | Department asked on how this type of fishery could be implemented, as well as on how the test fishery went.  Members stated that if there is such a surplus that the composers of the proposal are worried about, that the people of this area can certainly help them out there when the fish get upriver to us, no problem. We understand that the commercial fishermen in Districts 1-3 are just trying to make a living- they have to buy food and gas too, but we are very concerned with this proposal and the potential ramifications. We choose to not oppose or support it at this time, but would like the Board of Fisheries to understand our reservations. |

Additional discussion that the Minto Nenana AC members had with the Division of Commercial Fisheries

* Expressed concern about the high seas polock fishery and the Chinook bycatch as well as how NMFS is handling it. This federal managed fishery is in part causing the state to break our international treaty with Canada. We are cutting back 75%, and that fishery should as well. Our very culture is at stake.
* Gratitude expressed for Commissioner Campbell’s efforts.

Commercial Fisheries Division thanked members for their time and for their complying with the restrictions currently in place on the Yukon River, including the Tanana Drainage. They encouraged members to attend the YRDFA planning meeting, as well as the teleconferences held during the summer. There was also a request to help spread the word of the management decisions back to their communities.

| **BOARD OF GAME INTERIOR 2014 MEETING COMMENTS** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **BOG or BOF** | **Proposal Number** | **Proposal Description** | |
| **Supports or Opposes?** | **Number Support** | **Number Oppose** | **Comments/Discussion (list Pros and Cons)/Amendments to Proposal** |
| **REGIONAL AND MULTIPUL UNITS** | | | |
| BOG | 41 | Modify the season dates for Dall sheep in Region III. | |
| N/A |  |  | Nenana used to hunt sheep a long time ago, but in the 60’s the village members that did were terrorized by the state so we quit. We no longer hunt sheep here. |
| BOG | 51 | Lengthen the wolf season in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, and 25. | |
| Oppose | 0 | 10 | This proposal would lead to the waste of fur, and taking out mothers who are raising pups is the equivalent to destroying the following year’s cash crop of wolf pelts. The current season is plenty of time. |
| BOG | 56 | Remove salvage requirements for brown bear meat when taken over a bait station in Region III. | |
| Oppose | 0 | 10 | Department questioned on the potential for guiding activity on this resource.  The salvage requirements seem backwards to us- we typically always salvage black bear meat. If the hunter is not planning on taking the meat, the animal shouldn’t be harvested for both animals. |
| BOG | 57 | Remove the salvage requirements for brown bears taken at bait stations in Units 12, 20C, 20E, and 22D. | |
| Oppose | 0 | 10 | Department questioned on the potential for guiding activity on this resource.  The salvage requirements seem backwards to us- we typically always salvage black bear meat. If the hunter is not planning on taking the meat, the animal shouldn’t be harvested for both animals. |
| BOG | 58 | Remove salvage requirements for brown bear meat when taken over a bait station in Units 12, 20C, 20E, and 21D. | |
| Oppose | 0 | 10 | Department questioned on the potential for guiding activity on this resource.  The salvage requirements seem backwards to us- we typically always salvage black bear meat. If the hunter is not planning on taking the meat, the animal shouldn’t be harvested for both animals. |
| **FAIRBANKS AREA– UNITS 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F & 25C** | | | |
| BOG | 97 | Reauthorize antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20A. | |
| Support | 10 | 0 | Members noted that the moose population has gone down, and those hunts have brought forth food to our tables, so we are in line with what the department is recommending. |
| BOG | 98 | Change bag limit for moose in Unit 20A to any bull. | |
| Oppose | 0 | 10 | If hunters cannot tell the difference, then they shouldn’t be out there hunting. We would have to shorten the season if this was to pass. There also might be more wounding loss since hunters won’t be looking the moose over as close and might take a quick shot at an animal. |
| BOG | 99 | Eliminate the Wood River Controlled Use Area. | |
| Oppose | 0 | 10 | Retaining the WRCUA is a good idea- that is good breeding grounds and then those moose trickle out to us. |
| BOG | 100 | Modify the boundaries of the Wood River Controlled Use Area. | |
| Oppose | 0 | 10 | Retaining the WRCUA is a good idea- that is good breeding grounds and then those moose trickle out to us. |
| BOG | 101 | Create targeted moose hunts in Units 20A and 20B. | |
| Support | 10 | 0 | We have had problem moose in town before where we were concerned for our children’s safety. This is a good idea. |
| BOG | 102 | Allow the taking of any bull by utilizing two harvest tickets in Unit 20A and portions of Unit 20B | |
| Oppose | 0 | 10 | Half a moose per ticket? |
| BOG | 103 | Allow a hunter to proxy hunt only once per year for moose in Units 20A and 20B. | |
| Oppose | 0 | 10 | Sometimes there aren’t enough hunters for all the folks that need to be hunted for in our communities. As long as the rules are followed, and paperwork is filled out correctly, this shouldn’t be a problem. |
| BOG | 104 | Allow incidental brown bear harvest over black bear bait in Units 20A and 20B. | |
| N/A |  |  | We won’t take action on this proposal, but we are against baiting for brown bears- habituating them to human foods and smells. We don’t want them in fish camp. |
| BOG | 105 | Allow brown bear harvest over black bear bait in Units 20A and 20B | |
| N/A |  |  | We won’t take action on this proposal, but we are against baiting for brown bears- habituating them to human foods and smells. We don’t want them in fish camp. |
| BOG | 106 | Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20B. | |
| Support | 10 | 0 | Department questions asked about how the Minto Flats antlerless hunt was going to be conducted this coming season.  The AC thinks the Department’s strategy this year is a good idea and supports their recommendation of cutting back on the number of antlerless moose taken in 20B sounds like a good idea. |
| BOG | 107 | Create a nonresident moose season in Unit 20B within the Minto Flats Management Area. | |
| Oppose | 0 | 10 | The AC does not believe that this is a good idea at this time. |
| BOG | 108 | Allow the use of air boats for moose hunting in the Minto Flats Management Area. | |
| Oppose | 0 | 10 | The AC recommends to leave things as they are at this time. Opening the MFMA to airboats will incur a host of problems including, but not limited to, the habitat degradation that air boats will inflict upon the ecosystem of the flats, the harm to the waterfowl population, as well as the noise that will be heard across the flats that will also impede the traditional hunting methods that our communities use to stalk, call, and hunt moose, but also the typically hunting methods used by everyone else who does not use an airboat for hunting. |
| BOG | 112 | Create a youth hunt drawing permit for antlerless moose in Unit 20B and a create a Unit 20B Youth Hunt Management Area. | |
| Oppose | 0 | 10 | It would be nice to go out hunting with the family before all the boats came out, but if no one from our local area got a permit, we are essentially giving those moose away to other communities. |
| BOG | 116 | Establish a Controlled Use Area for the Nenana-Totchaket Resource Development Corridor. | |
| Support | 10 | 0 | Members would like this to pass. There are other roads that have been put in, such as the road to Clear Lake, where during the hunting season the area is overrun with ATV traffic. Local residents do use this area to hunt, and it would be nice if there were limitations to the amount of ATV traffic in this area. |
| BOG | 117 | Reinstate the Nenana Controlled Use Area. | |
| Support | 10 | 0 | Supported for the reasons outlined within the proposal. |

| **STATEWIDE BOARD OF GAME 2014 MEETING COMMENTS** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **BOG or BOF** | **Proposal Number** | **Proposal Description** | |
| **Supports or Opposes?** | **Number Support** | **Number Oppose** | **Comments/Discussion (list Pros and Cons)/Amendments to Proposal** |
| BOG | 175 | Review and determine the advisory committees that have jurisdiction for approving antlerless moose hunts. | |
|  |  |  | Our AC is split between GMU 20A and GMU 20B, and the deciding factor of where the ‘majority’ of members resides is solely based on our one Undesignated seat, and if that seat is from Minto or Nenana changes frequently. It is only logical that we be allowed to approve antlerless hunts for the entire GMU 20. |
| BOG | 135 | Specify game taken for certain religious ceremonies is to be used within this state. | |
| Support | 10 | 0 | This isn’t our practice now- and we wouldn’t want to see an entire moose taken under religious ceremony taken out of state. We help out our close communities when they need a moose or a portion of one, but don’t, but wouldn’t’ want to see that resource leave the state. |
| BOG | 137 | Establish definitions for subsistence hunting and subsistence uses**.** | |
|  |  |  | Proposal was discussed- Members stated that they could define subsistence hunting and uses if that is what the composer and the Board of Game members need. |
| BOG | 160 | Modify the definition of edible meat for brown bear to match black bear. | |
| Oppose | 0 | 10 | The salvage requirements seem backwards to us- we typically always salvage black bear meat. If the hunter is not planning on taking the meat, the animal shouldn’t be harvested for both animals. |
| BOG | 161 | Modify the definition of edible meat for brown bear to match black bear. | |
| Oppose | 0 | 10 | The salvage requirements seem backwards to us- we typically always salvage black bear meat. If the hunter is not planning on taking the meat, the animal shouldn’t be harvested for both animals. |

**Advisory Committee Representative at the INT BOG**

Philip Titus was elected to represent the committee.

**Biological Update-** Tony Hollis, ADFG

Brief update given on material not covered during when proposals were gone over. Questions asked on the legal requirements regarding disposal of gut piles near roads.

**Joint Board Meeting Results-** Nissa Pilcher, ADFG

There will be little change to the current meeting structure. The meeting minute template and term date change was discussed.

**Update on BOF/BOG Update for next cycle-**Nissa Pilcher, ADFG

BOG will meet on Southeast, Central Southwest, and Southcentral

BOF will meet on Prince William Sound & Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Finfish, and Southeast and Yakutat Crab, Shrimp, and Miscellaneous Shellfish, and Southeast and Yakutat Finfish, and Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp, and Miscellaneous Shellfish and Supplemental Issues.

The AC is not planning on submitting any proposals to either board during this cycle.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is set for Mino, and will be held as soon as the Area Biologist has completed moose surveys and compiled the information, so in December.

Old Business: None

Adjournment: 2:35 pm

Minutes Recorded By: Nissa Pilcher, ADFG

Minutes Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_