

Noatak & Kivalina Department of Fish and Game
Approved Meeting Minutes November 29th, 2012 10:30 am

Quorum Established 10:51

Joe Luther
Frank Onalik
Jim Dau
Charlotte Westing Mike Adams
Raymond Hawley
Leslie Vern
Wendell Booth
Don Booth
Wendell Booth Sr.
Ben Sherman Senior
Alvin Ashby
Paul Norton
LeRoy Adams-Kivalina

Enoch: Reviews the Agenda Items
Additional Items for the agenda
Agenda Approved

Elections

Chair Enoch Mitchell
Vice Chair: Joe Luther
Add Janet Mills for the Secretary position
Nomination for Janet Mills back on
Second Janet Mills for Secretary
Secretary: Janet Mills
Nominations for Member Seats
Nomination for Frank Onalik Sr.
Motion
Seconded
Motion for Melford and Thurston to add for seats
Melford Booth and Thurston elected as members

Enoch Mitchell: Wants to leave the remaining seats for Kivalina

Approval of last meeting minutes-minutes not located

AC Questionnaire

Carmen Daggett: Explains questionnaire include for AC members

Charlotte Westing: Game/Moose Report

Explains musk ox permit application system-Paula Mills has the permits

I have been surveying the musk ox population every year it seems to be expanding up the Noatak River. We think that allowing 6 permits is appropriate.

Moose we looked at the Lower Kobuk last year fall and spring.

Michael Adams: Inquires how Tier II permits work.

Charlotte Westing: Explains point system for tier two permits. It is important to apply for a permit each year and it is important to include how many years you have eaten musk ox. You can also use the oldest member of your household and how much they have eaten musk ox. The maximum number points is 13. The musk ox hunt starts August 1st. It would go all the way to March 15th. It is specific just for this hunt. The next board of game I would like to include the Aggy, right now it is just North and West of the Noatak. You can count days you hunt anything in the area towards your score

Enoch Mitchell: Inquires about giving subsistence users priority over other hunters.

Charlotte Westing: The state doesn't distinguish between subsistence users in the villages or in urban communities. It does consider cost of gas and food that is more expensive and awards points based upon that.

AC Member: The caribou availability has gone down so we are eating more moose. There was an old man who said that a hunter knows no laws, and I agree with him.

Charlotte Westing: Our surveys on the Lower Kobuk were 50bulls:100 cows our calf: cow ratio 8-10:100 cows. We are not getting big bumper crops of calves making it through the winter. It doesn't allow the population to replenish as quickly.

On the lower Noatak River counts 48 bulls: 100 cows good level 12 calves: 100 cows, we would like to see more calves coming into the population. I am wondering what you are seeing in the moose. We are not seeing as many moose.

AC Member: it seems like there are less moose and lots of wolves.

AC Member: Inquires about where the moose surveys took place.

Charlotte: We saw moose on the Kelly and Wullik, but not that many. We used to see many more moose in that area than now.

AC Member: Inquires where you will see moose.

Charlotte: Explains you can find them in the Mulgrave Hills. Most you see in the Noatak River drainage.

AC Member: You see moose all year round and you don't see any moose during hunting season you don't see them. In the last ten years, they are going down I don't see as many. There used to be quite a few moose at the lake next to town and now there is only one.

Charlotte: Explains the reasoning for the validity of spring counts. I wanted to talk with you and see what you are seeing and if what we are seeing is consistent with what you are seeing.

AC Member: maybe it is because of the bears, the fish run was messed up this year and they don't have fish to eat.

Charlotte: We don't have good data on bears and wolves, but we do have traditional knowledge. Jim logs the number of bears he sees. We worked with the NPS and did a study in the Red Dog area on bears. There were two to two and a half times the number of bears that there were 20 years ago. This can affect the calf survival, we can expect the predators to increase in numbers if the Western Artic Herd was as big as it was. Now it is decreasing and they are eating other things. I am not sure what to do about it, but we are going to have to work together on it.

AC Member: A couple of years I have seen animals just lay down and die in deep snow.

Charlotte: If we find a dead moose we try to land and cut the bones, and check the marrow to see if the moose are starving. The long bones that we cut, we haven't seen too many starving moose.

Comments: Dead moose found in the deep snow

Charlotte: I don't think that the winters are particularly hard on moose. We take bone marrow samples from dead moose to check whether they have died.

Comment: Wonders what effect the plant/habitat health is.

Charlotte: Doesn't seem like a habitat limitation, other agencies have done some work on this. I haven't studied habitat limitation specifically. We do fly and see how many moose have twins. The more twins the better the habitat. It is different than just looking at the actual plants. We are looking at the useable plants. I would like to do that. Money is always a factor for getting that sort of work done.

Jim Dau: inquires about getting fat moose in fall?

AC Member Comment: moose seem to be in good shape

AC member Comment: Moose are pretty fat from another person

Jim Dau: One thing you see in the spring if they had a hard winter. When we look at moose when they are really hungry they just lay there. The moose look healthy and active. I am seeing 4ft 3ft stringers of willows that they like to eat, not being eating. There is plenty of stuff to eat.

Comment: there are healthy moose in the spring.

Charlotte: explains interactions of moose with plants and willow health. You can look at how much the plant is broomed. You can see long wispy pieces of willows versus short stubby willows you can identify if the plants have been broomed.

Comment: Inquires about female moose, I don't go for male moose. I know what to get. There are a lot of fat on the females in the fall (September, October, December) that is what I use for eskimo ice cream. Is there any other way to me I go for female moose? Alright, like that I can get female moose.

Enoch: you can get male or female moose.

Charlotte Westing: that is one thing that I want to talk about, if we find that population has really declined it is a way to get the population to be replenished. The antlerless moose hunt may have to be tweaked to allow the moose population to be replenished. We are going to talk about reauthorizing the antlerless moose and this is something that might need to change if there are conservation concerns.

Raymond Hawley: Where are the moose, musk ox, and the caribou just came around? We hardly see musk ox or moose. There has been a lot of water in the spring or fall. Usually we have a lot of musk ox right above us. All of these animals are being affected by high water.

Charlotte Westing: It was definitely a high water year.

Jim Dau: Explains how Kivalina has never had as many moose as there is in the Noatak side. There used to be a lot of bulls in the winter in the Kaluktavik. The moose are right here right by town. The Wulik and Kivalina are the margins of the moose population and may not be able to sustain moose as much when the population levels are low. Those habitats are margins of the moose population where there are always moose they are stronger in numbers and stay together when the populations get low. There is a population of musk ox outside of town in Kivalina. Cape Thompson used to have high numbers, at Uvatoruk Creek but not anymore.

Alvin Ashby: There used to be a lot around the hatchery

Charlotte: There are a lot of cows and old bulls. The hunt is for the bulls and most people want a younger bull.

Jim Dau: The musk ox use an area for 5-10 years and they give it up. There used to be a lot of musk ox in the Iggichuk hills. Then they gave up on the hills. All of them walked down to Cape Krusenstern. I used to be able to see musk ox in the hills on sealing point. They will use an area really hard for a series of years and then they will pick up and move. I don't know why they do that, but they seem like they do.

Joe Luther: Musk ox is really good, there were a lot of musk ox at the camp and my friend said that I could take whatever I wanted. I just wanted a piece of ribs, they had a lot of fat on them. They tasted just like beef. One year some years back I was going through a valley I ran into 10-12 moose while they were mad. I couldn't go through so I turned around and went back. Maybe there was a wolf bothering them.

Frank Onalik: I worked at Red Dog in the past and I saw moose and caribou going to a tailing pond. Inquires about testing and results for moose and caribou going to the tailings pond.

Charlotte: Explains health assessments on caribou and not moose for some time. I haven't seen anything that was out of the ordinary.

Jim Dau: I have heard that moose go towards the tailing pond. We shot a bull moose from that area, and we took a sample and that moose had been there several months. The caribou has brucellosis one of his testicles was larger than the other. I don't remember anything strange about his tissue of the moose.

Frank Onalik: We shot a moose and there were cysts on the outside of the moose. They were green and black on the outside of the skin.

58:15 Not sure what this is.

Jim Dau: Explains his son got a moose with a wart on it. It could be moose warts. There was a guy who works for Fish and Game found a moose who the whole side of the moose was covered in warts. He left it. They can hang from the moose. There were so many warts on this moose. The warts on the bottom were infected. He said it smelled really bad. The meat was fine.

There are other things that make cysts, you can get cysts in the testicles called Brucellosis. In the males it gets into the testicles and it makes abscesses. If you get something like that and you want to know just call us.

Frank Onalik: We got some sick caribou last fall. The meat looked not edible so they threw them. The foxes walked across the bridge and died on the other side after they ate the meat.

Charlotte: We are always interested in getting samples from the meat from animals are sick.

Comment: We should make posts in the store about sick animals and put them in the store.

Comment: Moose go to the islands to make small moose, so that the wolves and bears won't them. I watched the small moose and the mother it took three hours for them to get out there.

Jim Dau Caribou Report

Population Overview and Red Dog Road-Some of the recording was missing because of dead batteries.

Displays all of the data from the caribou census's. Explains the census during the summer. Explains confidence intervals. In 2003 we had 490,000 caribou, the caribou have declined 6% annually. In 2011 in July we got to 325,000 caribou. We have lost more caribou from this herd to put this in perspective we have lost more than the entire porcupine herd.

We are not getting as many caribou has we had in the past.

The movement patterns are different and the caribou from 2-6 weeks later than before from the North Slope. There are two things are affecting you the pattern of migration and the timing of the migration.

AC Members: I finally went all the way up the river and you can see Thompson's cabin. Inquires about hunters and funneling the caribou towards us.

Jim Dau: Explains you have a controlled use area. Where you cannot use an airplane to take hunters in there, there is a chance you may extend it. It was a major concession for the board of game to give you the controlled use area.

Enoch Mitchell: Explains the effort to get the controlled use area. We have it settled now I think we shouldn't touch it.

Jim Dau: Explains the reasoning for the transporters hunting where they were hunting. There wasn't a place to land where there wasn't a controlled use area.

Jim Dau: Explains that it would be better have wait to the board of game meeting in Kotzebue where you can get a lot of public testimony in Kotzebue.

Charlotte Westing: You may want to do this this fall because the board of game is this fall.

AC Member: Inquires about if old female caribou reproduce

Jim Dau: Explains that caribou can have a calf when they are a year old, but they are bad mothers they could just leave their calf behind like they didn't even know they had one. The older caribou cows are better mothers. We have had radio collars on cows and I don't remember seeing older caribou cows and thinking that they don't have a calf.

The female reindeer are bigger with much larger antlers in the front.

Raymond Hawley: inquires about collar on musk ox. We found a dead musk ox on the collar, when we checked the collar there were small scorpions around the collar. We had to burn the neck to get rid the scorpions.

AC Member: inquires about old insects that have been cryogenically frozen for thousands of years and they are now coming out.

Jim Dau: Says that I want the collars back and I really would like to get the jaw. I just need to know the sex and where you got it.

Enoch Mitchell: if I get lots of jaws I can buy a drum of gas for a non-profit, like search and rescue.

Inquires about fisheries.

Carmen Daggett: There are no fishery reports to be given at this time.

AC Members: inquire about people getting arrested down the Kuskokwim.

Carmen Daggett: Explains the situation with the emergency order.

Melford Booth: Explains that this is our livelihood.

Enoch Mitchell: Explains that fish and game management is important.

AC Members: inquires about the rods for ice fishing and people telling us that we can't fish.

Carmen Daggett: explains the process for creation of regulations to allow more freedom.

Enoch Mitchell: Explains the need for the current process about more and more regulations.

Jim Dau: that is why we went to the regional approach.

Thurston Booth: Inquires about why there aren't fishery people here to give reports.

Thurston Booth: There is always a cycle of little fish trout and next couple years there will be big trout. Last year there were only small trout. This year we finally got good ones.

Raymond Hawley: What I heard from other people they come in small here and get big and they become rainbow trout. That is what he always say. The fish come in small here and become rainbow trout.

Proposal Number 40 Antlerless Moose Hunt

Charlotte Westing: Explains Antlerless Moose Hunt Reauthorization

This year is a little different, because we have gotten some information because the moose population has decline according to the fall data. After the spring we will know what we need to do. If you reauthorize the antlerless moose option it gives you more options.

Enoch Mitchell: This is a good option for people in Noatak when the caribou populations have declined.

Charlotte Westing: We recognize that the female moose are important for subsistence, but the single best way to get the population to go back up is to not shoot female moose. The season would change to an antlered bull season.

Enoch Mitchell: Says that we need the meat.

Requests what Kotzebue AC said about Antlerless moose hunt

We go with Kotzebue on this decisions. They always go with us for our proposals. What do you guys think?

Motion Anterless Moose Hunt #40

All Support

None Opposed

Brown Bear Tag Fee Exemption

Charlotte Westing: Explains the Brown Bear Tag Exemption Fee and you have to have the bear sealed.

AC Member: There goes my box of shells.

Enoch Mitchell: Inquires about the tag fee for brown bear. Too many bears anyways

All Support

None Opposed

Brown Bear Tag Fee

Artic Yukon Kuskokwim Finfish

Sport Fishing

Proposal #92

Carmen Daggett: Explains the proposal/reads the proposal for the AC

Enoch Mitchell: Reads the proposal.

Confusion about the proposal.

Carmen Daggett: this regulation is to take away regulations on the hooks not give you more regulation.

Charlotte Westing: Reads the fishing regulations and interprets.

Jim Dau: Doesn't make snagging salmon legal, but it allows you to use different size treble hooks.

No Action

All Support for no action

None Opposed

Discussion

Carmen Daggett: Explains the genetics research briefly. Encourages the AC to look at the proposals more closely.

Charlotte Westing: Further explains the genetics research.

Enoch Mitchell: I would sure like to learn about the results of the research.

Carmen Daggett: Explains page 103 is the location of the next proposal.

Enoch Mitchell wants to go to AYK meeting

Carmen Daggett: Explains the finfish comments aren't due till March.

STATEWIDE FINFISH AND SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUES

Carmen Daggett: Reads proposal

Table the issues on this