

Southern Norton Sound Meeting in St. Michael

Minutes 11.13.12, Meeting start time 12:10 pm

**1. Establish Quorum and Attendance**

<b>AC Member Attendee</b>	<b>Representative Info</b>	<b>ADF&amp;G Attendee</b>	<b>Representative</b>
Norbert Otten Jr.	Alternate St. Michael	Letty Hughes	Asst. Wildlife Biologist
Art Ivanoff	Unalakleet	Tony Gorn*	Area Biologist
Merlin Henry	Koyuk	Brendan Scanlon*	Sport Fish Biologist
Peter Martin Sr.	Stebbins	Scott Kent*	Comm. Fish Biologist
Henry Oyoumick*	Unalakleet	Jim Menard*	Comm. Fish Biologist
Wade Ryan*	Unalakleet	Nicole Braem*	Subsistence
Michael Sookiayak Sr.	Shaktoolik		

**\*Indicates Telephonic participation**

**AC Members not present:**

Allen Atchak-Stebbins  
Milton Cheemuk-St. Michael  
Kris Mashiana-Unalakleet

**General Public:**

Vera S. Niksik  
James Niksik Sr.  
Frankie Myoumick  
Andrew Lockwood  
James Niksik Jr.

**2. Elections**

There was supposed to be an alternate for St. Michael that Milton Cheemuk arranged, but we don't know who.

Norbert Otten elected to serve on the St. Michael Advisory Committee serve next to Milton Cheemuk...(CALL MILTON TO SEE ABOUT RE-ELECTIONS)

Vote on establishing Norbert Otten as the representative from St. Michael.

**3. Motion to Approve the Agenda**

Michael Sookiayak requests addition to agenda Item four to include a prayer

**Motion to add a prayer**

**Motion to approve the meeting minutes**

**All approve**

**None opposed**

**4. Invocation prayer-Michael Sookiayak**

**5. Approval of last meeting minutes**

**Motion to approve minutes**

**Question:**

**All support**

**None opposed**

**Minutes adopted**

**6. Game Report**

Letty Hughes

Gives paperwork for updated meeting materials

**Tony Gorn gives Unit 22 Wildlife Report**

There was a moose census in the central part of Unit 22 545 moose in 2012, there were more moose there than we have ever found before. In 2008 by comparison were 339 moose were counted with +/- 20%. The encouraging information was that in both 2008 and 2012 the percent yearlings increased. In 2005 there was less than 1% yearlings and increased 2008 there was 21 % short yearlings in 2012 there was %19 short yearlings. It is encouraging we still have to remember the amount of moose densities is terribly low less than .25% moose per square mile. We are still dealing with a very low moose density. From where we were a decade ago we are doing better but they are still low.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about past suggestions for having moose surveys in the St. Michael-Stebbins region. Mr. Ivanoff inquires about if Mr. Gorn had received the letter submitted requesting surveys be done in the Stebbins/St. Michael area. Mr. Ivanoff will write a letter to have financial allocation for additional surveys to take place on the Southern portion of Norton Sound around St. Michael and Stebbins.

Tony Gorn: Recalls receiving the letter about having moose surveys in St. Michael and Unalakleet. The next time we can come down to Unalakleet in 2015. Gives response, I took another two super cubs with me to Unalakleet. The idea was to get a good solid Unalakleet census. The intent was to send two super cubs south to collect data on St. Michael and Stebbins recruitment surveys, but that didn't happen because of weather in the region and additional data had to be collected on the Seward Peninsula musk ox census which is a substantial undertaking. We can try again in 2015 to count unit 22A. Explains we cannot do a moose census at this point, but we can do a trend count. They are not complicated. It is just a matter of getting good weather. We can't do a moose census, but we can do a trend count. We are interested in looking at the moose count in your backyard because the populations of moose in the

lower Yukon it is getting really high and we are wondering if they are spilling over the mountains into your region.

Peter Martin: Questions about only have antlered moose hunts. Inquires about getting an antlerless moose hunt in Southern Norton Sound (St. Michael-Stebbins Region) eligibility.

Tony Gorn: That is another good reason to look at moose in your back yard if you want to be having antlerless moose hunts. If we do find high numbers of moose, we could consider having an antlerless moose hunts based on survey data.

Letty Hughes: Gives past fall harvest report from 22A area. With the increase in the moose population it increased the number of possible moose harvests from 14 to 22 for the fall hunt. There was a possibility to have 22 taken. That was with the city of Unalakleet to extend the season to the 20<sup>th</sup> of September. We had 16 moose taken as part of that EO, part of that EO plan was to have a winter moose hunt. The plan was that if there was enough moose left over in the quota to allow a winter hunt in Unalakleet in December. This is not for 22A it is for the Unalakleet region only the central part of the Unalakleet River drainage. Answers question about the hunting with the general season hunting harvest times.

Tony Gorn: I don't know if you remember going back and forth over the past couple years.

Peter Martin: Explains the reasoning for the hunting season extension each year because of the bad weather and not being able to get the moose quotas.

Letty Hughes: Explains that it is necessary for Unalakleet to send in a request to have the moose hunting season extended.

Peter Martin: in the past five years we have requested extensions. We may need to request extension again. We need this subsistence moose meat for our community.

Tony Gorn: We have been responding to the questions of St. Michael and Stebbins to extend the season throughout the winter. We should look for a solution so that St. Michael and Stebbins don't have to keep reapplying for an extended season. While talking with Art I suggested that ADF&G might want to consider staggering the winter moose hunts i.e. on even years open in December and on odd years open in January or vice versa..

Peter Martin: I agree with you, and I am sure we can come up with something.

Merlin Henry: I never have heard anything about 22B, they Koyuk River. I have never heard anything about the moose. I didn't see any bull moose in that area only cows. Are there any moose counts on the Koyuk River.

Letty Hughes: We have been focused our moose census for 22B was West of the Darby Mountains that area has experienced chronically low numbers. In the eastern portion in the Koyuk area. There are a few moose taken from Elim and Koyuk what the actual numbers are I am not sure.

Tony Gorn: The truth is is that 22E is a really big area 24,000 sq miles. We focus our energy in the scariest areas. Areas that have high harvests with good access or really low moose populations. We are not aware of any biological concerns in Koyuk and Elim and the harvests are relatively low. If you look at the reg book that the moose seasons are really long in that region because there are no biological concerns. For two reasons: no known biological concerns and low harvest rates. I have heard a lot about a lot of female moose and not a lot of male moose. I have heard this comment a lot. I thought that high it was linked to the high water causing a change in distribution the male moose this fall. The areas where you see most of the male moose was underwater this year. That may be part of the reason why we didn't see as many bulls. The Koyuk River area we try to get to, it has been about 3 years since we have been to 22E and we should try to get back to do trend counts.

Merlin Henry: There was a lot of high water this year in the Koyuk River from all of the rain. The people who got moose were lucky to get their moose because of the high water. Inquires about getting a proxy permit for hunting for elders.

Inquires about barren female, How come it is not in the reg book. I have heard about barren females and I heard we can get them. How come I don't know if I can get a barren female. How come there isn't a regulation for 22B.

Letty Hughes: I have the paperwork for the hunting by proxy permit and I can help you fill that out, there is a winter hunt right now from November 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31 for the Koyuk-Elim area. If the travel conditions are good there is an open season for an antlered bull.

Letty Hughes: For 22B there isn't a regulation for an antlerless moose hunt. It goes back to now knowing what the population for 22B. There would need to be a proposal put in for an antlerless moose hunt.

Tony Gorn: There are a couple of spots in the area in 22C we have an antlerless moose hunt. We usually do an antlerless moose hunt unless there is a real biological concern that the population is getting high and the habitat quality is low. It is to prevent die offs. In an area like 22E we don't have the data to know if this is the issue. From talking to people from flying around it doesn't sound/look like 22E that the density of the moose population is not that high. We really don't want to harvest a female moose or not. Moose are like people, moose as they get older they get less likely to be able to have a calf. That does not mean that the older female moose cannot have calves. It would be better to leave that cow in the population so it can try again in another year. When we have low moose densities it is hard to justify an antlerless moose hunt.

Art Ivanoff: It sounds like Koyuk is a little dissatisfied that they are not able to take part in the moose hunts because the data is not there. We can ask for more resources to conduct surveys so we can increase moose hunts and to consider more time hunting. It sounds like the resources are spread too thin to allow information to be collected to allow various hunts. Do you feel like you have sufficient money to conduct your surveys and mandates throughout this region? If you had more funding would you be able to get more information on the moose populations in this area?

Tony Gorn: That is a loaded question. It is always good to have more information/data on an area. Right now 22B East has two seasons one season that is two months long, and another two months later. They have very liberal hunting opportunity. They have four months of hunting opportunity. We have to choose our battles. The reason why we focus on energy on places like Unalakleet is because we have higher harvest rates. We have two and half people in the Nome office, we can't get everywhere that we want and that is just the way that it is.

Art Ivanoff: I think that this region needs to have more money thrown into the coffers so that they can do their jobs sufficiently. Though there are long hunting season in Koyuk, it sounds like they would like to have more hunting opportunity same with St. Michael and Stebbins. I would like to write a letter to our senators and representatives to seek additional funding for the Department of Fish and Game to conduct more research so that people in the villages can have more opportunity. 24,000 sq miles is a big area and it sounds

Michael Sookiayak: The hunter's in Shaktoolik are talking about having very high ratios of cows to bull ratios in Unit 22A, seems to be a trend. Comments there are more cows than bulls in unit 22A, there were no real concerns for the moose populations in Shaktoolik. The cow to bull ratio according to the hunter is not good.

Art Ivanoff: I like engaging in dialog with the senator's, representative and the Governor's office.

James Niskisk Sr.: Wonders when the last moose census area in the Stebbins/St. Michael area.

Tony Gorn: We have never completed a moose census (in that area?), it estimates the number of moose per square mile. It is a project that takes a very long time to do. We do trend count surveys in the spring and fall time. The most important information I can give you if you give your name it Letty I would be happy to share that data with you. I am willing to share all of the data that I have from trend counts from all of the years that we have done it. We were in the South part of A was about four years ago. We did a trend count not a census. The census gives you the number of moose per square mile where as the trend count gives you an idea of bull:cow ratios, the number of calves, and a lot of times trend counts you can do in a day or two day. The population survey can take the better part of two weeks. We have a five week period to conduct surveys in this region. If you give your name to Letty, I will give you all of the results that we have. I'll get them to you. The last trend count we did was last fall. It was a trend count not an abundance survey. Population surveys are useful to determine population density. You can do trend count in two days versus two weeks.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about having a long enough time to hunt for the moose. We took direction last year to submit a letter to get future moose hunting in the region. We will do it again to get resources allocated for surveys so that the St. Michael-Stebbins area can have a more liberal hunt. Our question is if the data is sufficient.

Tony Gorn: This is a great dialog, you want to have more surveys and know more detail about the populations. We want to do more surveys. I just want everyone to understand, that what you're implying is that more surveys are going to lead to more liberal hunts. Take a look the regulation book.

You have more liberal hunt times and if you add more surveys it is possible that the hunts may not be more liberal. I want to perfectly clear about the possibility. We respond to the squeaky wheel and if you look at the regulation book that often means that there are more stringent regulations. If we get more information that very well lead to more stringent regulations. Whatever we find we are going to manage off of.

Art Ivanoff: Having the data is important to have the management and conservation of the resources. I think that is a really good point and it is important to have good conservation like around the Unalakleet River.

Wade Ryan: I have no further comments

Letty Hughes: Musk Ox management

What you see in front of you is the hunts, last year we went back into tier two hunts with the exception of 22E except the Koyuk-Elim area, the TX105. There hasn't been any musk ox harvested in that area. The tier II has opened. The Tier II application system opened on November 1<sup>st</sup> and you have until December 17<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm online. I was in Koyuk last Tuesday at the IRA helping people fill out Tier II permits with supplements for 22B, 22C, 22D, 23 SW .

Art Ivanoff: Tony would you like to add to what Letty had to say.

Tony Gorn: Basically the musk ox population on the Seward Peninsula it is in a bad shape between 2010 and 2012 the population declined 13% annually so between 2010 and 2012 it decline in total by %25. That is why we are now in tier two. Recruitment rates and bull cow ratios are low. The Seward Peninsula musk ox population is not great. Over the years we know that musk ox has moved in to the Nulato Hills, it changed the way we did the surveys. We fly the whole Seward Peninsula taking a survey every three days. We estimated 84 musk area. We went back to the Nulato Hills and landed next to every group of musk ox that we could find and took down classification data on the groups aging and sexing them. The results were very encouraging. The four year old bull cow ratio went up as well as an increase in the number of yearlings 24% recruitment rate. The total number of animals is still quite low. We have some animals have established themselves in the Nulato Hills. The ones that are living in that area are doing really good, good recruitment and a larger amount of mature males even though the population is low right now.

Wade Ryan: Questions Tony Gorn about the number of mature bulls that are ok to take and what are healthy numbers of mature bulls.

Wade Ryan: Inquires about tier II lottery.

Tony Gorn: The population should have at least 1-2 mature bulls. We do not want to overharvest bulls. We need to be very conservative. We have learned that. In 2011 I told the board of game that we found these animals. The harvestable surplus is lower than the number of animals required for subsistence, which puts us in tier II. We need 100-150 musk ox for the subsistence, we can't raise 100 musk ox to kill we are in Tier II, we have 39 musk ox allotted. I would expect to be in tier II for the

foreseeable future. If we started a musk ox hunt in 22A we would start in tier two and everyone in the state of Alaska could hunt. Explains tier two selection scoring and the point system. If you live in a village and have higher living costs, you score higher than the people in urban areas in that bracket. This means that all Alaska residents can apply for these permits and the hunts are determined by where you live, how long you have hunted there, how much you pay for food and gas etc. If you want to have a hunt you need to put a proposal to the board of game.

Wade Ryan: Inquires about action item length of time.

Tony Gorn: The only things that you need to think about proposals for having a hunt need to be submitted on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The next meeting will be on January 2014. The changed hunt would happen in 2015-2016. The tier two application time period is now. We have been talking about this for five years. This is a slow process and that's ok; there is a population of 80 to 100 musk ox, with a very conservative harvest rate. I would think you would want to put a lot of thought into what you are doing and take it into the Board of Game. We have been very successful as a group working together and we have been very successful.

Wade Ryan: Inquires about the time frame for when the regulations would go into action. I don't have any problems with this idea

Tony Gorn: Explains I know this process is slow. I think we are going to want to think very hard about what we want to do and getting it right the first time. You have been very patient and I think that if we work together as a department and AC we have been very successful with getting proposals put together in the past if we work together.

Wade Ryan: I don't have any problems with the regulations because the population is so low right now.

Michael Sookiayak: I put this question to my community during the last annual meeting. There was more questions about the musk ox hunt that I had answers. They agreed at the last annual meeting to wait for additional information from the meeting in their behalf.

Henry Oyoumick: How often we have these survey's?

Tony Gorn: We have these surveys every two years. Explains the details of the survey methods.

Art Ivanoff: I want to welcome and introduce Henry Oyoumick to the group. I think Tony and Wade should work together to get a hunt on for a proposal. If we are going to do this do it right.

**Proposal 40 Continued Exemption for the brown bear tag fee. We are asking the \$25 fee be waived or otherwise it defaults back in.**

**Motion: to support the proposal**

**Second:**

**Discussion:**

Letty Hughes: Explains brown bear tagging fee exemption waiver fee for 22A.

Art Ivanoff: We need to cover the tagging fee

Letty Hughes: Explains brown bear harvest data for Unit 22. I have the upper bar graph for the total number of bears harvested. I have it broken down by subunit. From 1990 to 1997 we were harvesting 55 bears/year in unit 22. Explains the change in the total number brown bear harvests. Without the tag fee we increased our harvest to 93 bears a year and increased our harvest by 80%, taking 93 bears a year. This information is taken by brown bear hide sealing. Explains the number of bears harvested (Refers to data included in the handout).

Tony Gorn: Thanks for the opportunity. I didn't hear everything that Letty said. I think she knows the brown bear tagging fee stuff pretty good, so I am going to stand down on this one. The Southern Norton Sound needs to vote on the brown bear tagging fee, they don't need to comment on the antlerless moose hunt.

Letty Hughes: Explains brown bear tag fee exemption

#### **Question called for Proposal 40 Brown Bear Tag Fee Exemption**

**All supported**

**None opposed**

**Motion carries**

#### **B. Fisheries**

Scott Kent: I am not sure what you want me to focus on. Summarized what has been happening Southern Norton Sound. We had arguably the lowest king salmon run on record. We have just under 3000 king salmon, includes harvests and escapements, for the entire Unalakleet drainage. We did not make our escapement goals this year but we think we made them last year. However, high water precluded us from getting a complete count; we had a good aerial survey on the North River in 2011. This year the counts were reliable at the tower. The weir count was much lower at 766 king salmon this year compared to 1111 last year and 1021 the year before. The forecast for the magnitude of the run was for a much improved run due to the 2007 brood year due to good survival conditions. The magnitude of the run this year was extremely weak this year even though age-5 fish comprised 58% of the run. We had record low subsistence harvests of kings in Koyuk, Shaktoolik and Unalakleet. We had about 1300 chinook salmon escape in the tower at Inglutalik River near Koyuk.

1:34:02

Michael Sookiayak: Requests information from the Shaktoolik River sonar project from NSEDC and when it will be available.



Scott Kent: The draft report is due March 1st and the finalized report is due early June. We may have something workable going into the AYK meeting. There were approximately 800-1,200 Chinook in the Shaktoolik River. NSEDC is still evaluating the two different methods of data collection.

Art Ivanoff: I did question whether we made escapement last year. It didn't seem like the count wasn't there. It didn't pan out in 2012. It wasn't a good year

Scott Kent: Every year we have aerial surveys on the North River. That survey this year was conducted under really rough conditions, I was getting blown up river at really high speeds. There were a lot more red-colored fish in the river than what I expected to find. I expected to find very few king salmon. It got to the point where I was focusing my energy on the kings to get a good count on kings. The Unalakleet marine test fishery harvests 109 king salmon.

Art Ivanoff: You did suspect that we did make our escapement for 2011. What was your report?

Scott Kent: They were using both tower counts and weir counts. The aerial survey represented over half the North River tower count at the time which indicated to me that there was something wrong.

Art Ivanoff: Explains the necessity for escapement goals, and the establishment of making these stocks making them stocks of concern.

Scott Kent: The stock would still be a stock of concern regardless of whether we made escapement in 2011 because as you stated the run was poor and there was very little yield.

Henry Oyoumick: Do you have data taken from Golovin on down? The amount of fish taken from Golovin on down?

Scott Kent: I do have the data, not right at my finger tips for that region and we can discuss that. Golovin got 52 and 51 Chinook and Elim had 43 Chinook. Nome had 11 Chinook.

Henry Oyoumick: Inquires about a tier II fishery in the region.

Scott Kent: You don't want to have it go to tier II, it is hard to get out of it once you establish it. In Nome, people just didn't go fishing. The cultural impacts of having Unalakleet and Shaktoolik going into tier II would be more devastating than trying to regulate it in other ways. It's divisive and probably not necessary as there are other ways to reduce harvests like blanket closures.

Wade Ryan: Inquires about leaving test nets in the river. It seems counterproductive.

Scott Kent: Responds to test net question. Says that perhaps now that we have the weir and tower systems. However, we have almost 30 years of comparable data for the test nets.

Wade Ryan: inquires about gill nets out in the ocean.

Scott Kent: Explains the benefits of having the gill nets out in the ocean.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about the test net necessity. You also have the weir and the counter tower. How valuable is the data you are collecting from the test net.

Scott Kent: I don't value it much at the moment. However, that being said, the data will become more useful as a sufficient time series of data is developed over time.. We are missing out on the early high quality run of chum salmon in the commercial fishery. If we can figure out a way to put the kings in the bank for now yet allow people to go commercial fishing, this will provide them cash flow to conduct other subsistence-related activities.

Art Ivanoff: I would like to take up the opportunity to sit down with you. I wanted to sit down the village of Unalakleet for the test net. Perhaps a pre-fisheries meeting in the spring time to see if the test net is necessary. I think it is good to engage that dialog. The question is if we aren't making escapement goals what is the point of the test net. This issue has been brought up a number of times. I would like to discuss this issue collectively.

Henry Oyoumick: Inquires about the capabilities of sonar.

Scott Kent: my understanding about running the sonar in the Southern Norton Sound Area. It is not a function of having the technology. It is not a good site because it is intertidal. We tried various different methods in the early 1980s and it didn't work.

Art Ivanoff: I would like to have the meeting in the spring. Inquires about NSEDC on the Chinook Salmon enhancement.

Scott Kent: Jim and I are not really involved with that. That is being handled by the permit coordinators. Egg takes were limited this year due to high water. That is what my understanding of what happened. I know Charlie Lean tried to start something with the villages. I think they got one pair for education purposes to train new staff in mist incubation techniques.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about the Chinook salmon in the Southern Norton Sound. What I heard from NSEDC because escapement wasn't met. The reason it wasn't operated by because of escapement goals was not met. Jim Menard: There was 2 fish taken. They took one male and one female. . The limited collection for egg takes for the hatchery was due to high water and not failing to reach escapement goals.

#### **14:20 Meeting Break**

Tony Gorn: There is a part of the musk ox hunt and how we administer the musk ox. It is under the positive customary and traditional use. It allows for subsistence opportunity for the hunt and made that finding. They came up with rules for the Seward Peninsula Musk Ox hunt. There are seven criteria 1) no aircraft, 2) no trophy use of the musk ox. In a subsistence hunt there has always been some level of trophy destruction. I am not able to go into any more detail because there are several hunters that are under active investigation for the hunt.

Michael Sookiayak: I was very disturbed by Bob Bell's actions. Taking advantage of something that it was not intended for. I felt disturbed about his actions. I felt that he took advantage of the situation. The people that I shared this story with in Shaktoolik had the same feelings. The regulations need to be changed so that another incident like this won't or shouldn't happen again.

Wade Ryan: Inquires about the article.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about Northern Norton Sound actions. I hear that Charlie was upset.

Tony Gorn: The Northern Norton Sound AC members are not very happy about what they have read in the newspaper. I can't tell you what their actions will be. They expressed a lot of disappointment.

Carmen Daggett: I am fairly certain they are drafting a letter regarding that issue.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires if the body would like to do about this incident.

Michael Sookiayak: I think it would be beneficial for this board to consider action on this incident to prevent further incidents versus for other incidents to happen. I think we need to take action on this incident to prevent future incidents from happening. It may be worth it work with the Northern Norton Sound AC meeting.

Peter Martin: Inquires about the Bob Bell incident. What is this incident about?

Tony Gorn: There is an active investigation about the trophy destruction of the musk ox hunt. There have been several hunters that are being investigated for the trophy destruction.

Art Ivanoff: There are double standards for the hunt, that is a concern that has been express. Something needs to take action. I think that if our people are going to get busted for going out and catching fish to feed their families he should be prosecuted. The question is whether the body needs to take action.

Michael Sookiayak: Makes a motion to work with Northern Norton Sound to draft a letter about this incident. Partner up with the Northern Norton Sound to draft a letter to address the Bob Bell incident.

**Motion Seconded:**

**Question called:**

**Motion Carries to draft a letter.**

**AYK Finfish**

### **#115 Customary Trade of Subsistence Taken Finfish**

Nicole Braem: Gives information about customary trade. There has been a finding of the board for customary trade, this is not for commercial use or enterprise. Currently the regulation of customary trade for up to \$200 per year per household. The proposal wishes to increase the amount from \$200 to \$500.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about the Northern Norton Sound and the RAC meeting support of this proposal. We felt there was a need for locals to make a decision, just to defer to the local people in the communities. I think that the cost of gas justifies the increase in the amount.

Comments:

Michael Sookiayak: Suggests that the Southern Norton Sound supports this proposal changing from \$200 to \$500.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about the Nicole Braem.

Henry Oyoumick: Does this include smoked Chinook salmon.

Henry Oyoumick: There is some resentment for me to support this proposal would oppose this because of the low numbers for Chinook versus other species

Henry Oyoumick: I would be ok with this for other species, but not for Chinook.

Merlin Henry: What about Koyuk people sell smoked salmon in the store? What I understand here how much money they can make. Inquires about the amount that they make from selling the smoke salmon. What my understanding is the amount they can make they are trying to increase.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about RAC position.

Nicole Braem: I don't recall opposition.

Wade Ryan: I don't take firm stance either way. It is helping the community. I am willing to go either way on this.

Norbert: With the Chinook salmon being so low, I don't know if this is good idea

### **Motion for Proposal #115**

#### **Discussion:**

#### **All Support**

#### **One Opposed**

### **Motion Carries Proposal #115**

Jim Menard: Explains the proposals that applicable for the Norton Sound regions and subdistricts

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about the committee participation on the proposals 116-119, it is not necessary. Northern Norton Sound deferred proposals to us.

Michael Sookiayak: I think we should move on to proposal #120

Proposal #120 King Salmon Management Plan

Scott Kent: Reads the proposal. It would prohibit the sale of King Salmon that are incidentally caught. It would give the department some flexibility in the regulation of the salmon fishery.

Department Position: Supports with reservations.

Art Ivanoff: Wrote this proposal in with along NSEDC.

Wade Ryan: inquires about the length of time that this proposal would be effective for.

Scott Kent: This would be effective for three years. Michael Sookiayak: Inquires about still reporting the incidental harvests of king salmon.

Scott Kent: That is really important to report that information when you deliver your catch to the tenders up in Shaktoolik. I would appreciate it if you could spread that information around.

Art Ivanoff: Requests about the changes that department wants.

Scott Kent: We support everything except the using the midpoints of the range as a trigger for the sale of king salmon commercially. This body can provide an amended version if so desired.

Wade Ryan: motion to support to the proposal with state modifications.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about supporting

**Motion for**

**All support**

**No opposition**

**Motion carries #120**

**Proposal #121**

**Scott Kent: Presents the proposal to the committee**

**Department: Supports this proposal; gives department comments**

**Art Ivanoff:**

**Motion on the floor**

**Discussion**

**Question called**

**All support**

**None opposed**

**Motion Carries #121**

**Jim Menard: Reviews proposals that are for other districts.**

**Art Ivanoff: We are only voting on proposals that affect Southern Norton Sound**

**All support**

**None opposed**

**Proposal #126: Extensions of Commercial Salmon Fishing by Emergency Order proposed by Wes Jones**

**Scott Kent: Presents the proposal**

**Department Comments: Department Supports this proposal.**

Wade Ryan: Inquires about June 8<sup>th</sup> to September 7<sup>th</sup> fishing time frame.

Scott Kent: There is some agreement to disagree with NSEDC.

Art Ivanoff: I am in favor of the proposal. I like the idea of supporting the proposal.

Michael Sookiayak: there are some years when we feel like the salmon season is closed prematurely, we feel like we are missing out some money making considering that the cohos are good money makes.

**Motion to support proposal**

**Seconded:**

**Discussion on 126:**

**Question 126**

**All support**

**None Opposed**

**Motion Carries**

Proposal #127: Allows EO authority for the use of 150 to 200 fathoms of gillnets in the commercial pink salmon fishery.

Scott Kent: Reads proposal #127 and presents the proposal to the AC along with department comments

Department Position: Supports the proposal, will allow for more harvesting of pink salmon.

Henry Oyoumick: inquires about the length change that will be affected by this regulation

Scott Kent: ~100 to 150 fathoms or 200 fathoms

Art Ivanoff: I like the idea of allowing people, allows people to engage and really be aggressive with fishing as long as there is not an environmental issue

Michael Sookiayak: I am concerned about fisherman who don't have the big enough boats to handle all of the gear. It would be there choice to participate with this additional gear however.

Art Ivanoff: I think your concern is a good one and I think for those people who are well equipped to give them another tool in their tool box to be aggressive.

Motion to support proposal #127 Michael Sookiayak

Seconded Merlin Henry

Discussion:

Question:

**All support**

**None opposed**

**Motion Carries in Support of #127**

Proposal #128-Use of pink salmon as bait

Scott Kent: Presents the proposal

Gives department comments: Department is neutral to the allocative aspects of this proposal, but supports the idea of finding additional methods to harvest pink salmon surpluses in years of abundance. The department does not support the idea of allowing pink salmon bait harvests in low years while people are needing it for subsistence.

Scott Kent: The department was neutral on this proposal because it is allocative.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about Northern Norton Sound position on this proposal.

Scott Kent: the NNS voted to support this proposal.

Michael Sookiayak: Would like to know if there will be an effect on the herring fishermen who already fish for bait.

Scott Kent: The data would say no, because permit holders for crab they could go catch their own herring if they wanted to.

Henry Oyoumick: Could you explain the Port Clarence Area

Scott Kent: Explains Norton Sound Port Clarence Area, Brevig South to Point Romanoff.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about whether if this proposal would affect the Southern Norton Sound

Scott Kent: This proposal would affect all of Norton Sound and Port Clarence.

Wade: It sounds like basically people want to use this for crab bait. My only concern is overharvesting the pink salmon. Like fish and game said they have the power to shut it down so I support this.

Scott Kent: Clarifies the necessity of modifying the proposal

Henry Oyoumick: I would be in favor if it only affects Northern Norton Sound

-I would to oppose this because I think we should use our herring bait fishery

Michael Sookiayak: I think we should support this proposal with the changes that the state recommends.

Art Ivanoff: I feel I agree with Henry, this could be impacting this region

Question

2 support

1 opposed

Motion carries with state modifications.

Scott Kent: I don't have any more proposals to cover

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about the sport fish record of Kings in Unalakleet, 534 king were caught. That is from the statewide harvest survey. 534 king that were caught and released.

Brendan Scanlon: That includes the 534 king were that were harvested, confidence interval 300-800 fish.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about the mortality about catch and release for Chinook salmon.

Brendan Scanlon: There was a project conducted on the Kenai River. Over 5.9 and 8.8% death rate for hooked fish by hook and line.

Art Ivanoff: on the 2011 harvest of 53 king inquires about the number of 53 of the salmon that were harvested how many of them were residents?

Brendan Scanlon: About half 50/50 of the sport harvests is Alaska residents and half non-residents.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about preference for Alaska residence harvest versus non-residents.

Brendan Scanlon:-I can only think of one regulation SE marine harvest for marine king salmon only. Otherwise all of the regulations are the same.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about Kenai resident versus non-resident priority preference.



Art Ivanoff: There is statutory language to give residents first stab at the resources?

Brendan Scanlon: There is only the one regulation that I can think of that segregates residents from non-resident.

Art Ivanoff: I am just trying to figure out what we need to do get our stocks to the historical level. Looking at the 534 number 8% up.

Brendan Scanlon: The maximum harvest was 2-4 fish per year for non-resident take.

it is more like 10%. It looks like the data from Kenai, 15% of the salmon that didn't survive.

For king salmon it is 5.5% and 8% over a range of over 200 fish which is a pretty extensive study in the Kenai.

3:19:48

Art Ivanoff: It looks like 50 fish don't make it up the river to spawn. There have been more reports that mortality rates are higher for coho salmon to 68% with 15 fish not surviving. I can't remember that the study by Susiski was higher like 80%, I can't remember if it was for sockeye. I don't like the idea of the sports fishing up the river along the subsistence fish and I don't like the mortality rate. There is 20 caught with 30 fish mortality that our people aren't able to catch. I don't like that our people doing subsistence aren't able to catch

Brendan Scanlon: Explains the AYK Resident Species is for Northern Norton Sound for the Nome River

Art Ivanoff: Defer to the Northern Norton Sound proposals and focus on the Southern Norton Sound proposals.

AYK Genetics:

Scott Kent: this year there were 3 collection trips to build upon the for Norton Sound Port Clarence Chinook Stock for the Igallik and Shaktoolik Rivers. We got 26 samples on the Shaktoolik River and 53 samples on the Ungalik; we are just shy of 100 total for the baseline. We working towards getting more samples and putting new markers on the fish to break the western Alaskan coastal grouping.

Michael Sookiayak: Inquire about if Fish and Game is working with the Northern Bering Sea Aquaculture Association.

Scott Kent: Not really. They are not really involved. It is pretty much the department is one but NSEDC did assist us in the past before we had a genetics budget.

Henry Oyoumick: I have always been interested in the genetic influence and *Ichthyophonus* and how other diseases affect our salmon.

Scott Kent: That's a good point and I would recommend that you attend the AYK Chinook salmon symposium in Anchorage December 10-11 as that is going to be one of the topics for discussion and presentation.

Art Ivanoff: Some of the people in Barrow are catching Chinook Salmon, and there has been a complete regime shift. I just would like to know what your thoughts are.

Scott Kent: It is not too far to suggest that salmon species are expanding their range in the Northwest Alaska like chum and sockeyes. My trip to Ungalik this summer was quite an eye opener. I think in a good year that the Ungalik has the potential to support large numbers of Chinook salmon. . I've been told that there used to be a lot of fish in the Ungalik before the big mining camps dredged out the river. It's possible that the runs are just now coming back. Chinook salmon were utilizing the majority of the drainage which is a good sign. The river looked very healthy to me. Salmon are good at finding and exploiting new habitats as long there is good oxygen and a good stable thermal regime.

Art Ivanoff: I am not sure if this is an anomaly, but it is interesting.

Merlin Henry: There used to be a lot of fish up there a long time ago. Inquires about mining.

Scott Kent: The Inglutalik and Ungalik rivers are probably some of the healthiest in Norton Sound. The fish utilize these drainages in their entirety; fish are all the way up the forks on the Inglutalik based on aerial surveys. The mining operations that are on-going are well back from the river and they have good settling ponds dug to protect fish habitat. There isn't any pollution.

Merlin Henry: Commercial fisherman had a low King Salmon return. In the Ingallik I only caught two king fish. I saw chums with sore heads (more than one). I don't know where they get their sores. I wanted to give them NSEDC, but I have been too busy. My wife had been commercial fishing, and she has seen chums with sore heads, more than one.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about Yukon Area Salmon

Jim Menard: Nothing from our end.

Art Ivanoff: What would the body like to do? Maybe it would be good to go through the proposals Southern Norton Sound submitted to the board.

Michael Sookiayak: there are a lot of new faces sitting around the table. They might want some information about what we are talking about here.

Art Ivanoff: I guess we can just talk about those proposals.

Proposal #183 Jim Menard gives presentation

It has to do with start date of the area M fishery. There has been a lot of discussion and changes throughout the years. 1984 is when they went to changing the start date. 1986 chum cap.

Art Ivanoff: the proposal was written because they currently stand down during the time period. We wanted to have some sort of regulation that prevent them from fishing during this time period, because of the mixed stock composition. We know over several years area M fisherman stood down on fishing for the first week to allow them to migrate. We wanted to prevent them from fishing for fish that were our fish.

Michael Sookiayak: I just wanted to bring it up so that new people know what is going on.

Art Ivanoff: We know that there has been a high take of our AYK salmon in the Area M fishery. We submitted this proposal again to address our concern. Any question?

#### Proposal #180- Chum Salmon Cap

Art Ivanoff: I think that window establishes a stand down and it gives our chum salmon time to migrate and not being caught. I think we want to be there at the Board of fish to present our proposal. Inquires about action taken a year ago.

Michael Sookiayak: I think we don't take action on this.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about having action taken regarding this proposal..

Jim Menard: Area M is allowed to catch 8.3 % of the sockeye salmon. Explains the chum cap. One of the arguments presented about the 16 hour fishing day and how it didn't give them time to get out of the chum they are currently on 88 hours fishing with time off in between to allow them to move out of the chum. The discussion was if they got into chum they could move out of the area if they preferred to catch sockeye. There is not a chum cap now.

Art Ivanoff: We need a motion to support 183 and supporting other proposals that were produced by other AYK proposals like 180. I think it would be great to give a representative some flexibility to modify their position.

Michael Sookiayak: I make a motion to support 183.

There is a motion 183.

Seconded:

Discussion:

Art Ivanoff: The proposal 180 is by Roy Ashenfelter, I think when you go to these meetings you pick up a lot more information and may have an amended version of our proposal and I am asking for the flexibility of changing the proposal. The idea is to focus on conservation.

Is there support for the amended motion?

**All in support for the amended motion, no opposition.**

**Gives the representative to have flexibility to make decisions based on the information given at the meeting.**

**Question called for the amendment**

**All Support**

**None Opposed**

**Motion Carries**

Jim Menard: We don't have anything about the statewide salmon.

Art Ivanoff: Explains the minority report. The minority report was designed to push the envelope on providing resources to this region. There were about 300 people in the room and it was sort of discouraging to see the allocation of resources for Northwest Alaska. It seems like we have gotten the short end of the stick. Are there any questions about the letter about the allocation of resources to manage our salmon stocks. We submitted it to higher ups the commissioner's office and senator's office to let them know there are some issue.

-covers disaster declaration

About two years ago Southern Norton Sound has submitted a disaster relief proposal about salmon in this region. The response with the department of commerce was to deny our request for disaster relief. However, we would like to try again.

Explains that we didn't agree with the findings for the submission of declaration of the disaster from district 5 and 6. The letter was resubmitted to commerce for reconsideration. The Kenai River was classified as a disaster area. We are going through the motions to become part of the disaster declaration. We have had discussion with the congregational delegation staff. Our villages are facing hardships for lack of Chinook salmon harvest.

Michael Sookiayak: Inquires about the letter submitted and the response to the letter since then.

Art Ivanoff: Explains the lack of comment from the Secretary of Commerce.

**Robert's Rules of Order-Joint Board Proposal**

Carmen Daggett: presents the proposal to the joint board by Boards Support

Art Ivanoff: I don't think we need to vote on this.

Michael Sookiayak: Inquires about where the recommendations are coming through.

Carmen Daggett: these recommendations are coming through boards support, it gives the ACs a chance to self govern a little more freely.

**Draft MOU**

Carmen Daggett: presents the MOU information. If you want to take a look at and choose to comment on it. It is a lengthy document if you have comments later feel free to give them. I can pass those on.

### **AC Questionnaire**

Carmen Daggett: Explains AC questionnaire and the purpose of it

St. Michael Public: Inquires about whitefish commercial fishing and writing a proposal for a whitefish fishery.

Jim Menard: you can apply for a permit for miscellaneous finfish permit.

Scott Kent: They have one of the greatest areas for commercial fishery expansion during the fall time after the salmon shuts down. We should work with NSEDC to get a market developed. We need data; we don't have any data.

Art Ivanoff: I will carry on that dialog with Wes Jones. That St. Michael will would like to develop a whitefish fishery.

Scott Kent: There is not likely a massive fishery here, but there is potential for development.

Art Ivanoff: Is there opportunity for tom cod for bait, is that true?

Jim Menard: People would need to get a permit for collecting tom cod for bait. You can get that permit from NSEDC. The permit is \$75 for the tom cod bait permit. Explains crew member permits.

Art Ivanoff: We do have several people who are taking up targeting fishing of tom cod it is a really good opportunity for people who want to get out there and fish.

### **Michael Sookiayak: Joint Board Modification**

#### **I would like to make a motion to support the modifications for Joint Board Proposal**

**Discussion:**

**Questions:**

**All support**

**None Opposed**

Art Ivanoff: What was suggested was something a little different. There needs to be some modifications and overhaul for the AC systems to fine tune this machine. There are too many ACs, there are 200 ACs. The AC machine needs to be fine-tuned then. You control 40%/44 million miles lands based on our hunting and fishing history. The tools need to be sharpened to get ACs engaged in the decision making processes. The system is broken. The ACs should be involved in the deliberations, during those discussions. There needs to be more money put into these processes to make the ACs to support rural Alaska. We need to get ACs together to get the system to really fit rural Alaska. It is

difficult, but it needs to be overhauled. It needs to be examined for the AC process to be remodeled. St Michael and Stebbins brought up some issues that need to be addressed. There is more that is required so that our people can harvest moose when they need it.

I would like to submit a motion for a letter SNAC to request additional resources from the Department of Fish and Game so that people can get the moose that they need, and we need to have an allocation of resources for the Department of Fish and Game to allow research to occur in this region.

Motion to support a letter to be submitted to Senator Olsen, Foster and the Commissioner

Seconded:

Discussion: there are other areas that we could focus on. I know that Shaktoolik has been trying to get support for Chinook Salmon and the resources need to be covered across a greater area.

Michael Sookiayak: I agree that there needs to be more resource allocation to conduct more surveys in this region. I thought some of what's going to come from NSEDC with the sonar research. .

Amended motion to the board to increase the allocation for research to take place by Fish and Game to include the Shaktoolik River resources.

Motion carries for the amended

Art Ivanoff: two letters one for Senator Olson to allocate more resources to the Department to the Shaktoolik region Chinook salmon stocks with their own research and funding independent of Unalakleet. The direction is pretty clear.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about input from Henry Oyoumick and Wade Ryan

**All support**

**None opposed**

**Motion Carries**

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about further issues to be heard in the meeting even if they are not on the agenda.

Art Ivanoff: Returns back to Koyuk for antlerless moose hunt possibility. Is that the direction that Koyuk would like to do?

Merlin Henry: I have never been to this type of meeting before.

Art Ivanoff: We addressed the St. Michael and Stebbins about surveys, by submitting a letter. We will press the issue again.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about other issues.

Michael Sookiayak: Musk ox when I posed the question to the people at home. There were more questions asked than I could answer them. They wanted to leave it to the next annual meeting. Hopefully we will have an answer from Shaktoolik whether they are interested in the musk ox hunt or not.

Wade Ryan: I talked with Tony Gorn with this. I would like a tier two hunt that gives more preference (local preference only) for local hunters, to reallocate the point system. All of those names at the top will be thrown into the hat to be drawn.

Art Ivanoff: inquires about further issues that others might have

Wade Ryan: I don't have any more questions and concerns

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about further issues that Henry Oyoumick might have.

Henry Oyoumick: We need to look at the baseline data for Cisco data needs to be looked at for a whitefish fishery. We need to know what type and amount of white fish we have to make the decisions about whitefish. Questions about the Western Arctic Herd, it was geared for the reindeer herders. It needs to be public use of public money. There are people with commercial interests and it should be focused towards people who really need it. The real need of the Western Arctic Herd are the people who really need it.

Scott Kent: No further comments. You conducted a good meeting today. Wish you, the board, and staff well.

Art Ivanoff: I know we have taken action on several proposal. I think there needs to be some flexibility to give some discretionary flexibility to the representative. It is an important idea because you get a lot of new information that allows you make a more informed decisions.

Michael Sookiayak: Inquires about who is representing Southern Norton Sound.

Art Ivanoff: I think it is better to not go alone but have a couple people to go to bounce ideas off of. I would like to have funding to have people go to the AYK meeting the AK Peninsula and the Statewide Finfish meeting. I recommend we get two representatives but we get people who want to press the issue.

Michael Sookiayak: Considering what we just heard. I think our past shows that Art does well on our behalf. I would like to see him continue to advocate on behalf of our communities.

Motion: I would like to motion to send Art to the board meetings to represent us. If there is additional funding to have another person to take part in the meetings.

#### **Discussion:**

**Art Ivanoff: I think the representative needs to have some flexibility.**

**I think there are other times it could have a greater impact a lot of communities.**

**Question:**

**All in favor**

**None Opposed to support the flexibility of representative.**

Art Ivanoff: I think we need to choose an additional person assigned to go to these meetings.

Peter Martin: Motions to have Michael Sookiayak represent the advisory committee

Michael Sookiayak: Declines the position to attend the meetings

Art Ivanoff: I would like to advocate to have Michael Sookiayak attend, based on his schedule and have an alternate for meeting attendance.

Question: Motion carries

Art Ivanoff: Requests an alternate

Peter Martin: Wade Ryan as an alternate

Motion to have Wade Ryan to attend

Michael Sookiaiak: Suggests Henry Oyoumick

Amended to have Henry and Wade serve as alternates

All in favor

Discussion

Question for the main motion

All Support

Motion Carries

### **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Carmen Daggett: Explains proposal deadlines, musk ox information coming out in July, that is some additional things to think about.

April Meeting in Unalakleet prior to the deadlines in conjunction with the pre-fishing season meeting.