

NORTHERN SEWARD PENINSULA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Unit 23 Game Season update

Board of Fish Proposals

Buckland, Alaska

AGENDA December 10th, 2012

12:00 pm

- I. Call to Order, *Chair Ron Moto* 12:30 pm
 - A. Roll Call / Establish Quorum
- II. Introductions
- III. Attendance
- IV. **AC Members**
 - A. Marlene Moto-Karl
 - B. Taylor Moto Jr.
 - C. Nathan Hadley
 - D. Ron Moto Sr.-telephonic
 - E. Clyde Ramoth-telephonic
 - F. Mona Washington
 - G. George Sheldon-telephonic
 - Percy Ballot Sr.-Absent
- V. **Fish and Game**
 - A. Charlotte Westing
 - B. Jim Dau
 - C. Carmen Daggett
- VI. **General Public**
 - A. Jimmy Geary Sr.
 - B. Ernest Thrsuer
- VII. **Approval of Agenda**
 - A. Motion Approve the Agenda-Clyde Ramoth
 - B. Marlene Moto-Karl-Seconded

Support-All
Oppose
- VIII. **Elections/Endorsement review of new AC members**

Buckland AC Member Elections Held prior to the AC Meeting

 - Nathan Hadley Sr.
 - Percy Ballot Sr.
 - Mona Washington
 - Delbert Thomas –Alternate

Carmen Daggett: I will talk to the IRA council and City about Elections need to be held in Deering.
- IX. **Approval of past Meeting Minutes**
 - A. Carmen Daggett-Read past meeting proposals and decisions see the packet materials for specific minutes.

Clyde Motion to approve meeting minutes
Marlene Moto-Karl seconded
All Support
Minutes Passed
- X. **AC member questionnaire**
- XI. **Carmen Daggett: Explains AC questionnaire**
- XII. **Reports**
 - A. **Game**
 - i. **Charlotte**

Explains Musk Ox Hunts-if people are interested in hunting musk ox for next fall, we have the materials here otherwise they can get it at the IRA with Mona Washington.

Must apply online for next fall

Tier II-only a few people get permits

Charlotte Westing: Explains that there are not as many calves during spring, and the bull:cow ratios aren't as good.

Marlene Moto-Karl: Inquires about musk ox drowning may have led to their decline

Charlotte Westing: If you are interested in hunting musk ox you need to make sure to include all of the information about yourself and others in your household who have used musk ox. You can claim 13 years for musk ox. Our 800 number is: 1-800-478-3420

Marlene Moto: Inquires how many musk ox permits are available for next fall

Charlotte Westing: there are four

Charlotte Westing: We did our moose surveys last fall and spring in the Lower Kobuk there were not that many calves this year our bull cow ratios are healthy 50 bulls per 100 cows, there were 10 calves per hundred cows.. With our most recent surveys we did not see as many moose as we thought we should have. We asked the Noatak-Kivalina about what they were seeing on the river.

-explains surveys in this region, it is a little confusing there are about 800 moose in the south western portion of Unit 23, explains what is excluded. 53 bulls per hundred cows. The population on the NSP there were not many calves 4-8 per 100 adults. It is the lowest calf ratio. The general thought there should be 15 calves per 100 to have replacement for the animals that are dying. This may mean that there is a decline. Inquires with the AC members about the calf population and moose population.

Nathan Hadley- there were 14 wolves up by my camp, we saw a moose swimming out in the bay. The moose was bothering the moose. We have some lower 48 hunters that are going for heads and antlers. We saw some moose without heads, but there are bodies.

Charlotte Westing: there hasn't been a legal hunt for non-residents in this area since 2005, if there is someone hunting there and they are not residents of Alaska that would be illegal and should be reported to the trooper. Explains that removing the heads is illegal and if activity is seen like this that it should be reported to the troopers.

Nathan Hadley: there were lots of bears and that he is not seeing as many moose as he used to see.

Marlene Moto-Karl: this last winter there was something on TV for ERA Alaska, that are bringing people to the Seward Peninsula and they may have been in this area in a super cub.

Charlotte Westing: Explains that other Alaska residents can hunt moose, you can use a registration use permit or only federally recognized subsistence users can hunt on federal land. There is not a non-resident moose season, and if there is not full salvage of meat it is illegal.

Marlene Moto-Karl: Inquires about banning super cubs from coming into this area.

Charlotte Westing: We cannot ban planes from flying in the sky. Explains a possible controlled use area. Explains closing seasons. That is why we don't have a non-resident season. Explains the state constitution requirements, explains that All state residents are the same. If the calves aren't surviving so it is not hunter pressure, hunters are not taking calves. Fish and Game can close the seasons, but cannot do it for all Alaskans.

Marlene Moto-Karl: Says that maybe the problem is that the parents are getting killed and that is causing calf mortality. I like to eat the cows.

Charlotte Westing: Explains that predator, weather, etc. may be responsible for declines in calf mortality.

-Explains the harvests from the Seward Peninsula-7 moose harvested last year

-Most years there were not moose taken from the Kauk River Drainage.

-Explains the information that she has and what is good to know.

Marlene Moto-Karl: Explains the bad vegetation in this area there was a cold winter and not much berries.

Charlotte Westing: I would like to look at the habitat and do a survey about the number of twins and indicator of habitat and if there are calves in the fall versus not. If there are not many calves in the fall then something is eating them.

Are there any more questions about moose, on the phone?

Clyde Ramoth: The moose population in Selawik are pretty healthy. The Unit 23 conflict-user group is a good place to take the transporter concerns. They listen to your concerns and take them into consideration. Explains the number of moose in Selawik are good.

Charlotte Westing: Explains that the number of moose in surveys and is glad they agree with what people are saying.

B. Jim Dau

Caribou Reports

General Population Overview

First Census was in 1970 in 1976 the herd had declined to 75,000 from 1976 to 1990 grew at 13% a year after 1990 is grew to 2003 it grew to 425,000. Since then 2003 the decline occurring about 3-4% each year. When we saw the decline the calf decline as well as cow mortality decline.

If we keep seeing decline in both the calves and the cow decline, we are going to see a major decline in the calves and the cows. Next survey will be in 2013.

Mona Washington: Inquires about what is causing the decline and what needs to be done.

Jim Dau: Explains that in 2000/2005 where we get rain in the winter. We have always gotten midwinter thaws and we get rain that freezes causing ice layers. I broke a grain shovel trying to get to the collar that is how hard the ice was. The mid-winter rains have had a big impact. We have had over 400,000 caribou. The BLM has done research on range concerning lichens there have been declining with a corresponding increase in grasses and shrubs.

Everyone is talking about lots and lots of wolves and more and more bears. I don't think that wolves and bears started the decline, but they may be effecting numbers and possibly causing the decline.

Instead of trying to make you farmers we need to make you into trappers and snarers. People can get out and try and get some wolves. If you possibly can don't wait for the agencies to tell you what to do. If you can lay off the cows and only take bulls do that, if you can take 20 caribou instead of 30 do it and get your younger guys out hunting and trapping.

Marlene Moto-Karl: How many reindeer are out there now and how many reindeer herders are there now.

Jim Dau: Inquires about number of caribou to Nathan suggests about 2000 caribou. Reviews the numbers of caribou kept by people. I don't know of any new owners. Tom Gray might start managing the Teller herd.

Marlene Moto-Karl: Explains reindeer out on the Islands, but they increased and then crashed. Most of the island herds have not been very economically viable. The strong hold is on the Seward Peninsula.

Jim Dau: there has basically a flat line for the number of calves. We look at calves every June, we count numbers of bulls how and calves. The calf ratio has been declining. The calf ratio has been declining in the fall. It looks to me that calf survival is going down during the summer. It could be a couple of things, people say that global warming is having effects causing more warble flies, calves running around and not eating. It seems like the deaths are happening during the summer and not during the winter.

Explains Bull:Cow Ratios in the 1970s the ratio was 50 to 55 cows , the bull cow ratio is slowly going down. When the bull cow ratios go down, it is an indication of what the herd is doing. Some cows live as long as twice as long as bulls. We want to maintain at least 40 bulls per 100 cows. This is just another indication that the populations are going down. We may not have any choice that you might only be able to shoot bulls.

Explains the proportion of skinny caribou through time. There are fewer and fewer skinny caribou. I don't think that the decline is because they are starving to death.

Subsistence take 14-16,000 caribou per year and sport hunters only kill 800 caribou. I don't think that the harvests are causing the decline. We still have over 300,000 caribou.

Mona Washington: We should start now with doing something about caribou, people are allowed to self-regulate.

Jim Dau: Explains that self-regulation and staying ahead of the agencies is a good idea.

Nathan Hadley: in the 50s and 60s were due to wolves and the native people got blame. There should be a bounty on wolves again to encourage people to go out and hunt them.

Jim Dau: I don't think that is going to work politically even from the state. I just don't think it is going to happen Nathan.

Nathan Hadley: There are hardly any jobs.

Jim Dau: in many ways it would be cheaper for the state to pay people to hunt wolves instead of getting helicopters and sending people to come in and hunt and kill wolves. I am not arguing that at all. In reality the politics are going to stop things.

Marlene Moto-Karl: A lot of young hunters are not being taught properly about hunting caribou and when my brother goes out he finds caribou with lots of small bullets in them. We need to teach our children about hunting appropriately.

Jim Dau: I have seen the same thing in Kotzebue there are small caliber hunters with lots of CCs and they don't always kill what they hit and we need people to train young hunters to be successful hunters.

Marlene Moto-Karl: Echoes what Clyde Ramoth said about letting the leaders go first.

Nathan Hadley: The old skin sewers are passing on and they are not demanding wolf hides, like they used to.

Clyde Ramoth: I know you guys do a lot of great studies on caribou. Have there been a lot of studies about range health? Is this affecting the ability to feed?

Jim Dau: Explains the Bureau Land Management, as long as there is not icing they are coming off the North Slope nice and fat during the summer. In four or five years we should have more information about winter and summer range from the Bureau. Weather affects caribou and caribou affect caribou. Caribou tend to go where they have been in the past because of the established trails.

Clyde Ramoth: I think that education is important, for having good hunting techniques.

Jim Dau: It seems like we to link numbers with actions.

Clyde Ramoth: I think it would be good to put articles in the Arctic Sounder about wolf, caribou, and moose hunting good practices.

Jim Dau: Explains die offs during Cape Thompson and Cape Lisborne. During these die offs we got veterinarians to come up and do necropsies on the caribou. Last year there was a die off around Cape Lisborne and I got the use of the Red Dog helicopter for a day to go up and look at the remains. The rib cages were intact the necks and throat were intact. I was talking to Ted Frankson and last November there was a couple days of light rain that may have caused the animals to stave.

Jim Dau: Explains photo graphs of dead caribou from the die off. Explains that images show signs of savaging, but not being killed by bears or wolves. Gives a summary of vegetation research on the caribou range. There are short term effects of rain on snow events. I have heard lots of comments about brown bears and wolves that could be affecting the herd. The decline in the number of bulls is leading to the decline as well.

Marlene Moto-Karl: Inquires about in the 1990s where caribou ran off the Sullivan bluffs. I was wondering if there was anything documented on that. Inquires about stacks of caribou and being stacked by bears?

Jim Dau: Explains in the 1990s the caribou traveled from Sullivan to Cape Blossom and it took them 24 hours. For two years about 40,000-50,000 caribou and they were moving fast. We went out on the ice we did not see any dead caribou out on the ice. We were surprised how fast the caribou were moving straight across the ice.

Marlene Moto-Karl: There is a lot of mining and there are old practices. There have been problems with hydroelectric plants and how that affects the reindeer.

Jim Dau: When I go to meetings in Canada, the discussions are about roads and mines not about planes and transporters.

Nathan Hadley: Inquires about killing problem bears.

Jim Dau: Explains defense of life and property and the necessity of turning in the head and hide.

Nathan Hadley: Explains if they want the head and the hide they can come and get it.

Red Dog Road-Caribou Report

Jim Dau:

Inquires if people want to hear about the movements around the Red Dog Road.

-this isn't just about Red Dog, I was at a meeting in Ambler about the mining district.

-when they asked me to look at the maps around the Red Dog Road.

-If you guys on the phone want to take a break and hit the can.

-If you look at the Red Dog Road and see all of the dots above and below the road. You can see all of the dots above the road and not many dots below the road.

-Explains how caribou get funneled into the roads.

-I thought for many years I thought they got funneled, but crossed the road. I looked at the caribou movement around the Red Dog Road. The caribou do several options, they change speed, direction of travel, or cross the road. I mapped the change in the speed, direction of movement.

-Shows several examples of the movement of caribou around the Red Dog Road.

-Some of these caribou don't have to go to the road to have an effect. Caribou affect caribou because they follow each other. If there are a bunch of caribou moving the opposite direction the other ones can turn around.

-the average delay was 41 days

-the least amount delay was 16 days

-the most was almost 3 months or 80 days.

-after they changed speed/direction 7 mi/day

- they doubled their speed after they crossed the road
- I wanted to know if the whole herd changed direction or if it was just a few.
- the movement of the caribou varied around the Red Dog Road.
- in 2011 was not totally unique with caribou migration patterns.
- Explains the summer migration patterns of the caribou around the Red Dog Road
- Summarizes the number of caribou that didn't make it across the road last year %100 died because of the rain on snow event.
- One thing that Red Dog does really well, the drivers don't have to be told to stop the driver's voluntarily stop.
- One thing that we could try is for two weeks say no trucks. We should inquire about if we can move the trucks all on one day. It seems like 40 small trucks round trip a day that are moving up and down the road.
- Red Dog was keeping a log of the number of 4-wheelers down the beach and go up the road, about 4-5 4-wheelers a day max during the two weeks before the ocean freezes up and they can't use their snow machines to get around.
- In summer 2011 none of the caribou crossed the road and 2012, ¾ caribou crossed in during the summer.
- Shows a picture of the conveyor and the caribou, the caribou aren't worried but they are feeding but not crossing the conveyor.
- This is not about the Red Dog Road, it has had minimal impacts on movement patterns. The new road is supposed to go to Council from Ambler. The thing about that proposed road is an East-West Road they are going to have to cross it North. The Red Dog Road is an industrial road. If the road is built with public money the general public can use the road. The Red Dog Road is the best situation you could want. If you have a public road you are going to have hunters from Fairbanks and also hunters from the villages. It is going to be a busier road.

Marlene Moto-Karl: Inquires about making pass ways for caribou migrations to move over the road.

Jim Dau: all of the engineers on the pipeline say that they can only bury short sections of the pipeline. It has to be accessible for maintenance. When you get back the caribou do see it as a good place to cross the pipeline. When I was up there the over passes didn't really work. Inquires if Clyde, George or Ron on the phone.

(Phone participants dropped Carmen Daggett: worked to get participants on the phone)

XIII. Proposals

BOARD OF GAME PROPOSALS

- A. **Proposal #42 Antlerless moose hunt reauthorization**-Charlotte Westing presents the proposal and explains the antlerless moose hunt and the Kotzebue Department of Fish and Game's support for the Antlerless Moose Hunt to give you the most options for a valuable subsistence resource.

Marlene Moto Motions to reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt

Seconded:

Support-All support

Oppose-none opposed

Discussion-Explains the current concerns about moose population, Charlotte still recommends that antlerless moose reauthorization, it gives the most option.

Marlene Moto: Inquires about reducing sport hunting.

Charlotte Westing: The non-resident sport hunt is only for antlered bulls.

- B. **Proposal #44 Bear tagging fee reauthorization**

Motion to support the brown bear tagging exemption fee

Marlene Moto-Karl Seconded

Support-All supposed

Oppose

Discussion:

Marlene Moto: inquires about subsistence hunt for brown bears

Charlotte Westing: Explains subsistence hunt, you don't need to send in the hide or the skull you just have to salvage the meat.

Ron Moto: I like that idea it is good the way it is.

Marlene Karl-Moto: Inquires about the non-resident hunters to have a fee, but subsistence hunters would not have to pay the fee.

Charlotte Westing-explains the exemption fee

ARCTIC YUKON KUSKOWIM FINFISH

Carmen Daggett: Reads proposals from proposal books to the Advisory Committee

A. AYK Resident Species

a. Sport-Allowing the use of large treble hooks for catching non-salmon fish.

92 pg 94

Motion to support the proposal

Seconded-Mona Washington

Discussion: no comments

Support: All Support

Oppose

Proposal # 95 pg 96 Prohibition of addition of bait addition to the water "Chumming".

Discussion: Ron Moto: I think that we should leave this as is.

Carmen Daggett: Clarifies the proposal.

Support: All support

Oppose: None

AK PENINSULA/ALUEUTIAN ISLANDS FINFISH

Carmen Daggett: Reads appropriate proposals.

A. South Alaska Peninsula Salmon June Management Plan

179 pg 184-Reinstate the Chum Cap and Change commercial fishing times

Discussion: We use Chum Salmon a lot.

There are a lot of people in Nome that have experienced salmon closures, then people in Bethel are not getting their King Salmon, they have bigger boats because there is more open water. Kuskokwim fisherman have smaller boats.

Marlene Moto-Karl: Inquires about fish that they might need and us limiting the amount of fish that they get. Charlotte Westing: They are not as fishing for Chum salmon as much down there as they are for other species that may be more valuable.

Mona Motion to support the proposal

Marlene Moto-Karl- Seconded

Support- All support

Oppose

180 pg 185-Shaumagin Island June Management Plan Incorporate a Chum Cap of 350,000

Carmen Daggett: reads the proposal, clarifies the difference between this proposal versus 179.

Marlene Moto-Karl: Motion to support

Mona Washington: Seconded

Support: All support

Oppose-none

Discussion: we are not the only ones competing for these fish beluga etc. I attended several of the elder meetings and that the people were raping the sea before the fish get here.

183 pg 187 South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan; Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan

Discussion:

Marlene Moto-Karl: Motion to Support

Mona Washington: Seconds

Mona Washington: Motion to table the issues and do teleconference

Seconded: George Sheldon

This proposal was not voted upon because we lost quorum

Support-

Oppose

STATEWIDE FINFISH AND SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUES (TABLED TILL THE NEXT MEETING TELECONFERENCE)

A. Statewide Allocation, Management Plans and Policies

215 pg 215

Discussion

Support

Oppose

217 pg 217

Discussion

Support

Oppose

218 pg 219

Discussion

Support

Oppose

B. Commercial

a. General Provisions

225 pg 224

Discussion

Support

Oppose

C. Sport

227 pg 227

Discussion

Support

Oppose

228 pg 228

Discussion

Support

Oppose

229 pg 229

Discussion

Support

Oppose

230 pg 229

Discussion

Support

Oppose

232 pg 231

Discussion

Support

Oppose

233 pg 232

Discussion

Support

Oppose
234 pg 232
Discussion
Support
Oppose
235 pg 233
Discussion
Support
Oppose

JOINT BOARD PROPOSALS

- A. Moving Selawik from NSP to Lower Kobuk AC
Discussion
Support
Oppose
- B. Modification to Robert's Rules of Order
Discussion
Support
Oppose

OTHER

NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

Telephonic prior to March to Discuss Statewide Finfish proposals