

**St. Lawrence Island Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**2/25/14**  
**Gambell IRA**

- I. Call to Order: Time by
- II. Roll Call: Melvin Apassingok, Kacy Pungowiyi, Paul Rokok, Gloria James, Ivor Campbell, and Branson Tungyuan  
Members Present: 6  
Members Absent: 1 Derek Seppeliu  
Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 4  
List of User Groups Present: NSEDC, subsistence users, Fish and Game
- III. Approval of Agenda: Agenda Approved 12:24
- IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Minutes approved
- V. Fish and Game Staff Present: Jenefer Bell, Carmen Daggett
- VI. Guests Present: Gloria James-Marine Mammal Monitor, Charlie Lean, Mark Nupowhtuk-Native Village of Gambell, Ivor Campbell
- VII. New Business:  
Elections:

Name	Votes Chairman	Votes Vice Chairman	Votes Secretary	AC Member
Branson Tungyuan-Vice Chairman	2	4	1	5
Iver Campbell-Chariman	4	0	0	6
Mark Nupauwhotuk	0	0	0	2
Gloria James-Secretary	0	0	4	3
Melvin Apassingok	0	2	2	1
Kacy Pungowiyi	0	1	0	Already elected Savoonga

**Public Comments:**

Branson: There are many Japanese crabs more than we have seen in any other year over the last two years we are seeing more Japanese crabs.

Ivor: The crabs can migrate.

Charlie Lean: The crabs are shallow water crabs. They are moving up as the water is warming. Draws a diagram of the movement of the crabs. Diomedea caught crabs six years ago and a few years ago we started seeing them on St. Lawrence Island. There was a crabber last year that caught one in Golovin. This is a big deal with these crab coming. These crab like shallow water boulder fields. They like the same places as the female blue king crab. We think this is going to affect the blue crab. Are you noticing fewer blue king crab? How long ago?

Branson: 5-10 years ago we saw “alien” crab and never had seen before. They got 30-70 of them per trip last year. Savoonga is on the Japanese current, we are concerned about seeing other marine crustaceans and other marine mammals that are alien to us. Sea Lions compete with the spotted seals. We are concerned about them out competing our blue crab. Other scientists have come wondering about

Kacy Pungowiyi: They picked up 200-300 in Savoonga on the beach.

Ivor: Crabs can ride the current, they can fly in the water. They can make balls and they can ride that current.

Charlie: Those balls are made up of young crab. I saw a video in Savoonga with the number of crab that are in Savoonga. If you look at these Hanasaki crab they have short stubby little legs and they are made to hold fast in a strong current like golden king crab. Blue crabs are long and rangy not so strong for their size. I think they are going to compete with your blue king crabs. That is why we put some of these proposals that we put in.

Charlie: Said that we had tried to sell the crab that we caught but got a talking to by troopers. This allows us to sell them like regular crab. We are trying to make the state and feds aware that these crab on their way and they better wake up. More research needs to happen on these crabs. These crabs are bycatch at the moment. You are only allowed to sell one Hanasaki crab if you have a four blue crab. There were a bunch of people fishing that got caught in the 70s and it was made illegal to sell crab that was subsistence caught crab. Bartering crab for non-monetary objects is currently legal: cash sales or “customary trade is not.

Charlie: There are certain regulations that you have to follow in order to commercially sell them.

Ivor: We are having problems with people coming in and coming inland to pick up ivory and bones.

Charlie: It is the same boats that fish crab, but they are fishing for halibut. The federal government regulates halibut. Right now it looks like we are not giving the Nome guys any halibut to catch so it may not be a problem this year.

Ivor: We need to tell people not to come close to the island to not pick up bones.

Charlie: If you see someone around the island you need to get names of the people or boat .

Ivor: I am concerned about those marine mammals out here. The fish stocks are depleting that feed those marine mammals. We need to do something about these crabs before the crabs disappear from Bering Sea not just from commercial activities, but from pollution, like Fukushima that is being detected in Western Canada and down the West Coast.

Branson: All of the pollution is being drawn to the Arctic. Pollutants are going to be another factor that is going to affect the Bering Sea.

Charlie: The Bering Sea is one of the most productive portions of the ocean with both continental shelf upwelling and sea ice algae plankton blooms.. One of the biggest concerns is acidification and the carbon dioxide poisoning. We are better off than some places.

Branson: The salinity and acidity are going to have a big effect on the biodiversity. We are lucky we had the coast guard studying the brown algae that has a big effect on the wildlife that lives off of it. This is going to affect the marine life.

Paul Rokok: St. Lawrence Island is very important supports the Bering Sea and the Chukchi for migratory species for resting and feeding. It is very important.

Branson: We believe St. Lawrence Island is a provider for the marine life, we see them come in and see the many species that come in and use the resources. We are seeing them decreasing from mainland Alaska and increasing around St. Lawrence Island because the island is a provider.

Charlie: I agree with you the currents are different, that is the main difference between the mainland salmon and the salmon that are here. It is a whole different place to manage. It is two different problems.

BOG or BOF	Proposal Number	Proposal Description	
Supports or Opposes?	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments/Discussion (list Pros and Cons)/Amendments to Proposal
BOF	344	<b>Make spiny crab a commercially legal species.</b>	
Supports	5	1 abstention	Ivor: They are good proposals Melvin Apassingok: Motion to support Branson: Seconded All support
BOF	345	<b>The proposal seeks to allow hand lining as a commercial fishing. It would allow people from St. Lawrence Island and Diomedes to hand line crab catch.</b>	
Supports	5	1 abstention	Charlie: There has been people getting busted for selling crab in Nome from handling and this makes it legal. You can sell pot caught crab you can sell it, but you can't sell hand line crab. NSEDC put this proposal in to allow St. Lawrence Island and Diomedes Island to participate in a commercial crab fishery.  Ivor: I think both of them are good proposals. This will help us, this addresses the type of the crabbing that we do. This is to protect us and help the type of crabbing that we do. That is why I think this is a good proposal it will benefit us. It addresses the type of crab we have the blue king crab and maybe it should address in the Hanasaki crab. Jenefer Bell: That is addressed in this proposal as well. It allows you to do that in proposal 244. That is going to be beneficial for the locals and for the commercial crabbers. The state cannot spend any money on doing research on non-commercial species. It allows me to get money to study the commercial Hanasaki Crab. It gives us the money to study

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			<p>them.</p> <p>We need the support of commercial crabs they need our support. It works both ways.</p> <p>Paul: I support these proposals, every time I think about myself I think about myself as a predator and this will benefit the ecosystem and us as predators. These are very good proposals.</p> <p>Branson: motions to support</p> <p>Melvin Apasingok: Seconded</p>
BOF	346	<b>Norton Sound King Crab Harvest strategy.</b>	
Support	5 1 abstention	0	<p>Charlie: Explains the Population Model for the Red King Crab. When we put this proposal in we didn't know what the rule was going to be so we put this proposal in to discuss it at the Statewide Crab meeting. It is all about the red king crab around Nome. NSEDC will talk to the BOF about how we think the red king crab fishery should be done in Nome. Fish and Game will explain how they think it should be done. If you believe this is not an issue for you, you could take no action. The Nome crab fleet doesn't come near St. Lawrence Island. This proposal doesn't affect the blue king crab or Hanasaki crab it only affects the red king crab.</p> <p>Branson: How do they know about the estimates of the red king crab?</p> <p>Charlie: Explains how the estimates are done.</p> <p>Branson: Are the red king crab cold blooded, won't they decline soon?</p> <p>Charlie: The red king crab live on muddy bottom and the blue king crab live on the rocky bottom. The red king crab live down by Juneau, but are declining there. The red king crab are doing really well here.</p> <p>Paul: Red king crab is an invasive species versus the blue king crab?</p> <p>Charlie: The red king crab originated centuries ago.</p> <p>Paul: Wonders if the two species will compete.</p> <p>Charlie: Explains there are two different types of habitat and they don't compete. The Hanasaki crab are fighting for the same habitat as blue crab.</p> <p>Branson: I think it is going to provide support to our neighbors. So I move to support 346.</p> <p>Paul: Seconded</p>

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Supports or Opposes?	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments/Discussion (list Pros and Cons)/Amendments to Proposal
BOG	177		<b>Make Unit 23 Residents exempt from restrictions on chasing and pursuit of wolves, wolverines and caribou on running snow machines.</b>
Support	6	0	<p>Branson: We know when the State of Alaska provides the number of animals to the region. The state of Alaska provided a number of Musk ox for this island. There have been wolves and wolverines that have been caught that traveled across the ice if we knew that the state of Alaska. Now that we know that there are such animals. There needs to be an amendment to add to a proposal.</p> <p>Iveer: I know that people from here hunt wolverines and wolves sometimes they wander over from Russia.</p> <p>Charlie Lean: I was at the board of game, I spoke in favor of supporting this proposal. If you interpreted the law as strictly as the trooper did everyone would be considered illegally harassing an animal. That is an unenforceable regulation. All of us pursue animals closer if see it and get closer to get a better shot so you don't wound it.</p> <p>Branson: Animals are getting smart we need to keep up with them.</p> <p>Paul: We need to protect the reindeer herders. The wolves and the wolverines need to be protected against them.</p> <p>Branson: There needs to be wild dogs added to the list.</p> <p>Charlie: It is already legal for you to kill wild dogs.</p> <p>Ivor: They are not protected?</p> <p>Branson: I motion to support this proposal</p> <p>Branson: As a marine mammal advisory council nominated. We can make another proposal at a later date.</p> <p>Paul: Seconded the motion</p>

Carmen Daggett: Did a brief training session on ACs and on roles of secretary, chairman and vice chairman. Explained how board meetings work and relationship between the ACs and the board.

Old Business: Reviewed connections with Southern Norton Sound.

Adjournment: 2:00 pm

Minutes Recorded By: Carmen Daggett

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

Date: 2/25/14