

Lower Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory Committee

MINUTES- TELECONFERENCE MEETING

Monday, December 8, 2014, 1:00 pm

Call 1 (800) 504-8071 access code: 5432709#

For info contact Holly Carroll at 543-1677, holly.carroll@alaska.gov

CALL TO ORDER TIME: 1:09 by Chair: James Charles, Secretary: Sandra Nicori,

INVOCATION: Lord's Prayer

ROLL CALL/ MEMBERS PRESENT:

NUMBER NEEDED FOR QUORUM: 7 (Bec. Oscarville seat vacant) QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

Present by phone was: Phillip Peter Sr., Akiachak; Jackson Williams, Sr., Akiak; James Charles, Tuntutuliak; Arnold Brink Sr., Kasigluk; John Andrew and Sandra Nicori, Kwethluk; William Brown, Eek; Henry Tikiun Sr., Atmauthluak; Earl Samuelson, Sr., Napaskiak. Henry Parks, Nunapitchuk came on line at 1:50 p.m., Melvin Egoak, Atmauthluak, came on line at 1:57 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: approved

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: **ALREADY APPROVED**

FISH AND GAME STAFF PRESENT:

Boards Support Western Regional Coordinator, Holly Carroll

Wildlife biologists (Bethel office) Patrick Jones and Philip Perry; Aaron Poetter-

Kuskokwim Area Manager –Commercial Fisheries; Hiroko Ikuta, Subsistence Division,

GUESTS PRESENT: none

OLD BUSINESS: **none**

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD: **Questions/Concerns of the AC members and public- none**

NEW BUSINESS:

- Update from new Regional Coordinator (R.C.) Holly Carroll
 - Meeting minutes format and Secretary duties, officer update-officers are James Charles, Sandra Nicori and Jackson Williams, Sr. their terms expire 6/30/2015.
 - Napakiak- John Wassilie resigned, and Oscarville membership is vacant, so may not count toward quorum until filled. Holly will send official letter to Oscarville
 - James Charles says IRA council can appoint member for Napakiak
 - Arnold Brink didn't get packet, gave address and phone to RC
 - Review Deadlines: BOF proposals due April 10,2015, BOG proposals due May 1, 2015
 - Suggest make a committee or chair to approve minutes

Samuelson makes a motion that chair can approve the drafted minutes so that they can get submitted to the BOG quickly. (Peters seconded). No discussion. Motion passed unanimous.

- **Get AC recommendations and/or comments on the following: SEE TABLE BELOW FOR RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD**

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- Formerly ACR 8- Kuskokwim River: Consider providing the commissioner of ADF&G emergency order authority to restrict gillnet gear in the Kuskokwim River drainage (new proposal 272)

There is a March 3rd deadline for AC recommendations or comments to the Board of Fisheries.

Proposal 272, formerly ACR 8, wants to have Tier 2 but it was made into a proposal in Juneau. The document is in the packet. Kuskokwim Salmon Management wants to restrict gill net gear to conserve the Chinook: use lawful gear and specifications to use gillnet. Holly read part of the article on proposal 272. Comment from (Akiak member) Jackson Williams, in previous meetings with AC the elders have stated that using the 6" gear will eventually produce smaller and smaller salmon. Lot of elders oppose restrictions because gradually fish will decline with this size of mesh, elders say that fish, after caught, going back to the water (i.e. falling out of the net), is doing more harm than good (because those fish may die before they reach spawning grounds). Also, a former Yukon resident said that dip netting in the Kuskokwim will not work because he has tried it here. John Andrew stated that dipnetting is to be used only in times of Chinook shortages.

See more discussion and vote below. 9 yes, 1 no (from Phillip Peter Akiachak).

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Discuss moose quota/season and discuss need to write proposal-suggested by 2 members

William Brown (Eek) asked if the 24 hour time frame to call in for a moose kill can be extended another day due to traveling and distance but the answer was to keep from going over the 100 limit of moose that it would have to stay the same to keep from overharvesting the moose. When the snow is favorable for counting, sometime in February, they will have a better idea of what the limit (quota) will be and can be adjusted accordingly.

Jackson Williams asked about a winter hunt in the Kuskokwim area but the answer was that the numbers are not favorable at the present time, maybe in 3 to 5 years it may be feasible.

Earl Samuelson commented changing the boundaries for easier access and the answer was it would take several meetings to do it. It would also result in people having to use two different permits to hunt in the same area. Phillip Peter asked about the opening date for portions of Johnson River. It poses confusion because the Yukon and Kuskokwim are close together in that area. (Long discussion in yugtun followed). Holly suggested delaying the moose subject for in-person meeting. James Charles concurred with her.

Melvin Egoak asked if the quota can be increased to 125 moose but the answer was to do that an updated moose count would have to be done.

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William Brown (Eek)-River at Eek for making 24 hr. report when someone gets moose or partner still hunting, not easy for him to go home in 24 hours because river is too shallow. He's worried would he be cited for late reporting? Phillip acknowledges this is an issue for any hunters that go a long way up the tributaries, but he asks that people try their best, use satellite phone, or let someone else know to call Phillip, because the need for harvest reporting as a tool to keep harvest at reasonable level.

- Choose member to send to Kuskokwim Subsistence Salmon Panel (KSSP)-before January 15th

Napaskiak –Earl- makes motion to appoint James Charles to attend the KSSP January 15th and 16th. Akiak seconds. John Andrew question. Henry Tikiun, 2nded. If James can't make it, Earl Samuelson from Napaskiak was chosen as an alternate. Motion passed unanimously.

- Decide date and time for next meeting and face-to-face location?

Earl Samuelson suggested January 5, 2015 at 9 a.m. in Bethel in-person meeting, seconded by Henry Tikiun, Sr. When further information was given by Holly, Earl and Henry withdrew their motions and it was left to call-of-the-chair and the coordinator to schedule the in-person meeting and was unanimously consented by the committee.

BOG or BOF	Proposal Number	Proposal Description	
Supports or Opposes?	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments/Discussion (list Pros and Cons)/Amendments to Proposal
BOF	272		Consider providing the commissioner of ADF&G emergency order authority to restrict gillnet gear in the Kuskokwim River drainage
			Earl Samuelson commented that the tundra area fishermen were unable to fish because the 4 inch mesh was unavailable for purchase in the stores. The 4 and a half inch mesh might be better to use. Thinks if could use 4.5" mesh size it would be good to catch smaller salmon like reds and chums. The representative can bring it up at the Board of Fish meeting. Henry Parks agreed with Samuelson. William Brown said that generally the 4 and half inch mesh if used for white fish, most people have it, he made a motion to change 4 to 4 and a half inch mesh be used, as an amendment to Proposal 272. Phillip Peter said fish and game came and inspected nets in Akiachak and confiscated 70, 50, 60, 45 mesh. Charlie clarified that you can amend the motion to include a depth. Earl thinks if we select 45 meshes deep, it should meet all of our needs, instead of one area. But the proposals don't say anything about depth, so it should be included. ADF&G Aaron Poetter clarified in subsistence fishery current regulation

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Supports with AMENDMENT	9	1	already states they can't be more than 45 meshes deep. Made motion to support the proposal but change current language from 4" to "4" to 4.5" "By 45 meshes deep gear. motion passes with amendment to gear size language
BOG	39	Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Remainder of Unit 18.	
supports	10	0	Akiak- motion to support, Melvin 2 nd . Discussion: Phillip Perry (ADFG) gave recommendation from department- We have 12,000 moose, recommend keeping it in place, to authorize it. Background- with antlerless moose- Advisory committees in the area need to decide if they want it to continue each year. Motion passes unanimously
BOG	43	Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A.	
supports	10	0	Discussion: Phillip Perry (ADFG) gave recommendation from department- Advisory committees in the area need to decide if they want it to continue. This proposal just talking about metal locking tag exemption, we want to continue to have that to make it easy for hunters and consistent with other rural Alaska areas to NOT require the metal tags. Question- if we need to harvest a brown bear (DLP) do we have to return that to fish and game or can we keep it? Phillip clarified it depends on the time of year if it's during the hunting season- you just have it sealed as usual. This bill just removes the metal tag requirement- doesn't affect the DLP rules. Question- regarding tribal residents. Perry clarified that this law is for all Alaska residents and whether or not they have to buy a locking tag and the State doesn't differentiate between a rural or urban person- just Alaska residents. Motion to support: passes unanimously
BOG		Change BOG to a 3-yr cycle	
			R.C. H. Carroll read BOG handout points clarifying the department's reasons for supporting the change to a 3-yr cycle. Much discussion about the proposed savings if go to 3-yr cycle, they want to

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Supports	9	0	<p>ensure that if \$50,000 is saved, that it could go to the advisory committees. Holly re-iterated that in light of severe department budget cuts, saving that money may just help to continue to provide same services to the AC process.</p> <p>Members noted it is Not easy to work for the people; AC members want people to earn money for AC process, if cycles change just to save money, move the money to Advisory committee or members. William Brown and Melvin Egoak asked if there was any way they can be given stipends.</p> <p>Patrick Jones-(ADFG Wildlife), supports 3-yr cycle, because they can miss surveys because they're at the meeting too much. Makes it easier for us to get surveys done in more time in a timely fashion. Also gives us more time to evaluate, changing rigs every year- hard to make educated decisions about the effects.</p> <p>Motion to support- passed unanimously (1 member left conference call before this vote).</p>

Adjourn Time: 4:13

Minutes Recorded By: __Sandra Nicori (Secretary) and put in template by H. Carroll (R.C.)

Minutes Approved By: _____James Charles (Chair) _____

Date: ____12/16/14_____