Lower Bristol Bay Fish and Game Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 24, 2014 10:00am

I. Call to order – 10:10 am by Chairman Mitch Seybert

II. Roll call –

Members Present	Members Absent
Kim Rice	Gerda Kosbruk
Mitch Seybert	John Bragg
Tom Bursch	Emil Christiansen
Eric Beeman	
Hattie Albecker	
Eddie Clark	
Roland Briggs	
Tim Enright	
Bob Dreezen	
Myra Olsen	
Tracy Vrem	
Mark Kosbruk	

Quorum Established with 12 out of 15 members present.

III. Approval of Agenda – All in favor

IV. Approval of minutes: January 24, 2013 - Approved

V. Introduction:
- Staff – Susie Jenkins-Brito ADF&G, Paul Salomone ADF&G, Scott Quist AK Wildlife Troopers
- Guests – Courtenay Gomez BBNA, Danielle Stickman BBNA, Joel Dutton, Ted Wolfson, Victoria Briggs, John Christiansen

VI. Staff Reports: Paul Salomone ADF&G Commercial Fisheries, Susie Jenkins-Brito ADF&G Boards Support, BBNA Natural Resources, Scott Quist Enforcement.

VII. New business:

I. Elections for expired terms, 5 At Large seats, 3 year terms. July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017 (with an interim term Feb 24, 2014 – June 30, 2014 for members elected today)
   a. Members terms expired, Kim Rice, Mark Kosbruk, Tracy Vrem, Tom Bursch and John Bragg

b. Nominees: Victoria Briggs, Kim Rice, Tracy Vrem, Mark Kosbruk, Tom Bursch, John Bragg, John Christiansen
c. Newly Elected Members: Kim Rice, Mark Kosbruk, Tom Bursch, John Christiansen, Tracy Vrem

II. Elections for Officers, Chairman, Vice chairman, Secretary. 1 year terms.
a. Mitch Seybert – Chairman, Eddie Clark – Vice Chairman, Mark Kosbruk – Secretary
AC voted unanimously to elect these members as officers.

***Bob Dreezen goes offline, John Christiansen is seated, 12 of 15 members present.

III. BOF Statewide Proposals:

Proposal 375 – Hattie Moves to adopt, Roland 2nds **ACTION:** Carried as amended (12-0)

Description: Remedy a navigational obstruction in Ugashik River set gillnet salmon fishery.

Amendment: On Single Setnet Site in the Ugashik Village Section of the Ugashik River [Stat Area 321-50] a permit holder may deploy <u>one</u> of the following options {**A or B**}:

A. A "traditional" set: 0-600ft offshore from the 18ft high tide mark:
- No running lines or set net may be in the water outside of 600ft from the 18 ft. high water mark except for anchors and their marking devices such as bouys and lights
- Anchors, Bouys and Running Lines may remain in the water during open periods and closures.

OR

B. An "Offshore" set: 400-1000 ft offshore from 18ft high water mark:
- No running lines or set net may be deployed from the 18ft high tide mark to 400ft offshore on a single site when a running line or net is deployed offshore of 400ft from the 18ft high tide mark up to 1000ft from the 18ft high tide mark
- When a closure is in effect or the "offshore" set is not being actively fished all running lines offshore of 600ft from the 18ft high tide mark or those running lines used to deploy the offshore set must be removed from the water
- During closures anchors and marking devices such as bouys and lights may remain in the water

****Note: Regarding the timely removal of the running lines in the "Offshore" set, the subcommittee was not in consensus upon when the running lines were to be fully removed from the water. Enforcement and a majority of the contingent were in favor of the running lines being deployed and removed at the period's start and closure. Another user group contingent lobbied for a 30 minute or an hour timeframe before and after the period's openings and closure for the deployment and removal of running lines. Also discussed was the anchoring devices and any gear for the set gillnet are not more than 100 feet from the set gillnet.

Discussion: ***This discussion took place during the full AC teleconference and during a subsequent Sub Committee meeting on February 28, 2014 where the amended language was fully vetted. The following discussion record includes both meetings and is clearly separated by dates.***

February 24, 2014 Full AC –

Paul Salomone gives a brief description of the proposal and history surrounding proposal and it's issue being addressed.
Ted Wolfson discusses the current fishery scenario the Briggs and himself fish during the season with the nets being split into two 25 fathom sets off one site and how they clearly are marking the path through the nets.
Hattie suggests an Either/Or scenario where either a fisher on one a single site would fish the traditional set or the offshore set.
Roland states he would be in support of the either or scenario. Suggests maybe no running line on the outside set?
Scott Quist with Enforcement covers the concerns he would like to see addressed in any amendment put forth by the AC and his concerns on regulating the fishery midseason. Some of these concerns include navigational hazards.
Joel Dutton says he thinks if due caution is exercised navigation is not an issue. Paul asks how much water he needs. Joel states it's a 6ft draw.
Roland thinks the main channel is by the bank.
Hattie puts forth a motion to amend the proposal to be either use the traditional set or the offshore set not split you 50 fathoms over the full 1000 ft offshore. Roland 2nds
Tom Bursch asks if the choice is for the season or if the fisher can switch sets at will?
Roland states he envisions being able to move between the traditional and offshore sets between openers and mid period, provided he is in compliance with other regulations.
The AC votes unanimously in favor of this amendment in concept and agrees all interested parties can meet and reach consensus in the details of language regarding running lines and gear configurations.

February 28, 2014 Subcommittee: (present at the meeting telephonically: Eddie Clark, Tim Enright, Ted Wolfson, Victoria Briggs, Eric Beeman, Roland Briggs, Joel Dutton, John Christiansen, Mark Kosbruk, Mitch Seybert, Hattie Albecker, Myra Olsen, Beth and Dennis Courtney, Mike _____, Nancy Flensburg, Paul Salomone, Susie Jenkins-Brito, Scott Quist)

Purpose of this meeting is to hammer out details of the Either/Or Amendment, discussion was conducted via email since the Feb. 24th meeting. Some of this discussion covered the offshore running line being a problem for the village when it is in place not being actively fished.
Hattie has issue with the line staying in place in the offshore 400-1000 foot set when no one is fishing it.
Roland says maybe they can be removed.
Dennis The very biggest issue is the running lines left in place when they are not being fished.
Joel tenders up there and thinks people just don't want the hassle of dealing with the lines in the water but it is possible.
Roland asks for clarification on the suggestion. Hattie offers the traditional set can use running lines and they can stay in the water whenever but the 400 -1000 ft offshore set shouldn't be allowed to have running lines in the water if no one is actively fishing it.

Roland thinks this would be reasonable asks about fishing part inside and part offshore, many in the group say NO you must choose to either fish between 0-600 ft OR go out to 400 ft – 100ft. NOT BOTH.
Mitch states that only during an opener should the running lines for a 400-1000 ft set be allowed.
Roland sites leaving gear in water when fishery is closed is a precedent set already in crab fishery.
Scott clarifies that is typically in a pot storage area and in shallower water the comparison doesn't really apply here.
Myra doesn't think that is applies either and supports removing the running lines when not being fished.
Victoria offers a suggestion that the lines go in an hour before opener starts and must be pulled an hour after the period closes. And fishers in the area would surely report a line out in an off limits timeframe.
Scott states enforcement will be opposed to such a regulation as it would be very hard to enforce.
Mike says the river now is like running a gauntlet and something needs to change.
Dennis states this river is narrower than other fishery areas in the bay and at the end of the period the lines on the offshore set should be removed even if the fisher has the intent of fishing the offshore set again the next period. And what about the inside lines?
Hattie asks Paul if currently the 0-600 ft line could stay in if the offshore set is being fished.
Paul yes, and traditionally in the bay that line can remain in the water when the fishery is closed.
Hattie I think if you are fishing the offshore set the traditional set line needs to be removed.
Group is in consensus about removing the inside line if the offshore set is being fished.
Scott wants it clearly stated no gear inside of 400 ft may be in the water if the offshore set is being fished.
Eric asks Roland if he can connect the offshore running lines when it's not slack tide.
Roland says yes with our gear we can, it's tricky but doable whenever.
Victoria how about 1 hr before and 1 hr after the period to put these lines in and out?
Dennis no reason for the extra time if you want to fish offshore it'll be your choice, the lines should only be allowed when the period is open and they are being fished.
Hattie agrees the lines are part of the gear and in the offshore set they should be treated the same as a net, out when the period ends.
Tim Enright expresses concerns about the 1000ft offshore set touching the other bank.
Dennis expresses that the 400-100ft set is essentially fishing the other shore of the river.
Mike like the traditional 0-600ft set and that is what he fishes.
Roland reminds everyone this aspect of the proposal cannot be amended in this subcommittee.
Further discussion ensues regarding amended language; Susie reads the stipulations for the group and subsequently sends it out in email for final approval and/or edits. All in favor of the amended except in determining the running lines deployment and removal times for the offshore set. For purposes of the amendment active fishing is defined as having a net deployed/deploying a net on the running line.

IV. BOG Statewide Proposals, Region IV Call for Proposals

General Discussion: Tracy Vrem states he is happy with the regulations in place now in GMU 9. Predator control is implemented and now there is nothing to do but use it. Hopefully the extension of the Brown Bear season will be helpful and he feels more wolves need to be harvested. NWR also needs to get onboard with predator control.
Roland wants to talk Proposal 168 regarding Brow Palms.

Proposal 168: Roland moves to adopt, Eric 2nds **ACTION:** Support for a clear definition that will be helpful to hunters and enforcement (12-0)

Description: Establish a definition for brow palm.
Discussion: Eric states he would like to see a definition that allows the hunter to be able to implement it before the kill.
Roland questions using the blood line as a definer, however this would only be clearly visible after the kill.
Neil Barton from ADF&G in DLG gives a little background.
All are in consensus a better definition would be useful but unsure what that would look like.

Board of Game Cycle Change: Group discusses the merits of having the BOG meet every three years instead of two. Myra states it is a bigger workload than needed and other agree especially on years where the BOF and BOG meet in the same cycle.
Myra moves to support the change, Roland 2nds.
All in Favor 12-0

VIII. Old Business: Representation at BOF

I. Set date and location of next meeting, call of the Chair.

Adjournment 12:45pm

***Minutes recorded at the request of the AC by Susie Jenkins-Brito

***Minutes approved unanimously 1-27-15