

**Grayling/Anvik/Shageluk/Holy Cross (GASH)
Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday, February 2nd, 2026 at 2:00 pm
by web/teleconference**

I. **Call to Order** at 2:15 by Ken Chase

II. **Roll Call:** Members Present: Ken Chase (Chair), Kathy Chase (Secretary), Shirley Clark, Rich Freireich, Bruce Werba, Chevie Roach, Carolyn Burkett*
Members Absent: Jake Yoder, Roger Hamilton Jr.,
Number Needed for Quorum on AC: [5]; members present 7*

**Carolyn's phone dropped out several times*

IV. **Introduction of Guests and Fish and Game Staff Present:**

V. **Approval of Agenda**

VI. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Nov 5th, 2025 (defer til next meeting if unavailable)

VII. **Reports and updates:**

- a. Chairperson's report
- b. ADF&G staff:
Josh Pierce
- c. Others

VIII. **Comments and Concerns from the public**

IX. **Comments and Concerns from AC members**

X. **Old Business**

XI. **New Business**

- a. Committee action on GMU 21E Antlerless Moose Reauthorization ([Proposal 260](#))
- b. Comments on [Board of Fisheries Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Island/Chignik \(Area M\) Proposals](#) - comments due Feb 3rd, 2026
- c. Discuss sending AC representative to Anchorage for BOF Meeting Feb 18-24, 2026
- d. Planning for in-person meeting to discuss game proposals for 2026-2027 BOG cycle
- e. Other fisheries, wildlife, and committee business as needed

XIII. **Adjourned** at 5:00 pm

Automated Summary Provided by Zoom AI Software:

Ken called the meeting to order at 2:15, and Kathy took the roll call, confirming a quorum of six members was present. The minutes from the November 5th meeting were discussed, with Ken approving them for submission to the Board of Fisheries. Interior confirmed that the minutes were available on the online public notice and via email. Joy Hamilton from Shag joined to inform the group that her 7th through 12th-grade class was listening in. Josh inquired about a PDF of data slides for the antlerless moose proposal, which Interior agreed to email and attach to the online notice.

Meeting Minutes

The GASH Advisory Committee meeting focused on reviewing and voting on several Board of Fisheries proposals for Area M, including discussions about commercial salmon fishing time reductions and bycatch limits. The committee heard presentations from Fish and Game staff about summer chum salmon runs and genetic data collection, while also addressing concerns about the economic impact of fishing closures on local communities. Key proposals discussed included measures to reduce chinook and chum salmon bycatch, with the committee ultimately supporting Proposal 131 which would implement a 12-day fishing closure in June. Gale Vick and Deena Jalllen provided technical insights about fish migration patterns and run timing, though some questions remained about the specific impact of Area M fishing closures on Yukon River stocks.

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The meeting began with a discussion about meeting minutes from November 5th, which were already submitted to the Board of Fisheries and included comments on four proposals. Gale Vick from Fairbanks A/C provided background comments on Area M, and several guests including students, the Canada Chiefs Conference representative, and Fish and Game staff were introduced. Rich suggested adding subunits to the area, which Josh agreed to discuss further after the antlerless proposal, noting that boundary changes would not be considered until the 2027-2028 Board of Game cycle. Ken reported that Thomas Seton would be visiting to take photos and possibly collar bison in the area between Anvik, Grayling, and Shageluk, as well as around Holy Cross, where smaller groups of bison have been observed.

Moose Hunting Reauthorization Discussion

The committee discussed the reauthorization of antlerless moose hunting opportunities and reviewed population survey data, which showed a stable population of approximately 11,000 moose, slightly above the target range. They agreed to hold a face-to-face meeting in the spring, potentially in McGrath or Fairbanks, to discuss Board of Fisheries proposals and other business.

Moose Population and Hunting Overview

Josh presented data on moose population and hunting statistics, noting that the current bull-to-cow ratio is above the target of 25-30, with twinning rates at 30% and harvest averaging 185 moose annually. He explained that the winter hunt offers additional hunting opportunities for those who didn't harvest a moose in the fall, with permits available online and at local vendors for \$10, and clarified that hunters cannot target cows with calves. Ken raised questions about hunting policies, particularly regarding barren cows and federal lands, which Josh addressed by confirming that there are no specific policies for barren cows and that state permits allow hunting on all lands, unlike federal permits which are restricted to federal lands.

Moose Management in Unit 21

The meeting focused on moose management and hunting regulations in Unit 21, particularly subunits 21A and 21E. Josh explained the boundaries and management areas, clarifying that specific regulations can be applied to smaller areas within the larger units. Rich suggested the need for more specific management of smaller areas within 21A, particularly due to varying conditions in different locations. The group discussed the importance of reporting harvests to better document subsistence uses and improve management. The conversation ended with a reminder that proposals for the upcoming Board of Game meeting must be submitted by May 1st.

Meeting Minutes

Board of Fisheries Proposal Votes

The meeting focused on discussing several Board of Fisheries proposals, with the group voting to support Proposal 107, which requires marking and reporting requirements for commercially caught salmon retained for personal use in specific Alaska Peninsula areas. Janessa Newman from the Tanana Rampart Manly Advisory Committee joined to share decisions made with the Mintoni Nana A/C regarding Area M proposals, though these were not formally adopted by the group. The meeting also clarified that proxy hunting can be done for multiple people, but only one person at a time, and that proposals from the AYK meeting had already been acted on by the board, while Area M proposals were still under consideration.

The committee discussed Proposal 127 submitted by the Native Council, which proposed a 10-day consecutive closure between June 10th and June 23rd for salmon fishing in Area M. Gale Vick from the Fairbanks A/C explained that while they supported the concept, they preferred stronger proposals like Proposal 136 for a full shutdown of the June fishery in Area M, and Proposal 131 for a 12-day consecutive closure. The committee voted to support Proposal 127, and moved on to discuss Proposal 128 submitted by the Koyuk River Fish and Game Advisory Committee, which proposed implementing time closures and fleet movement in Area M when bycatch thresholds are reached.

The committee discussed Proposal 128, which aims to reduce bycatch by moving fishing operations. Gale explained that Area M management is complex and recommended supporting three strong proposals (131, 132, and 136) that reduce fishing time. The committee expressed skepticism about the proposal's details and agreed to vote on Proposal 128, with Bruce making the motion and Chevie seconding. Rich and Gale emphasized the importance of supporting the experts' recommendations, while Bruce and Ken debated the potential consequences of not supporting the proposal. The committee ultimately decided to bring Proposal 128 to a vote.

The board discussed and voted on two proposals regarding salmon management. Proposal 128 failed with a tie vote of 3 yeses and 3 noes. Proposal 129, submitted by Kuwaarrik Incorporated, aimed to amend the South Unimak and Chumigan Islands June Salmon Management Plan by reducing commercial fishing time to allow more salmon to move through the Area M fishery. Gale suggested adopting language from multiple proposals and incorporating it into the board's commentary to convey their intent. The motion to move forward on Proposal 129 was made and seconded, but the board decided to proceed with further discussion before voting.

The council discussed Proposal 131, which aims to amend the South Unimak and Chumigan Islands June Salmon Management Plan by reducing commercial salmon fishing time and area for purse seine and drift gill net gear from June 12-23 to allow more western Alaska chum salmon to migrate. Gale and Dina Jallen explained that while the local set netters are not affected, the drift fleet is mostly non-local, and the economic impact on local communities from landing taxes is unclear. The council also discussed concerns about declining summer chum salmon runs in the Yukon River, with Dina noting that the timing of fish runs is difficult to predict and the genetics of fish stocks are not well understood.

Proposal 131 was supported by a majority of the group. Gale explained the reasoning behind Proposal 132, which aimed to reduce chum salmon interceptions by closing the fishery for specific periods. Rich made a motion to oppose Proposal 132, which was seconded by Chevy and discussed further before being voted down.

The committee reviewed and approved two proposals: Proposal 136 to close salmon fishing in the South Unimak and Shumigan Islands from June 7-28 to protect Yukon River salmon, and Proposal 148 to reduce mesh size and length of purse seines in Area M to align with other regions and reduce bycatch. The committee also discussed plans for an upcoming Area M Board of Fisheries meeting in Anchorage from February 18-24, with testimony expected on February 19-20, and considered whether to send a representative or allow remote testimony.

Meeting Scheduling Discussion

The group discussed scheduling a face-to-face meeting with area biologists Josh Pierce and Glenn Stout. They agreed to propose several Fridays in March or April, with the understanding that March 13 would not work for Josh.

Meeting Minutes

The meeting would likely be held in Fairbanks, with participants arriving on Thursday and departing on Saturday. They also noted upcoming state Board of Fisheries and Board of Game meetings in March that could affect scheduling.

Alaska Board of Game Southcentral Region Meeting Proposals			
March 20 -25, 2026 Kodiak, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
260	Reauthorize a winter antlerless moose season during part of February and March in Unit 21E		
SUPPORT	6	0	Motion by Rich Freireich, 2 nd by Chevie Roach

Alaska Peninsula / Aleutian Island / Chignik Finfish Meeting Proposals			
February 18-24, 2026 Anchorage, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
107	Adopt marking and reporting requirements for commercially caught salmon retained for a person’s own use and not sold in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Chignik management areas		
SUPPORT	6	0	Motion by Kathy, 2 nd by Rich
127	Establish a 10 consecutive day closure between June 10 and June 23 for seine and drift gillnet gear		
SUPPORT	6	0	Motion by Bruce, 2 nd by Kathy
128	Adopt chum, coho and king salmon catch thresholds that trigger time and area closures to conserve Koyukuk River salmon		
OPPOSE	3	3	Motion by Bruce, 2 nd by Chevie
129	Amend the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to reduce commercial salmon fishing time		
SUPPORT	6	1	Motion by Bruce, 2 nd by Kathy

Alaska Peninsula / Aleutian Island / Chignik Finfish Meeting Proposals February 18-24, 2026 Anchorage, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
131	Amend the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to reduce commercial salmon fishing time and area for purse seine and drift gillnet gear		
SUPPORT	6	1	Motion by Rich, 2 nd by Chevie
132	Amend the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to reduce commercial salmon fishing time for purse seine and drift gillnet gear		
OPPOSE	3	3	Motion by Rich, 2 nd by Kathy
136	Amend the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to reduce commercial salmon fishing time and area		
SUPPORT	5	1	Motion by Kathy, 2 nd by Bruce
148	Amend the seine specification to reduce the allowable size gear		
SUPPORT	6	0	Motion by Chevie, 2 nd by Rich

Minutes Recorded By: Kathy Chase, Secretary

(Zoom AI Summary and comment table formatting with assistance from Boards Support Staff)

Minutes Approved By: Ken Chase, Chair

Date: 2/3/26

Meeting called to order: 2:15 pm

- 11/5/25 min. minutes

~~referred to next~~ 4 proposals

12, 15, 16, 17

Submitted -

Board Chair report by Ken Chase
(fill in please)

(Rick French - missed the out
about a year ago - add sub units
in 21E - 21A -
upper ironed area -
~~on~~)

Bruce has helped Ken alot, he
thanked Bruce -

Tom Sexton - Bison 2/17/26
will talk about the small patches
and look some of them -
splitting into smaller groups.

Bruce Werba - its a pleasure to
help you anytime.

~~Agenda~~ 107 proposals - 148

Bruce likes Fbx -
remarks on where mtg
to be held -

Adopt the agenda
motion to ~~adopt~~ agenda by Rich
^{approve}
second by Bruce -

roll vote Ken ✓

Kathy

Bruce

Shirley -

Carolyn - 7 yes

Rich

Cheryl

Jake - was excused

★

Josh Pierce moose 260

motion made by Rich proposal
2nd by Cheryl

~~not~~

state permit

Ken Kathy Bruce Shirley
Carolyn, Rich, Cheryl

Proxy - 65 yrs old
for code for application

524-3323

report your
harvest

under 18, still get the
permit - can hunt
if their dad or mom
got one

Boundaries + Subunits

21 unit divided in 21A + E
managed out of McClath
Lyubson to 81

21A Annoko drainage including
Iditarod

make sure - upcoming deadline
5/1/26

plan meeting before 5/1/26 deadline

Bruce to Josh -
we can only do 1 proxy hunt -
Josh says a person can hunt for 1
person at a time, not hunt for
multiple people at a time -

Proposal 107 Area M proposal 107 -

Kathy supports 107 move - 2nd by Rick
all in favor - motion carries - support

* proposal 127 Bruce motion to vote - 2nd by Kathy
no comment

all in favor 136 Complete shutdown
131 shut area M for 12 days
132 - shut down for 10 days

* proposal 128 - adoption - Chevy
yes Bruce makes a motion, 2nd by Rick
Ken, Bruce, Shirley
no Kathy, Rich Chevy motion failed

proposal 129 -

Motion adopted by Bruce, 2nd by Kathy

vote - yes
Bruce
Shirley
Carolyn
Rich
Chevy no
6 yes / 1 no

proposal 131

Rich motion suggest 131 -
second by Chevy / Bruce 2nd by

(yes) Ken
Kathy
Bruce
Shirley
Rich
Chevy
6 yes

(Triggers) 132 proposal - (Carl Nick)

Rich moved to not suggest
this proposal - 2nd by Chevy

(Triggers)

Chevy motions to vote on 132 -
2nd Kathy

yes Ken Bruce Shirley no Kathy

136 ~~138~~ proposal motion failed Rich
Chevy

Kathy makes a motion to
support 136 2nd by Bruce
yes Ken Kathy Bruce no Chevy
Shirley Rich

148 proposal

Kwe support 148 Pick
Chevy motion to vote, Kwe nd

^{yes}
Ken, Kathy
Bruce Shirley 6-0

Rich
Chevy

Pick, ~~face to face~~ -

~~Feb 04~~

Feb 18-24, 2026
Testimony

Remote Testimony

17-23 Shirley

5 pm. adjourn