

February 24, 2017

To:

Alaska Board of Fisheries

Boards Support Section

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Re: AC 19, AC 20, AC 21, AC 22, AC 23, AC 24, AC 25, AC 26

Chairman Jensen;

The Kenai Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory Committee (KSF&GAC/AC) is an established local forum for the collection and expression of opinions and recommendation on matters relating to the management of fish and wildlife resources (5 AAC 96.010).

Our Chairman, Mike Crawford, is not present today but will be latter at this meeting. I, Paul A. Shadura II, serve as the vice-chairman. We are one of a very few State Fish & Game Advisory Committees (AC) that have "designated" seats. That is we hold elections specifically for; 3 commercial guide seats with one additional as an alternate, 3 commercial fishing seats with one additional as an alternate, 1 personal use, 1 subsistence, 1 trapping, 1 hunting and 5 at-large seats who are not directly affiliated with commercial interests.

We currently have 13 active diverse members and 2 alternates, 2 at-large seats are currently vacant.

Our AC is bound by rules of procedure (5 AAC 96.610) that guides us through our review of proposals as well as providing the public access through a public hearing as prescribed through the Administrative Procedures Act (AS 44.62). This is a four-phase process that requires ((d) Phase 3) ...may request technical and scientific support data and prepared testimony from the department.

The AC relies on timely submissions for proposals for the upcoming regulatory cycle. April 11, 2016 was the deadline to submit our committee's proposals. We also must request information from the department prior to that deadline in order to address management and regulatory changes.

Our AC had winter meetings in 2015 and 2016 where local Soldotna staff informed us about a possible change to the Late Run Kenai River King Salmon in that a "large" king escapement goal may be recommended in this board cycle. We also where lead to believe that public meetings would be held prior to the submission deadline so that the public and our AC would be able to comment and/or make recommendations on possibly significant changes in escapement goal management. Then, just prior to the proposal deadline date we were told that the department

would not be pursuing this goal as there was not a clear plan from the department to recommend.

Our AC did not comment on any of these specific current escapement goal changes as we did not have it in a regulatory form (proposal format) that we could comment on.

Even after the October 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> worksession where a notice was given of a “new goal”, we had to wait again for the release of a “memo” dated November 14, 2017 for the actual escapement goal number(s). Then we had to wait until the last day to submit written comments to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF), February 9<sup>th</sup> 2017, for the actual justification(s).

Our AC protests the late submission of reports from the department, especially the ten or so reports submitted for this regulatory meeting on the day of the deadline, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017, just two weeks prior to this meeting.

The KSF&GAC cannot properly review or recommend, discuss relevant information or hold public meetings on specific proposals without timely submission of reports and scientific information from the department.

However, our AC met seven times to review and make comments on specific timely submitted proposals for this meeting and acted on some 79 of these. We took “no action” on many others due to “taking action” on other similar proposals or that they had no interest from the committee.

The KSF&GAC submitted one proposal (199) which we feel is a safety concern and preserves the quiet nature of the Kasilof River. Our AC voted in unanimous support of this proposal at our January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting (12-0-1).

The KSF&GAC appreciates the time and effort that Board of Fisheries members and Board Support staff take in reviewing the detailed reports and making sound, clear and transparent conservation and development decisions. The AC process is here to assist you in relaying the “pulse” of the local communities. We would hope that the board will utilize the incredible volunteer efforts to communicate the needs and the wishes of our local communities.

We will participate in the committee process at this meeting and will expand on any one of the proposals that we commented on at that time.

If you have any questions on a particular vote, amendment or recommendation I would be happy to assist.

Thank you,



Paul A. Shadura II Vice-Chair

Kenai Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory Committee