

Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 1st, 2016 at 6:30 pm

Location of Meeting: King Career Center, located at 2650 E Northern Lights Blvd. Anchorage, Alaska

REVISED FOR USE AT BOF UCI MEETING

- I. Call to Order: 6:30pm by Joel Doner
- II. Roll Call:
Members Present: Present: Phillip Calhoun, Jim Bolgiano, Ernie Weiss, Kevin Taylor, Bryce Eckroth (alternate), Willow Hetrick, Joel Doner, Trevor Rollman, Dino Sutherland, Frank Neumann, Neil DeWitt, Matt Moore (alternate), Martin Weiser, and Brian Nelson.
Members Absent: Kenny Rogers (Excused), Gerold (Jerry) Gugel (Unexcused), & Art Nelson (Unexcused).
Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8
List of User Groups Present: None
- III. **Approval of Agenda:** Trevor Rollman motioned, Neil DeWitt seconded; approved.
- IV. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** From April 5, 2016. Neil DeWitt motioned, Kevin Taylor seconded; unanimously approved.
- V. **Fish and Game Staff Present:** Matt Miller, Jill Klein, Jay Ballard
- VI. **Guests Present:** Jim Stubbs, Zach Stubbs, & George Jacoby
- VII. **Old Business:** None
- VIII. **New Business:**

UPPER COOK INLET FINFISH FEBRUARY 23–MARCH 8, 2017 ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES			
Mandatory- Please Summarize Your Proposal Comments in this Form			
BOG or BOF	Proposal Number	Proposal Description	
Supports or Opposes?	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments/Discussion (list Pros and Cons)/Amendments to Proposal
BOF	71		Align size restrictions for Dolly Varden and rainbow trout bag limit in the flowing waters of the Kenai River Drainage Area.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support	13	1	Same size restriction on the Kenai River for Dolly Varden. Proposed to make the entire River the same at 16 inches long. Discussion: makes sense and makes it easy. Suggest making the number 18 inches long instead of 16 inches long. ADF&G comments: ADF&G is working hard to get the regulations regarding these proposals to read more clearly. There is no biological reason for the difference in size. Proposals 71-80 have been submitted to review.
BOF	72		Amend general provisions for lakes and ponds of the Kenai River drainage to restore winter ice fisheries for landlocked coho salmon less than 16 inches in length.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support	13	1	Support simplifying regulations
BOF	73		Align the Swanson River rainbow trout spawning closure with the proposed Kenai River drainage rainbow trout spawning closure start date.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support	13	1	Support simplifying regulations
BOF	74		Align the Kenai River king salmon sanctuaries start date, and boat closures with the proposed rainbow trout spawning closure start date.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support	14	0	Public proposal (Mr. Buncher) on king salmon sanctuary areas. Support simplifying regulations.
BOF	75		Align dates anglers are prohibited from fishing from boats with rainbow trout closure.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support	14	0	Anchorage AC suggests supporting this proposal as it has greater alignment with other proposals.
BOF	76		Align the Kenai River tributary fishing closure start dates with the proposed king salmon sanctuaries and rainbow trout spawning closure start dates, and align all Kenai River tributary closures so they have similar closure periods.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support	13	1	Support simplifying regulations
BOF	77		Align the Kenai River tributary fishing closure start dates with the proposed king salmon sanctuaries and rainbow trout spawning closure start dates, and align all Kenai River tributary closures so they have similar fishing seasons, such that anglers are prohibited from fishing for salmon.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support	13	1	Support simplifying regulations
BOF	78		Align the closure start date for all the tributaries of the Upper Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area with the start dates proposed for the king salmon sanctuaries and the start dates proposed for the rainbow trout spawning closure. In addition, create the same fishing season in all the tributaries of the Upper Section of the Kenai River Drainage area.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support	13	1	Support simplifying regulations
BOF	79		Change the Kenai River king salmon sanctuaries and the Moose-Kenai rivers confluence area fly-fishing-only waters to artificial fly waters, and align dates for these special provisions with other provisions.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support	14	0	really a fly fishing proposal within certain sanctuaries. Further regulations about the fly fishing gear. Also dealing with seasonal dates to align with sanctuary closures. This would align the two gear types and simplify regulations. Anticipate that law enforcement will support. ADF&G comments: biologically not significant.

BOF	80	Align gear restrictions for Kenai River tributaries.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support	14	0	No discussion. No ADF&G comments.
BOF	81	Create consistent rainbow/steelhead trout regulations in the Kasilof River above and below the Sterling Highway Bridge and amend the open season date for Tustumena Lake tributaries to protect spawning rainbow/steelhead trout.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support	14	0	On the stocking of rainbow trout, and there was retention because there was enhancement. Haven't enhanced in ~20 years. Dino Sutherland doesn't see any issue with use of these species. Harvested on incidental catch during king fishery. ADF&G comments: align regulations on the Kasilof River. Non-retention above the bridge and harvest is allowed below the bridge. Rainbow and steelhead may not be caught or maintained throughout the whole are.
BOF	82	Amend Kasilof River early-run king salmon possession requirements.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support	14	0	Aid enforcement, should clean fish prior to leaving River. 100 yards will get you to any parking area along the Kasilof River. ADF&G comment: enforcement issues on the Kasilof River. Question is regarding "when does the angler leave the fishery"? Answer in proposal is greater than 100 yards from the River. This is to align regulations and help with enforcement.
BOF	83	Repeal gear regulations for northern pike.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support	13	1	If cannot be done via Executive Order. ADF&G comments: eradication of pike. Gets ride of pike fishing where there isn't any pike due to successful eradication. Opposition because concerned that pike will come back in these areas and will have to address issue again causing more work.
BOF	84	Clarify closed waters around the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support	14	0	Closed water boundaries on the mouth of the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers. Language is difficult to interpret; this proposal defines the areas better. The boundaries are the same, this makes it easier to regulate.
BOF	182	Prohibit all guiding from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support	14	0	Guide use, 6am-6pm in a boat. This proposal looks to change so that it is 6am-6pm no matter what method of fishing (i.e. on boat or standing on the bank). Supports local people fighting for space in evenings after work.
BOF	183	Allow guided anglers to fish on Mondays in August.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose	0	14	Aren't the fish out there to support heavy guided use. ADF&G comments: no statewide harvest information back yet, but from public comment, coho fishing in Cook Inlet was really bad in 2016.
BOF	184	Relax guiding restrictions when king salmon fishing is closed by emergency order.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose	0	14	Don't want to relax restrictions because it's harder for the guides to make a living. Right now Mondays are drift only, no power boats. This would allow them to have 5 people in the boat instead of 4, and be able to fish 24-hours a day. ADF&G comments: intent seems to be to allow to fish for other species when king salmon is closed. Want to be able to fish on Mondays.
BOF	185	Modify language referencing fishing from guide boats on the Kenai River to include all guided fishing.	

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Action	-	-	Moving people from boats to the beach. Same proposal as 182. This proposal gives much better background than 182. Guides still cannot fish on Sundays under this proposal. ADF&G comments: similar to proposal 183 to limit guiding 6am-6pm, Tuesday through Saturday. Reference proposal 182 for, no action on this proposal.
BOF	208		Allow 10 Dolly Varden/Arctic char per household in Cook Inlet Personal Use Fisheries.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support	13	1	Concerned with overharvest/clarification on population. ADF&G comments: allowing retainment of 10 Dolly Varden and Arctic char per household in fresh and salt water fisheries. No information on how many of each species are caught in personal use fisheries. No studies on stock assessment on each species. No concerns on the sustainability of each species. Opposition because it is a salmon fishery and we should take salmon only.
BOF	232		Modify the Fish Creek personal use fishery to accommodate a new Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) range.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support	13	1	SEG has been changed from 45-15. Lowered the SEG because it is not being enhanced anymore. There will be no yield if trigger of 50 is not triggered. Lowering the trigger will allow a personal use fishery. Was a terminal fishery and a set net fishery but no longer in place. Is not a harvest tool for the ADF&G, it is a management tool. May also be habitat issues and Big Lake may not be able to support current escapement goals. ADF&G comments: changes the date back 5 days. Don't think sport fishery would have the harvest power to support. Look at escapement goals before each BOF cycle. Lowering of this escapement goal may be due to lack of hatchery fish. Opposition because there won't be enough to support itself after a while, re: Kenai king fishery problems.

Next meeting place and time: Anchorage AC will meet Tuesday, November 15th at 6:30 pm at Cabelas meeting room, located at 155 W 104th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99515.

Adjournment: 9:15pm

Minutes Recorded By: Willow Hetrick
Minutes Approved By: Joel Doner
Date: November 15, 2016

Executive Session Held