

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
January 7, 2019- 2:30pm  
Nagozruk Conference Room, University of Alaska Fairbanks Northwest Campus  
Nome, Alaska

Charlie Lean – Chair, Nate Perkins – Vice Chair, Kevin Knowlton – Secretary  
Adem Boeckman – Nome, Lucas Frost – Nome, Edward Stang – Nome,  
Brandon Ahmasuk – Undesignated, Tom Gray – Undesignated,  
Davis Lincoln – White Mountain, Tommy Obruk – Shishmaref, Sarah Okbaok – Teller,  
Clifford Seetook – Whales, Henry Olanna Jr. – Brevig Mission,  
Charles Saccheus – Elim, Jack Fagerstrom – Golovin

1. Meeting called to order at 1435hrs by committee Chair Charlie Lean
2. Roll Call:
  - a. Committee Members Present: Charlie Lean – Chair, Kevin Knowlton – Secretary, Adem Boeckman – Nome, Brandon Ahmasuk – Undesignated, Tom Gray – Undesignated, Davis Lincoln – White Mountain, Tommy Obruk – Shishmaref, Sarah Okbaok – Teller, Henry Olanna Jr. – Brevig Mission, Charles Saccheus – Elim, Jack Fagerstrom – Golovin
  - b. Committee members not present, Excused: Nate Perkins – Vice Chair, Edward Stang – Nome, Clifford Seetook – Wales. Unexcused: Lucas Frost – Nome
3. Approval of the Agenda: Motion Made by Kevin Knowlton, Second by Brandon Ahmasuk to approve the presented agenda with one amendment, to postpone addressing most of the Game and shellfish proposals until the next meeting with a date not yet set. Motion Carries – Unanimous.
4. Approval of previous meeting minutes – 30/28/2018: Motion made by Adem Boeckman, Second by Tom Gray to approve the minutes as presented. Motion Carries – Unanimous.
5. Fish and Game Staff Present: Bill Dunker – Area Biologist, Brynn Parr - Assistant Area Biologist, Sara Germain – Nome, Jim Menard – Region Fisheries Manager, Hazel Smith – Board Support
6. Guests: Howard Farley – Commercial Fisherman, Roy Ashenfelter – Kawerak, Ashley Dunker – NSEDC, Dawn Wehde – NSEDC, Maggie Stang – Alaska Wildlife Trooper, Davis Hovey – KNOM, Sandra Medearis – Arctic News
7. Update on AC members and officer terms: All seats are currently filled with 11 of the 15 seats expiring at the end of 2019. The Chair and Vice Chair positions will need to be voted on by the members at that time.
8. Old Business: Western Arctic Caribou Herd update form Charlie Lean – Chair, per the Western Arctic Caribou Working Group meeting the heard calf recruitment appears to be up, the bull: cow ratio is good, but the cow mortality rate is high, unsure if it is due to the cows with collars are dying due to old age or hunting/predation pressure. The

2018/19 herd migration is not following historic patterns, the herd has normally moved south onto the Seward Peninsula by the beginning of November and as of this meeting date they are just now getting to the Buckland area.

9. New Business: (Game)
  - a. Board of Game Comment deadline is March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019
  - b. Musk Oxen Project – Brynn Parr is the research Biologist for the project and will report on the project at the next meeting
  - c. Other Game Issues – Bill Dunker will report on all of the game issues at the next meeting.
  - d. Board of Game Proposals;
    1. 139, Reauthorize resident brown bear tag fee exemptions in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A. Motion Made by Kevin Knowlton, Second by Adem Boeckman to support the proposal as written. Tom Gray stated that by requiring hunters to purchase a tag it would give managers a better idea of how many hunters are actively hunting bear in the region. Adem Boeckman stated that he felt that we would need to really look at harvesting sows and cubs if we really were going to get a handle on the predation, Tom Gray that we also need to consider wolves when talking predators. 9 Support, 2 Oppose Motion Carries to support the proposal.

10. New Business: (Fish)

- a. Board of Fish Comment deadline, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019
- b. Board of Fish Proposals;
  1. 123, Repeal the Tier ii subsistence chum salmon fishery. Motion Made by Kevin Knowlton, Second by Adem Boeckman to support the proposal as written. Discussion Brandon Ahmasuk inquired that by accepting the proposal does it take a management tool away from the area manager in the event of a crash in population and the answer from Jim Menard was yes. Tom Gray said that commercial fishing of chum salmon in the region is on the rise and wondering how that would affect the large surplus in the future. 1 Supports, 11 Oppose motion Fails. (Tom Obruk arrived, His flight was delayed.)

Recess at 1545 hours

Reconvene at 1555hours

2. 124, Repeal the Subdistrict 1 of the Norton Sound District chum salmon management plan. Motion Made by Kevin Knowlton, Second by Adem Boeckman to support the proposal as written. Tom Gray asked if Fish and Game has other tools with safeguards and the answer was yes. Motion Carried unanimously.
3. 125, Lengthen the commercial salmon fishing season in the Norton Sound - Port Clarence Area. Motion Made by Adem Boeckman, Second by Kevin Knowlton to support the proposal as written. It was explained how this will allow the area manager to open commercial fishing better based on the run timing rather than

by the calendar by allowing more flexibility in both season length and period length. Motion Carried unanimously.

4. 126, Remove restrictions on the length of commercial salmon fishing periods in Norton Sound Sub-district 1. Motion Made by Kevin Knowlton, Second by Adem Boeckman to support the proposal as written. This will allow the area manager to adjust period or opening lengths that are more responsive to the run strengths and weather conditions. Motion carries unanimously.
5. 127, Repeal the Guideline harvest range for Port Clarence District and replace it with the "Port Clarence District and Pilgrim River Salmon Management Plan". The NNSAC held a discussion on over escapement of sockeye and the effects of over-browsing of zooplankton. The proposal offers a tool to regulate the number of rearing juvenile salmon in the lake. Motion Made by Adem Boeckman, Second by Kevin Knowlton, to support the proposal as written. Motion Carried unanimously.
6. 162, Require biweekly reporting of all sport, personal use, and subsistence king salmon catch. Motion Made by Kevin Knowlton, Second by Tom Gray to support the proposal as presented. The reporting frequency seemed onerous. Motion failed unanimously.
7. 163, Prohibit the intentional waste or destruction of subsistence caught fish. Motion Made by Adem Boeckman, Second by Tom Gray to support the proposal as written. Motion Carries unanimously.
8. 164, Prohibit the intentional waste or destruction of sheefish. Already addressed. No Action Taken.
9. 169, Repeal and readopt the policy for statewide Salmon Escapement Goals. Concern for unintended consequences. Motion Made by Adem Boeckman, Second by Kevin Knowlton to support the proposal as written. Motion failed unanimously.
10. 170, Amend the policy for the management of sustainable Salmon Fisheries. Concern for unintended consequences. intended consequences. intended consequences. Motion Made by Adem Boeckman, Second by Tom Gray to support the proposal as written. Motion failed unanimously.
11. 171, Modify criteria for the allocation of fishery resources among personal use, sport, and commercial fisheries. No Action.
12. 135, Repeal the current South Unimak and Shumagin Island June Salmon Management plan and readopt and amended version of the management plan in place prior to 2001. Harvesters need to share in the burden of conservation. Motion Made by Adem Boeckmann, second by Brandon Ahmasuk to support the amendment as proposed. Motion carried unanimously.
13. 136, Amend the South Unimak and Shumagin Island June Salmon Management Plan so that fishing periods are structured with 24hour windows where commercial salmon fishing gear is in the water. This was seen as a compromise

or stepdown measure of #135. Motion Made by Adem Boeckman, Second by Brandon Ahmasuk to Support the proposal as written. Motion Carried unanimously.

Recess at 1650hours

Reconvene at 1659hours

11. New Business (Joint Board)

- a. Joint Board Comment deadline, March 7<sup>th</sup> 2019
- b. Joint Board Proposals;
  1. 11, Consolidate regulation addressing the creation of advisory committees. Motion Made by Adem Boeckman, second by Tommy Obruk to support the proposal as written. Motion Carried unanimously.
  2. 12, require members to reside within the community's geographic area. Motion Made by Kevin Knowlton, Second by Brandon Ahmasuk to support the proposal as written. Motion Carried unanimously.
  3. 14, Update the area of jurisdiction for westward area king crab to include Kotzebue Fish and Game Advisory Committee. Motion Made by Tom Gray, Second by Adem Boeckman to support the proposal amended to include the Sothern Norton Sound Advisory Committee. Motion Carried unanimously.
  4. 15, Amend the emergency closure process to exclude advisory committees that have not met within the last three years. Motion Made by Kevin Knowlton, Second by Brandon Ahmasuk to support the proposal as written. Motion Carried unanimously.
  5. 16, Expand the function of the advisory committees to encourage the involvement of youth and elders. There was suggestion to have a young person from a different community at each meeting participate in the discussion with the AC members. Motion Made by Kevin Knowlton, Second by Brandon Ahmasuk to support the proposal as written. Motion Carries Unanimously.
  6. 17, Reorder and clarify the election procedures under the uniform rules for advisory committees. Motion Made by Adem boeckmann, second by Brandon Ahmasuk to support the proposal as written. Motion Carried unanimously.
  7. 18, Clarify the provision that advisory committees may not refuse membership to a nominee. Motion Made by Adem Boeckman, Second by Tommy Obruk to support the proposal as written. Motion Carried unanimously.
  8. 19, Simplify the process for removing advisory committee members for having unjustifiable absences from meetings. Discussion found this proposal to confusing and difficult to put into practice. Motion Made by Adem Boeckman, Second by Brandon Ahmasuk to support the proposal as written. Motion failed unanimously.
  9. 20, Amend the removal for cause provision. Motion Made by Adem Boeckman, Second by Tommy Obruk to support the proposal as written. Motion Carried unanimously.

10. 21, Amend the Advisory committee vacancy rules. Motion Made by Adem Boeckman, Second by Kevin Knowlton to support the proposal as written. Motion Carried unanimously.
11. 22, Allow advisory committee members to discuss and vote by email, excluding actions for antlerless moose reauthorization or emergency order closures. Motion Made by Adem Boeckman, Second by Kevin Knowlton to support the proposal as written. Discussion about how this proposal does not comply with the Open Meetings Act. Motion failed unanimously.
12. 23, Provide guidance for advisory committee actions having abstentions. Motion Made by Adem Boeckman, Second by Tom Gray to support the proposal as written. Discussion of how this proposal will allow for committee members to abstain from voting and not affect the requirement for a quorum. Motion Carried unanimously.
13. 24, Add language to clarify advisory committee meetings are subject to the Open Meetings Act and modify noncompliant provisions. Motion Made by Kevin Knowlton, Second by Adem Boeckman to support the proposal as written. Discussion centered on conflict of interest issues and the administration of complicated rules affecting membership recruitment. Motion failed unanimously.
14. 25, Remove redundant provisions for advisory committee officer regulations and clarify duties of the secretary. Motion Made by Adem Boeckman, Second by Brandon Ahmasuk to support the proposal as written. Motion Carried unanimously.
15. Proposals number 26 and 27 no action.
16. 28, Allow advisory committee representatives to be at the board table during deliberation for those proposals the advisory committee authored. Motion Made by Adem Boeckman, Second by Tommy Obruk to support the proposal as written. Discussion of how this could create conflicts between stake holders and proposal authors. Motion Failed unanimously.
17. 29, Allow advisory committee representatives to be at the board table during deliberation for those proposals affecting their region. Motion Made by Kevin Knowlton, Second by Adem Boeckman to support the proposal as written. Motion Carried unanimously.
18. 30, Provide a definition for board work sessions and allow submitters of agenda change requests (ACR's) to provide testimony at work sessions. Motion Made by Adem Boeckman, Second by Brandon Ahmasuk to support the proposal as written. Motion carried unanimously.
19. 31, Provide a definition for a board hearing of at least three board members with a public comment requirement. Motion Made by Adem Boeckman, Second by Tommy Obruk to support the proposal as written. Motion Carried unanimously.

20. 32, Repeal the provision for Board of Fisheries members attending advisory committee meeting to be in compliance with statutory requirements for holding board meetings in specific areas of the state. Motion Made by Adem Boeckman, Second by Brandon Ahmasuk to support the proposal as written. Motion Carried unanimously.
21. 33, Amend the joint board's procedure for establishing fish and game regulations. Motion Made by Adem Boeckman, Second by Brandon Ahmasuk to support the proposal as written. There are times when timely compromises are needed and this method has worked. Motion Failed unanimously.
22. Proposals 34, 35, 36, and 37 all addressed at with one Motion Made by Adem Boeckman, Second by Kevin Knowlton to support all four proposals as written. Motion Failed unanimously.
23. 38, Require the board of fisheries to schedule shellfish regulations for any that have been closed by emergency order for 24 consecutive months. These decisions should be made individually not one size fits all. Motion Made by Adem Boeckman, second by Tommy Obruk to support the proposition as written. Motion failed unanimously.
24. 39, Update the regulations to correct errors and omissions. Motion Made by Kevin Knowlton, Second by Jack Fagerstrom to support the proposal as written. Motion Carried unanimously.
25. 40, Amend regulations to align and clarify current practices for advisory committees and the process for adopting fish and game regulations. Motion Made by Kevin Knowlton, Second by Jack Fagerstrom to support the proposal as written. Motion Carries unanimously.
12. Board of fish, Board of Game, and joint board meeting schedule:
  - a. January 15-19, 2019 Board of Fish – Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim finfish in Anchorage, AK. Committee Chair Charlie Lean to represent the committee.
  - b. February 21-27, 2019 Board of Fish - Alaska Pen./Chignik/Aleutian finfish Anchorage, AK. The committee discussed who could attend , but funding and availability are an issue.
  - c. March 8-11, 2019 Board of Fish – Statewide finfish and supplemental issues Anchorage, AK No Interest.
  - d. March 15-19, 2019 Board of Game Southcentral Region Anchorage, AK. Conflict with Iditarod, no interest.
  - e. March 21-25, 2019 Joint Board on Advisory Committees Anchorage, AK No interest.
13. Charlie Lean as the committee chair or his designee will attend state level meetings to represent the Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee.
14. Tom Gray inquired of Jim Menard of ADF&G of what the winter red king crab season and harvest limits were looking like. Jim advised that there would be a reduction of the limit this year and in the future but it would take a few years before the fishery would be in jeopardy.

15. Next meeting will be scheduled for the end of February or first part of March 2019.

16. 1810 hours Sara Okboak made a motion to adjourn, Second by Adem Boeckman. Motion Carried unanimously.