

**Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee
11/13/2019 Meeting Minutes
Ruth Burnett Sportfish Hatchery
Fairbanks, AK**

I. Call to Order: Chair at 6:35pm

II. Roll Call –

	<u>CHAIR</u> Kirk Schwalm	<u>VICE-CHAIR</u> Mark Richards	<u>SECRETARY</u> Mark Oppe	Jeff Lucaas	Gale Vick	Mike Quinn	Mike Tinker	John Wisniewski
Present	x	x	x	x	x	x		x
Absent								
Abs/Excused							x	
	Levi Lewellyn	John Siegfried	Richard Doering	Warren Guichici	Mike Bryan	Mike Kramer	Chuck Derrick	Virgil Umphenour (alternate)
Present	x	x			x		x	x
Absent						x		
Abs/Excused			x	x				

III. Introduction of Guests: Al Barrette, Rep. Jim Sackett, Nate Turner
Fish & Game Staff Present: Nissa Pilcher, Mark Nelson, Beth Lenart, Klaus Wuttig

IV. Comments

Chair Comments: no comments at this time; will save comments for discussion on ACRs

Vice Chair – None. Trapping—none. Game—none Fish—none

AC Member Comments: none

Public Comments: none

V. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Oct. 9th approved unanimously; April 2019 minutes not available

VI. Approval of Agenda: unanimous

VII. Old Business: None.

VIII. New Business:

F&G Staff Reports:

Staff update on status of Central Arctic caribou herd. Estimate 30,000 caribou; population stable with 93% parturition rates for radio collared females, 61:100 calf-cow ratio, 50:100 bull-cow ratio. All surveyed groups mixed with bulls, cow, & calves with good age distribution of bulls. Questions from committee regarding higher success rate for non-resident hunters (2017 & 2018); attributed to transporters and longer hunts. Questions regarding harvestable surplus & potential to increase resident harvest. Staff not likely to support registration cow hunt (Proposal 79) at this time with adult female survival currently 81% (would like to see higher).

Moose surveys in progress, but weather slowing progress.

RM785 still open. 1 cow harvested so far.

Final salmon escapement estimates on Chena low. Salcha was in middle of goal range. Did not meet escapement harvest to Canada. Forecast decreasing trend for next year.

Election Procedures & Bylaws:

May be time to have written procedures and bylaws to clarify process and ensure public confidence. Only existing codified regulation relates to committee members being removed for non-attendance. Current process varies between ACs as long as they comply with codified regulations and statute. Motion to have a rules subcommittee to draft bylaws and election procedures passed by unanimous consent. Meeting date TBD at next AC meeting.

Comment on submitted BOG ACRs:

Clarification from Nissa that comments should focus on whether ACRs meet Board Policy regarding agenda change (5 AAC 92.005).

Discussion of ACR 5 (clarifying that big game tags be paid for and issued prior to hunters taking big game that requires tags). Concern that guides have filled out paperwork for tags without collecting payment in the field and then destroyed unused tags. Only way to guarantee this doesn't happen is if guides are not vendors. There is always the chance of abuse. ACR is supported by the Board. Motion to support the ACR; 10-2 vote in support.

Discussion of ACR 7 (closing the nonresident season for emperor geese in Units 8, 9, and 10). Currently 25 emperor geese allocated to nonresidents. Discussion that this number is biologically insignificant and that not all allocated geese may be being harvested. Motion to support the ACR failed 5-7.

Motion to oppose all remaining ACRs passes 10-1-1.

Finalize comments for Lower Cook Inlet BOF Meeting:

Fish subcommittee opposed proposals 2, 13, 15, 16, 32; supported 14, 23-27; no action on remaining proposals by subcommittee. Motion to accept recommendations of fish subcommittee passed by unanimous consent.

Motion to support Proposal 282 giving discretion to close lakes to fishing based on PFAS or other contamination passed by unanimous consent.

Set date for Game/Trapping Subcommittee: Thursday, Nov. 21 6:00pm at Fish & Game office

Airport Property Trapping:

New FAI management has policy not allowing trapping on airport property. May be willing to issue permits for beaver trapping, but will charge fee. Mike Quinn intends to submit a future motion to the AC regarding support for trapping on airport property, but wants to gather additional information first.

IX. Other:

John Siegfried and Gale Vick will not be present for next AC meeting.

IX. Adjourn at 9:38pm

Minutes Recorded by Mark Oppe

Fairbanks Advisory Committee Comments on Lower Cook Inlet Finfish Proposals

The FAC fisheries subcommittee met and reviewed several LCI proposals. Recommendations were made to the full committee and the full committee unanimously endorsed the subcommittee's recommendations.

2. OPPOSE. This would extend the length of current bait bans on roadside streams. ADFG did not supply any biological data in support of this restriction, and a bait ban in August would negatively affect Coho opportunity.

3. OPPOSE. Reduce the Seward Lagoon Youth Fishery harvest limit from 2 to 1 fish. There is no evidence that harvesting two fish a day harms either resource. We understand that this proposal was part of a package of proposals that would also extend the youth fishery season, but again, as with our opposition to proposal 2, there is no data supplied that would suggest that any harvest restriction is biologically justified.

9. OPPOSE. This would impose a winter king season limit of 5 fish. The winter King fishery has provided significant opportunity to harvest feeder Kings distributed over multiple different stocks. Again, there is no data to suggest that restricting this increasingly popular winter opportunity has negatively impacted any King stock of concern.

12-13. OPPOSE. These proposals would restrict the sport harvest of ling cod with no supporting biological data, such as the amount of commercially caught ling cod in these areas compared to the sport catch, or a link between the alleged declining stocks and sport harvest.

14. SUPPORT. This would legalize the practice of "hooking and handing". After significant debate, the committee felt the positives of legalizing this common practice outweighed the negatives.

15. OPPOSE. The Board does not have authority to regulate booking agents.

16. OPPOSE. The Seine industry is trying to put restrictions on personal use fishing with dipnets for hatchery produced fish. These are no wild fish harvested and the percentage of personal use fish compared to the Seiners is miniscule.

17. OPPOSE. This would require a set netter to be physically on site. This restriction is already included in permit stipulations and will remain so until no longer deemed biologically necessary at which point it can be easily removed, unlike a board approved regulation.

22-27. SUPPORT. These various proposals all recognize that many hatcheries run by commercial fishing interests are not operating under the terms of their permits and that ADFG needs to provide greater oversight and impose necessary restrictions on hatchery overproduction and cost recovery fisheries.

Respectfully Submitted, Fairbanks Advisory Committee through Mike Kramer, Fisheries Subcommittee Chair