



**Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
For Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at the William Hernandez Fish Hatchery in Anchorage**

1. Meeting was called to order by the Kevin Taylor at 6:03 pm.
2. Pledge of Allegiance: completed
3. Prayer: completed
4. Establish a Quorum: 12

Members Present: Neil DeWitt, Kevin Taylor, Joel Doner, Phillip Calhoun, Ernie Weiss, Willow Hetrick, Georgina Heaverly, Scott Crowther, Matt Moore, Bryce Eckroth, Ed Horton, Lynette Hinz.

Members Absent Excused: Rick Rogers, Martin Weiser

Members Absent Unexcused: JR Gates, Jim Nabulsi, Tyler Loken.

5. List of User Groups Present: None
6. Fish and Game Staff Present: Fari Sylvester, Tom Lohuis, Cory Stantorf, Jan Rumble, and Dave Battle, Elisa Russ.
7. Public Present: Jack Frost, Page Spencer, Mark Doner
8. Approve the Agenda Phillip Calhoun motioned, Matt Moore seconded, carried unanimously.
9. Public Testimony: None
10. Tom Lohuis - Dall Sheep Presentation

Tom Lohuis presented on Dall's sheep research in the Chugach and Talkeetna Mountains. Work started in Unit 13D due to a decline in the population and moved to 14C in 2012. In summary, animals were in poor nutritional conditions (lack of fat and muscle tissue), pregnancy rates have declined (should be 85-110% and in 13D and 14C, rates were 18% in 2014 and 26% in 2020, respectively), high adult ewe mortality, and survival rates of lambs were higher in 13D and 14C than other populations in the State. Generally, there were no massive die offs and no high levels of predation but there were lots of sheep with low pregnancy rates and poor body conditions. ADF&G is considering habitat and weather conditions could be driving the poor nutrition and low pregnancy rates. Increased amounts of woody brush in the alpine tundra could be diminishing the available food sources and the quality of the food for sheep and in turn, carrying capacity. It is very important for the hunting community to carefully evaluate rams prior to harvest as there are a low number of 7-9-year-old rams as there has been concern over the harvest of sublegal rams.

11. Old Business

1. Discussion of BOG Southcentral proposals for the next Board cycle. Deadline for submission is 4/29/22 – Anchorage AC will discuss at the next meeting. Members are encouraged to develop draft proposals for consideration to the full AC on April 5, 2022.



The Department is going to be submitting proposals to clean up regulations/simplify regulatory language re: small game in southcentral units. Other housekeeping proposals can be expected from the Southcentral managers.

12. New Business

1. Prepare comments for the General Shellfish and Miscellaneous Sport Proposals.

See notes below. Proposals are due to the BOF for the next cycle on April 11th. Members are encouraged to develop draft proposals for consideration to the full AC.

2. Elections for expiring terms will occur in May of 2022. At the May Anchorage AC meeting, there will be an election.

12. Adjourned at 8:03pm.

The next regular Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at the William Hernandez Fish Hatchery at 6 pm.



Alaska Board of Fisheries: General Shellfish and Miscellaneous Sport Proposals			
March 26-April 2, 2022 Anchorage, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support/Support as amended/ Oppose/No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (pros & cons), Voting Notes, Amendments
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
234	Require inseason reporting of non-resident sport fish harvest and effort, as follows:		
	3	9	Support for in-season reporting to yield more accurate data and better management. However, we recognize that Department resources do not currently allow for this. We're curious as to why this proposal is limited to non-resident sport fishermen and does not include residents.
235	Modify the definition of domicile and include in sport fishing regulations, as follows:		
	0	12	We understand this is a great idea but we're unsure how it will be enforced. The Board of Fish does not have authority to do so.
236	Modify the definition of domicile and add to sport fishing regulations, as follows:		
			No action. See Proposal 235
237	Provide department authority to deny eligibility to participate in the Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery if a participant fails to comply with reporting requirements and allow for an appeals process, as follows:		
	12	0	Support the Department's efforts.
238	Close the commercial and noncommercial shrimp fisheries in Prince William Sound, as follows:		
	0	12	This is an irrelevant proposal and infeasible.
239	Allow noncommercial vessels to have additional shrimp pots on board, as follows:		
			Take no action. Based on ADFG comments, this is already in regulation and unnecessary.
240	Modify PWS shrimp pot harvest strategy from a static split, between noncommercial and commercial, to a tiered percentage depending on the total allowable harvest level (TAH), as follows:		



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	12	0	Based on total harvest levels in recent years, it appears that this proposal would not affect current catch and operations. We recognize it is a means to maintain commercial fishing opportunity in times of low abundance. We feel this proposal is a reasonable way to ensure this. We recognize the burden of conservation needs to be equitable among all users.
241	Define shrimp, as follows:		
	0	12	Agree with Dept. comments
242	Establish a minimum threshold of Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) for spot shrimp before allowing a noncommercial fishery in Prince William Sound, as follows:		
			No action. See comments on Proposal 240.
243	Amend commercial shrimp pot fishery closed waters boundaries, as follows:		
	12	0	We support this as it would increase opportunity, not pose a conflict among users, and not cost the Department any resources to implement.
244	Modify annual shrimp guideline harvest level based on fishery performance in the prior season, as follows:		
			No action. Department management tools are sufficient.
245	Modify annual shrimp guideline harvest level based on fishery performance in the prior season, as follows:		
			No action. See Proposal 244
246	Eliminate the commercial shrimp fishery minimum total allowable harvest threshold, as follows:		
			No action. See Proposal 240
247	Establish a minimum pot limit to increase pace of the commercial pot shrimp fishery, as follows:		



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	0	10	We recognize having a longer season allows for fresh shrimp harvest into the summer and support this rather than increasing pots with a shorter season. However, we also recognize the concern over accumulated finances for commercial operators over a longer season. 2 abstain – for the reasons that we understand the different perspectives of participants in the fishery, but are unable to either support or oppose.
248	Establish an earlier start date for the commercial shrimp trawl fishery, as follows:		
			No action based on lack of knowledge of the trawl fishery.
249	Clarify areas open to commercial pot shrimp fishing in the Prince William Sound Area, as follows:		
	12	0	Support the Department’s efforts to clarify regulations.
250	Establish an earlier start date for the commercial shrimp pot fishery, as follows:		
	0	11	The Department determines current timing based on spawning and biological reasons; we support that determination. 1 abstain for lack of knowledge.
251	Establish permit and reporting requirements for shrimp floating processor vessels in the Prince William Sound Area (PWS; Registration Area E), as follows:		
	11	0	Support the Department to obtain more reporting and data. We recognize this would mean an existing operator cannot process both theirs and another operator's catch and may cause issues for that operation. 1 abstain.
252	Allow vessels registered for the commercial shrimp fishery to also tender shrimp, as follows:		
	5	7	Support for making the fishery more efficient. Oppose – there is a delineation in the regulations for a reason and defer to the Department for that input.
253	Increase pink shrimp harvest allowance in Prince William Sound, as follows:		
			No action based on lack of knowledge.
254	Amend closed waters to allow use of beam trawl gear for the harvest of shrimp, as follows:		



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			No action. Lack of knowledge, defer to Dept.
255			Close the harvest of littleneck clams and butter clams, as follows:
256			Create a management plan for east Cook Inlet sport and personal use fisheries, as follows:
257			Add bag and possession limits for Dolly Varden in the Prince William Sound freshwater finfish subsistence fishery, as follows:
258			Close the harvest of littleneck clams and butter clams, as follows:
259			Modify the razor clam bag and possession limit, as follows:
260			Establish a commercial Dungeness crab fishing season in Cook Inlet, modify lawful gear for Dungeness crab in the Southern District and establish lawful gear for Dungeness crab in Cook Inlet. establish Registration Area H as an exclusive registration area for Dungeness crab, and modify Registration Area H inspection points, as follows:
261			Allow use of a ropeless system with submerged buoy in the Dungeness crab fishery, as follows:
262			Allow use of drift gillnets to harvest salmon for subsistence uses throughout Prince William Sound, as follows:
263			Amend Registration Area J commercial shrimp fishery management regulations and allow for department permit authority, as follows:
264			Amend regulation requiring operation of Dungeness crab pot gear once within a 14-day period, as follows:



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265			Repeal regulation requiring operation of Dungeness crab pot gear once within a 14-day period, as follows:
266			Establish Kodiak District Dungeness crab pot limits and restrict concurrent targeting of Dungeness crab and any other commercially harvested species, as follows:
267			Establish South Peninsula District Dungeness crab pot limits, as follows:
268			Adopt a new Tanner crab harvest strategy used to set annual harvest limits in the Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula districts, as follows:
269			Amend regulatory thresholds and establish new management measures for Kodiak District Tanner crab, as follows:
270			Amend pot limits for Kodiak District Tanner crab, as follows:
271			Reduce size of stretched mesh escape webbing for <i>C. bairdi</i> Tanner crab pot gear in Registration Area J except in the Bering Sea District, as follows:
272			Adopt a new Eastern Aleutian District Tanner crab harvest strategy used to set annual harvest limits, as follows:
273			Allow longlining of pot gear for Registration Area K golden king crab, as follows:
274			Increase minimum training requirements needed for scallop trainee observer candidates, as follows:



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275	Extend the observer certification expiration period from 12 months to 18 months, as follows:		
281	Allow importation of live oysters from the Pacific Coast of North America for research purposes		
	12	0	We support efforts to expand Alaska's mariculture industry and recognize its contribution to the state's economy.
282	Modify South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery		
			Take no action.
283	Amend the Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan		
	8	4	<p><u>Support</u> – Closing a fishery needs to be done for conservation reasons. This proposal would relax paired restrictions to allow another management tool for the Department and allows the Commissioner this discretion. We do not support the implementation of an OEG and managing to that goal and believe the OEG eliminates opportunity for <i>all</i> users. We recognize the repeated foregone harvest of sockeye in the Kasilof and Kenai River systems and that this additional management tool allows for more efficient management of that stock. However, there is concern expressed for how many kings will now be caught with this relaxed restriction.</p> <p><u>Oppose</u> – The goal and management measures are sufficient as-is. There is support for managing to an OEG, and continuing to do so will help build back up the king run over time.</p>

Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: Georgie Heaverley
 Minutes Approved By: _____
 Date: 3/8/2022