

Minto Nenana
Fish and Game Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Draft
February 2, 2015
Minto Tribal Council

Meeting called to order at 10:45 am.

Members Present:

Minto

Philip Titus

Ron Silas

David Titus

Steve Titus

Jeremy Charlie

Nenana

Steve Ketzler

Victor Lord

Rondell Jimmy

Tim McManus

Members Absent: Ray Stevens.

**There is also an Undesignated seat that is not filled at this time. There was not enough time to announce an election for this meeting, and that seat as well as all Minto seats were to be open for election at this meeting. The AC would not like the council to hold the elections at this time, but instead wait for the AC to meeting in Minto again.*

Needed for quorum; 6 Quorum met

Guests Present:

Agency Tony Hollis, DWC; Christine Gleason, DCF; Seth Wilson, SUBS; Nissa Pilcher, BDS

Other; James Sears, AWT, a few members of Minto

Agenda

Approved

Minutes

December 17, 2013; Approved

Concerns from AC/members of the public

Fishing

Appears that we are sacrificing our fishing, and therefore cultural rights, so that commercial fishermen down river/in the ocean can benefit. This is concerning to us, and there is no benefit, either culturaly or economicaly for us that these commercial fishermen bestow to us. Many of them are not Alaska residents. It is our understanding that by overfishing in the high seas, including bycatch, that these fishermen are a leading cause of our state not being able to make escapment into Canada and are therefore breaking international treatys. We believe that these fishermen should now sacrifice as we have had to sacrifice.

Action Item

Draft letter to BOF and NMFS requesting that the commercial fishing fleet sacrifice their season as we have been forced to do.

Unanimously passed. Philip and Victor chosen to draft and send letter.

Hunting

Decline in black ducks [scoters] in the Minto Flats. We would like someone from FWS to give us an update at our next meeting on them. They are an important and stable food source for us. We have noticed that their numbers are less, and that the flocks that do come do not bunch up like they used to, and they are not around as long as they usually are.

ADF&G Staff Update

BOG cycle change; Nissa Pilcher

Brief summary given and the effects it would have on this AC, such as not having an Interior BOG meeting next cycle (2015-2016)

2014 Hunting Season Update; Tony Hollis

There was a 2013 moose survey in 20B, but in 2014 no survey, no snow so no survey, but did get a composition survey in, and there are about 34/100 for a bull/cow ratio, which is good.

Question asked about the predator take, interested in lowering take by shortening season so that the predator/prey dynamic might be a bit more 'natural'.

Members noted that they saw a lot of hunters during season in places that they hadn't before. Asked about putting up a sign to notify hunters about private lands/their recovery camp. Tony noted that the hunter presence could be due to the very high water, and that a sign would be a good idea.

Antlerless season

Take 100 antlerless moose in all of 20B, no antlerless moose in 20A,

Victor; it was getting hard to get even a bull moose around Nenana during the season since there was so many people out hunting. We know what barren cows look like- fat rumps, dark color, less distracted- but people from outside don't so much, there should be education on what a barren cow looks like.

20C; moose numbers coming up, partially due to the larger burn that happened 2004. Steve noted that the moose over in Lake Minchumina are fatter, tony- low density moose are fatter, calves are healthier, bulls are larger.

Concerns hunters coming into 20C on new road, big monster 6wheelers, see it in the moose population, that is where the breeder population was, but now they are getting shot. Take rigs across the river in a boat, and are able to get off the road.

Wounded animals; if you wound an animal then that is your animal, you have to learn how to track a wounded animal, gotta put the effort into it. Concerned with wanton waste, seeing a lot of wounded animals. Members expressed that it would also be a good idea for future educational material for hunters is how to deal with wounded animals; it is part of hunting, they wound it and then can't find it then they don't know how to look for it.

Shorten bear season so there are more of them for subsistence hunting.

Comment on BOG proposals; Central/Southwest BOG Meeting

Proposal 138

Oppose (9-0)

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20A, 20B, and 20D

Education opportunities on barren cows brought up. Clarification on the Minto Flats Registration hunt and the drawing hunt discussed. Concern has been heard from our elders on continuing this hunt.

Proposal 139

No Action

Reauthorize resident grizzly bear tag fee exemptions throughout Interior and Eastern Arctic Alaska.

Brief discussion.

Proposal 201

No Action

Clarify the language regarding retrieval and salvage of wounded game.

It doesn't matter, if the animal is wounded, then you have to do what you can to get it. Give them every opportunity to get the wounded animal.

Formulate any BOG Proposals

AC interested in drafting another proposal for next cycle similar to the one that was submitted by the AC at the last Interior meeting on attempting to protecting habitat/game animals in 20C where the new road was created.

Comment on BOF proposals; Statewide BOF Meeting

Proposal 273

Oppose (0-9)

Allow drift gillnet subsistence fishing after July 15 in the upper section of Yukon River Subdistrict 4-A for the harvest of summer chum salmon

Discussion on the proposal; last year they opened and closes, and opened and closed, members ended up catching a few kings in their chum net in the Tanana during chum times, concern over where those fish are headed. We have trouble supporting new rules that would hurt us- those chums are headed to the Tanana. Folks lower than us hit those abundant summer chum hard and then we don't see them in any great numbers. But this just concerns just subsistence fishing, so maybe we could support this. July 15 95% of the kings are done, and 75% of summer chum are still in river. Last year there was no king salmon fishing, and maybe next year there might not be either.

Amendment discussed, but not voted on; need to ensure that an adequate number of subsistence chum make it to the Tanana, and institute some form of reporting requirements to ensure that no one is being too greedy.

Don't like it all, our fish. 25% of the kings are still in the river, and fishing with 6" nets will catch them. We don't want them catching kings, they are still a species of concern with this AC.

Proposal 274

Support (9-0)

Allow subsistence fish wheel fishermen in the Yukon Area to retain king salmon when some harvest is justified based upon inseason run assessment

Run timing question asked, concern over conservation of kings brought up against. If there is enough fish, then we should be able to catch some. Fish net fishermen get to keep their kings already, but fish wheel fishermen has to stay at their wheel, and this is just giving them a chance to rest and keep a little.

Escapement was met in Tanana, and at the boarder this last season.

Formulate any BOF Proposals

Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Meeting in Fairbanks in early 2016; due April 10, 2015

Proposal to request commercial, year round pike fishing in either Minto Flats

Drainage/Statewide (statewide would require an ACR, which AC was okay with) to be drafted and submitted. Philip and Tim would work on this.

2014 Yukon Fall & Summer Season Summary; Christina Gleason

Concern with the numbers that main stem sonar projects are seeing and Tanana being restricted. If there is that many coming up the river then we should have more opportunity to fish for Chinook.

Permits

Subsistence salmon permits are important to get back to us, by regulation we should get them back within 10 days at the end of the season. If everyone could get their permits in on time then CF could bring subsistence numbers back at these meetings instead of run numbers.

Next meeting

held in Nenana before the AYK BOF meeting