

**Tanana Rampart Manley Fish and Game
Advisory Committee**

Stan Zuray, Chairman
PO Box 77172
Tanana, AK 99777

3/01/2019

Ted Spraker, Alaska Board of Game, Chairman
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska, 99811

Dear Commissioner Vincent-Lang and Chairman Spraker

The Tanana Rampart Manley (TRM) advisory committee has unanimously opposed the antlerless moose hunts in the Minto Flats Management Area of Unit 20B at all the past meetings this subject was brought up. This was largely based on TRM members who know residents in the Minto Nenana area and have heard their concerns about low moose populations for their hunters and Minto Nenana committee members voicing their concerns directly to us.

The Tanana Rampart Manley (TRM) advisory committee has also unanimously supported the constitutionally-protected religious take of big game for certain religious ceremonies such as Native funerary or memorial potlatches recently and at every occasion this was brought up in the past I know of.

On Day 2 of the Dunleavy administration, despite the ADF&G and Alaska Board of Game's 2002 Government-to-Government Consultation Policy (2002-136-BOG) requiring tribal consultation by the ADF&G, the Division of Wildlife Conservation unilaterally determined that the take of cow moose for certain Alaska Native religious ceremonies is unsustainable in the Minto Flats Management Area of Unit 20B, as well as throughout Unit 20C, Unit 20F, and Unit 25C. I have been contacted by a number of our members and also have reached out to a number more and everyone so far feels the same bewilderment over nonsubsistence drawing permits and sport hunting being given priority over the religious use of game especially in light of the management claim of no sufficient moose populations in these areas to support religious take. Everyone feels this is a direct attack on a long standing ethical religious use of game in this state.

Thank You, Stan Zuray



Tanana Rampart Manley Advisory Committee
12/14/2018
Tanana City Office

- I. Call to Order: 11:10 am by Stan Zuray, Chairman
- II. Roll Call:
Members Present: Tanana (Stan Zuray, Curtis Sommer, Cliff Wiehl, Kathleen Zuray, Ruth Althoff, Aaron Kozevnikoff) Rampart (Charlie Wright, Brooke Woods) Manley (Ashley Woods)
Quorum established for AC:
- III. Approval of Agenda: Inclusion of a Road Committee Update and District 5 Committee Update
- IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Approved as written (1st Charlie W – 2nd Ruth A.)
- V. Fish and Game Staff Present: Mark Nelson (DWC), Nissa Pilcher (BDS), Deena Jallen* & Jeff Estensen* (DCF)
- VI. Guests Present: Clarissa Roberts, Cheryl Wright, Pat Moore, Kate Zuray, Teleconference Quests (Jim Simon, Debra Lynn,
- VII. Old Business: Committee asked to put a proposal on controlled use of road hunting before board. To show it's a concern. Need to find out what happened to MOA with state on this issue. (Cheryl W. - Kath Z – pass unanimous)
- VIII. New Business:

Road Committee Update

There hasn't been a new controlled use area created in a long time, and have heard the Board of Game state that they aren't really interested in creating one. Still would like to ask for one anyways. Maybe we can just keep asking and one day they will understand our concerns.

Action Items:

Draft BOG proposal to create a CUA around the new road to protect the traditional hunting areas of the residents of Manley and Tanana. When discussion on this road started between the state and us we had an MOU that stated that there would be no motorized use of vehicles on state land but there was no enforcement of this MOU and it has gone by the wayside. It was requested that the MOU be found in order to submit it to the BOG. CUA from Bolder Creek to the Yukon (last 12 miles are tribal land anyway and signage will be put up). Jim Simon and Brooke Woods to write up a proposal.

No Motorized vehicle use for hunting

Includes everyone even residents of area

Drone usage

2 mile corridor – 1 mile each side

(Ruth A – Cliff W – pass unanimous)

It was noted that there is a track of land by Clear Lake to Long Lake that the state is holding on to, but it is tribal land and the council is working on trying to get it back. Drones are also a concern in this area, but it was noted that it is not legal to use drones for hunting.

The community is having issues with having people parking badly in the small parking lot by the Yukon Launch.

District 5 Committee Update

Interest in moving the boundary between District 4 and 5 (it was noted that this last year would have been the time to do this as this is a BOF regulation). There are a few people that fish right on the boundary and regulations differ. Continued work on this to formulate a strong proposal before the next AYK BOF Meeting. Cheryl Wright to talk with Roger Huntington about his feelings on issue.

Alaska Board of Fisheries: AYK Proposals

January 15-19, 2019 | Anchorage, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
86	Allow subsistence fishing for non-salmon fish with hook and line gear in District 4 of the Yukon Area		
Support as Amended	unanimous		<p>This was discussed at the Yukon Intertribal Fish Commission (YITFC) meeting, and they wanted to amend it to include the entire river. We do understand that revenue could be an issue for the license sales. It was noted that not all communities on the river have access to fishing licenses either. Always was a traditional way – one of the earliest probably. If lower river opposes then amend further for district 4-6 only</p>
87	Allow subsistence fishing for salmon with drift gillnets in the entire Yukon River		
Support	unanimous		<p>There was lengthy discussion on this proposal as the YITFC did not support it, nor did the EIRAC, and the reasons that those entities did not support were brought up.</p> <p>This committee submitted this proposal and a similar gear fairness proposal last AYK cycle. The issue is not that we want to start drifting, in fact our AC has been AGAINST drifting for many years. It is that it is not equitable that others in the river can drift if they want to, but not everyone can and that it seems to be a piecemealed and politically motivated decision if certain areas can drift or not drift and NOT based on true biological concerns. Our proposal language is the best explanation of the issue we have with it all.</p> <p>We are not denying that the entire river drifting is a scary thing for ensuring the continued presence of fish in the river since it is so good at catching fish. We are just saying that it isn't FAIR that some can do it and others cannot. Everyone should either be able to do it or not, and if those that ARE drifting don't want us to do it because we could catch too many fish, maybe THEY shouldn't be doing it. If we are going to stop fighting the spread of drifting in the river then we should all be able to do it if we want to.</p> <p>Would support a sunset clause on the change so that the BOF could review drifting on the entire river on a 3 year basis. This could help elevate concerns with the more road accessible locations for</p>

Alaska Board of Fisheries: AYK Proposals

January 15-19, 2019 | Anchorage, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			drifting and overharvest.
88	Require fish wheels to be closely attended during times of conservation for any species		
Support original language but not this language	Unanimous for original Cliff-Ruth	Unanimous opposed to new language	Proposals intent is more than clear. Fishwheels with liveboxes cannot use them for holding at all even for moments while they are closely attended.
89	Allow retention of king salmon for subsistence purposes, by emergency order, during times of king salmon conservation in the Yukon Area		
90	Reduce the amount of time prior to opening of the commercial fishing season in Districts 1-3 and Subdistrict 4-A of the Yukon Area when subsistence fishing for salmon is prohibited		
Support as amended	Cliff W- Kath Z - unanimous		Support an amendment to remove a specific hour and allow the department to have discretionary authority over the time between the openers
91	Reduce the amount of time prior to opening of each commercial fishing period in Districts 1-3 of the Yukon Area when subsistence fishing for salmon is prohibited		
Oppose	unanimous		The department can already do this
92	Restrict gillnet mesh size to a maximum of 6 inches in Districts 4, 5, and 6 subsistence and commercial salmon fisheries		
Support	Kath Z- Ashley W - unanimous		<p>Really would want this for the entire river but know that Districts 1, 2 & 3 would not support it if it included them. Originally when this proposal was written our AC had received some favorable support from District 4 and 6 and also the lower river if it did not include them. This support has evaporated despite our supporting 4 ACR's district 1 through 4 wanted to pass this last year (and did). The intent of this is to ensure the large, fecund females can get to the spawning ground.</p> <p>The question we have to ask ourselves is do we want to put something in place to ensure king run comes back? Do we want to be in the front of conservation? Proposal language is clear on this. Somehow the intertribal Fish Commission received word that Tanana Tribal Council voted to oppose this. This is despite the</p>

Alaska Board of Fisheries: AYK Proposals January 15-19, 2019 Anchorage, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			council's representative being at the meeting the proposal was made and a number of Tribal staff and members being on the TRM board attending also, all of whom voted to support this proposal. Also in numbers of past BOF cycles TRM has submitted this proposal or similar one and always had full support. We have yet to understand how this happened but it lost us important support. We now would like to amend proposal to be for district 5 alone.
93	Repeal the requirement to remove the tips of the tail fin of subsistence-taken salmon in Districts 1 – 3 of the Yukon Area		
Support as amended	Charlie W- Ashley W- unanimous		Support with the amendment that was suggested by the department that would allow no clipping when there are years of no king sales.
94	Allow the taking of the first king salmon entering the Yukon River for religious and ceremonial use		
Support as amended	K Z-CW unanimous		We have lost the ability to catch that first king, to thank God and share the fish with the elders. We support with the amendments made by the YITFC.
95	In the Yukon River between the marker at Waldron Creek and Hess Creek, require a minimum distance of 300 feet between units of set gillnet gear and limit the amount of net gear that may be deployed in an eddy to 350 feet		
Support as amended	RA-CW- unanimous		We support the amendments made by the YITFC to enforce 200' distance between nets and only allow 150' nets total in an eddy
96	Allow subsistence fishing for fall chum salmon in District 5 without time restrictions if commercial fishing for fall chum salmon is open in other Yukon River districts		
Support	RA-CW- unanimous		4 or 5 day subsistence fishing a week is a conservation tool. When commercial fishing is allowed there is supposed to be enough fish for subsistence so limiting is no longer needed. When we are only allowed to fish certain days, and if we fish and the weather isn't good for putting up fish then you end up having to go back out because all of your fish soured. If commercial fishing is allowed we should be able to get fish. See proposal language for best on issue.
97	Divide District 2 of the Yukon Area into two subdistricts		

Alaska Board of Fisheries: AYK Proposals			
January 15-19, 2019 Anchorage, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
98	Decrease gillnet depth in Districts 4 – 6 of the Yukon Area		
Oppose	RA-Cliff W-unanimous		Maybe the proposer does not know how rivers work and how many fish are diverted into other rivers before they get to the upper portion of the river?
99	Allow use of beach seine gear to harvest salmon during open commercial fishing periods in Districts 1 – 3 of the Yukon Area		
Oppose	RA-Cliff W-unanimous		We asked to use other types of gear up here and were told no. Either the entire river can use the same gear or we won't support it.
100	Adopt maximum size and depth restrictions for fish wheel baskets		
Oppose	RA-Ch W-unanimous		If passed it'll end use of a king salmon gear type that catches the smallest average size of king salmon in the Yukon River. Even compared to 6" mesh nets (ADF&G data). Fishwheels should be promoted not eliminated.
101	Open and close the commercial fishery for fall chum and coho salmon in the Yukon Area by emergency order		
Support	RA-Cliff W-Unanimous		Makes sense.
102	Include the Pastolik and Pastoliak Rivers in District 1 of the Yukon Area		
103	Repeal closed waters within 500 yards of the mouth of Pastolik River and Pastoliak River		
104	Repeal closed waters in the lower three miles of the Pastolik and Pastoliak rivers		
178	Allow chum salmon to be taken by drift gillnets after August 2 in Yukon River Subdistrict 4-A downstream from the mouth of Stink Creek		
Oppose	KZ-Cliff W-unan		We oppose the expansion of drifting in bits and pieces of the river. We only support a drifting proposal if it benefits the people of this district. We have made enough concessions. What's good for one area should be good for all.

Alaska Board of Fisheries: Statewide Finfish Proposals			
March 8-11, 2019 Anchorage, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
161	Require weekly reporting of salmon harvest by all permit or license holders		
Oppose	unan		We have enough reporting issues in our lives already
162	Require biweekly reporting of all sport, personal use, and subsistence king salmon catch		
Oppose	unan		We have enough reporting issues in our lives already
163	Prohibit the intentional waste or destruction of subsistence-caught fish		
Oppose			Concern over the blanket statement, there are pike fishing derbies in Manley and they eat a lot of salmon fry and birds and muskrats.
	unan		If you are catching fish you should be bringing your catch home
164	Prohibit the intentional waste or destruction of sheefish		
Support	unan		You shouldn't be wasting sheefish

Board comments:

Brook Woods noted that some of the TRM's proposals had Fairbanks AC's name on them and the YITFC had issues with that.

Stan Z. noted that the Fairbanks AC, notably Virgil Umphenour, is one of the leaders in conservation of fish on the river and people often forget that or don't even know. They are the AC that originally fought for king salmon windows and along with TRM came up with the idea of pulse protection and started sounding the alarm that there was an issue with the Kings. Virgil goes to the BOF meetings and fights for conservation on the river. TRM uses Fairbanks AC because they are one of the only AC's responsive to TRM's proposals and one of the only AC's we can get to back our conservation proposals in a timely manner.

It was also noted in a general discussion that there needs to be better communication between the committee, the tribal council and the city office. During the YITFC meeting, someone from the council office was contacted and stated they were against several of the TRM ACs proposals, but the council and the Tribal Council AC representative was not notified of this. It was noted that there is always a seat on the AC committee for the councils Environmental or Natural Resource Director, and the director was at both the meeting a year ago that the proposals were approved unanimously and at the present meeting. Communication needs to improve.

Game/Board of Game issues:

The current regulations for the caribou around here were drafted in the 1970s and 80s when the herd around here was small (500). It is considerably larger (last estimates heard were 1500) and it would be nice to be able to utilize this herd when we aren't able to get moose. Would like to make a 2 caribou bag limit, but only one of which can be harvested in the fall, and open a new winter season with a one caribou bag limit or two if no fall ones are taken. SZ to submit BOG. Unanimous RA-KZ

Manley is concerned with the cow hunt being conducted in the flats. No one is seeing moose anymore near the flats. These concerns are to be brought up with the Minto Nenana AC at their next meeting. Unanimous RA-KZ. Ashley, Brooke, to write up.

Adjournment: 4:15 pm

Minutes Recorded By: __Ruth Althoff (Secretary) and Nissa Pilcher_(BDF)_____

Minutes Approved By: _Stan Zuray_____

Date: ____1/ 5/19_____