

Board of Game Meeting**March 17,2023****Central Peninsula Advisory Committee****Board of Game,****Thank you for coming to the Peninsula.****<My name is Steve Vanek and I am the “Secretary- for- Life” of the Central Peninsula AC , at least it seems that way to me.. I am here to give our report.****But first I must give a short history so you know where we are coming from. Homesteaders formed this AC. Since we were half way between the population centers on the Peninsula at the time we called ourselves the Central Peninsula AC. The old homesteaders are gone but the sons and daughters and grand children are still here. But we do have sport fishermen, charter operators, tribal members as well as commercial fishermen on the committee.****We are all meat hunters and some trappers. Some of us are bear baiters and archers. There are numerous proposals for specialized hunts outside of the regular hunting season. Rather than taking up each one I am going to lump them all together because we opposed them all. The Central Peninsula AC , except for a few proposals, is unanimously opposed to all specialized hunts outside of the regular hunting seasons whether for bow and arrow, youth, veterans or anyone else. We feel there is ample opportunity in the regular season for specialized hunts. A further reason is when there are restrictions such as antler size then the specialized hunters take game that reduces the number of animals available for the general hunt. There are many proposals for many game animals. I am giving you the blanket opposition so I don't have to go through each one. You can read our thinking when you vote on each one.****We likewise oppose all the restrictions on trapping. Most restrictions do not have biological concerns behind the proposal. Most trappers are conscientious. They know they are in a minority. People have to be responsible for pets also.****We are opposed to the reauthorization of the cow hunts except for the Kalagin Island hunt. When a cow is killed all of its potential offspring are gone too. A lone**

cow does not mean it is baron. Its calf might have been killed. The couple of people who voted yes did so because they wanted the Dept. to have that option in their tool box.

Kaligin Island is a special case since it was moved into this game management unit recently. There are no predators there and it is very difficult to hunt there. Therefore, in order to control the population, the taking of any moose, including cows, is necessary. The population needs to be managed for food concerns for moose. This is the best way to do that on Kaligin Island.

I have dealt with the proposals that belonged to groups. Now I will pick some individual proposals that were important to us that lie outside of the groups.

56. Prohibit taking big game from a boat. Opposed, one abstained. No Biological reason to prohibit it.

#106. Ease restrictions on ATVs. WE opposed. There are ample days for ATVs as is.

#108. Make sheep hunts all registration hunts. Opposed- The decline is not caused by hunting. Therefore this not a solution. Extra burden on ADFG.

#118. Make forked antlers legal. 11 Opposed. 1 in favor. It seems to be working the way it is so don't change it. Also it could cause more illegals to be killed. One favor wanted it back the way it was.

* #129. Expand the cow hunt area in 15C. Unanimously opposed. This will reduce populations in other areas. Enough cows get killed on the highways as it is. A lone cow is not necessarily a baron cow. May have lost its calf. This helps the hunters not the starving moose.

* #136. Extend the brown bear season to June 15. 9 in favor, 3 opposed. There is a quota on brow bears so this extension isn't harmful. Those opposed were worried the quota would be filled in the spring and there wouldn't be a fall season

#144. Define recreation facility. Support the idea that BoG needs to look at this to see if it has merit.

#155. Close beaver trapping in 15C. All opposed. No biological reason to close it. There is only a small harvest over this large area. Should be some opportunity to trap.

#158. Shorten coyote season. Opposed. Leave it as is. There are plenty of coyotes. There is no biological concern to shorten it.

#160. Limit beaver trapping to one per lodge. Opposed. An anti-trapper could put a pole in every lodge and limit an opportunity. There is no proof that trapping in the cause of any decline. This would be hard to enforce also.

*#161. Study whether to bring deer to south side of Kachemak. Totally opposed. Deer can give diseases to moose. They would be an invasive species. They can negatively affect the flora and fauna. It is a waste of money to do a study. They might escape the south shore.

*#162. Extend the ptarmigan season to March 31. We support this. Hunting is not the main factor in population dynamics of ptarmigan. The spring weather is. This gives more opportunity.

#163. Restore season and bag limits of sea ducks. Support. There is no shortage of sea ducks. Gives more opportunity.

*#164. Reduce the bag limit of golden eye. Oppose. There are no conservation or biological concerns. Harvest is low. There are lots of areas where they winter and are not hunted. There is a lot of habitat all over the peninsula where they are not hunted.