

Central Bering Sea Advisory Committee Meeting  
 State of Alaska Department of Fish & Game  
 Bethel, Alaska Long House Hotel  
 October 30<sup>th</sup> – November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012

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10/30/12

CBSA committee called to order by Chairman David Bill, Sr. @ 8:35a at the Long House Conference room.

Invocation led by John Phillip, Sr.

Roll call made by Stan Atchak, all present except Goodnews Bay and Quinhagak members.

Chevak - Stan M. Atchak  
 Chefornak - Tommy Kusaik  
 Goodnews Bay - Absent  
 Kipnuk - David Carl  
 Kongiganak - John Phillip, Sr.  
 Kwigillinok - David O. David  
 Merkoyuk - Charlie Spud, Sr.  
 Newtok - Joseph John, Sr.  
 Nightmute - Andrew George  
 Platinum - Andy Williams  
 Quinhagak - Absent  
 Toksook Bay - David Bill, Sr.  
 Tununak - George Hooper, Sr.

(\*\*\*\*\*Quorum was established. \*\*\*\*\*)

**Agenda:**

Chairman David Bill, Sr. reviewed the agenda line by line. The board members discuss the different ways to devise the agenda. David O. David and Tommy K. commented on the agenda. John Phillip, Sr. made a statement about the past coordinators for the Advisory committees. Commented if the Advisory committee coordinator works with CBSA secretary to come up with the agenda next time. Charles Spud, Sr. called to accept the agenda with revisions, seconded by David Carl. Question called by Tommy K. All in favor of the motion, motion passed. Motion to approve the agenda by David O. David, seconded by John Phillip, Sr. all in favor motion passed.

**Elections:**

Next on the agenda was nomination's for the officers. There was much discussion about the nominations about the CBSA committee officers'. Alissa J. explained the officers' that they could be in for 2 years; The CBSA is a 3 year seat. If the village elects the person to represent the

village it will be 3 years, and if they don't want you to represent it will be 2 years. Tommy K. wanted to keep the officers' elected from last to keep them as is, until the next election. Charles Spud, Sr. made a motion to keep the officers', seconded by Tommy K. All in favor, motion passed. Chairman David Bill, Sr. explained the terms of the CBSA committee. The villages need to know about the terms when they expired.

**Forecast/ Calendar:**

Next on the agenda was meeting forecast/Calendar meeting. Alissa said we could have two meetings this year. Andrew George, George Hooper, David O. David, John Phillip explained the benefits of Bethel meeting like the hospital, stores, prices and other services.

Tommy K. wanted to move the next meeting to the last day. Charlie Spud, Sr. made a motion to have the next meeting in Bethel, Seconded by Tommy K., All in favor, motion passed. After much discussion the next meeting will be set after Christmas around 17-28<sup>th</sup>. Need an alternate date for meeting if the date doesn't work. She suggested before Christmas for meeting which will be around Dec. 21-22, 2012.

Chairman called for recess for 15 minutes.

**Motions:**

Next on the agenda was the privileged motion. David O. David wanted to make a proposal regarding the fisheries for Kuskokwim and the Yukon rivers. Discussions about the proposals and other businesses regarding the meeting.

**Joint Board:**

Next on the agenda was to establish new AC Committees for the villages. The villages close to each others could form an advisory committee for their area. They could have a one voice for the Board of Fisheries meeting from the other villages as one. Alissa explained that we have one of the biggest Advisory Committees for our area. Other areas in the state have only three villages as one Advisory Committee. It would be good to downsize the CBSA to smaller committees that are close together. Discussed the available villages that would become as one advisory committee. The Chairman asked if the suggest villages should be made by a motion. David Carl made a motion to accept the suggested villages to form a committee, seconded by Andrew George, all in favor.

**Introductions:**

Alissa introduced the guests from AVCP and Subsistence Division from ADF&G. They are Casie Stockdale from AVCP Fisheries biologist and Brandon Chapman from ADF&G a subsistence resource.

Lunch recess for 12:30

Meeting started again about 1:35p.

**Announcements:**

Next on the agenda was Alaska State Board of Fisheries. Alissa Joseph stated that we have some business to take care of with the Alaska State Board of Fisheries with our comments. The information on Tips for Providing Written Comments to the Board of Fisheries. She said how she can help write proposals to the Board of Fisheries.

**Board of Fish:**

*David Carl*-stated about the incidents with the Kuskokwim fishermen where their nets, fish, and other gear was taken by the FW troopers or others.

*John Phillips, Sr.*-talked about the subsistence fishing activities that takes place around the Kuskokwim. He stated that they don't waste the fish taken and use all of the parts. He said they wanted to use the old ways that used to happen long ago.

*Andrew George*-said about the subsistence activities that took place around our area. He told us about the gears used for subsistence fishing. They never wasted any caught subsistence food, and even the dogs ate the food.

**USFWS:**

Alissa Joseph wanted to move the USFWS to the next day agenda after USFWS report by Gene Peltola.

**Board of Game:**

Alissa said the Game Board is reviewing their regulations and laws. Due date for proposals is May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

**Laws & Regulations:**

She wanted to know if the Advisory committee would want to look at the laws and regulations.

*Chairman David* -said it is a good idea to review the rules and regulations. He said we have our own regulations about our subsistence ways and there are the regulations from the State of Alaska. Alissa read the information about the Advisory Comm. and wanted to know if there was something that the committee wanted to change.

*David O. David*-said that he is not too happy to review the regulations now but, wanted to make copies and to review them. Need to make copies to the Advisory Committees to review them and make comments. Another option was to read the 1.5 pages and make comments about them. Alissa Joseph wanted to ask questions to the committee about the rules and regulations. One was about creation about Advisory committees. One rule was to sign a petition with 25 signatures to form an Advisory committee. Last year CBSA didn't want to comment on proposals before presenting to the villages for comments. One way was to make new AC to have more time and feedback about the proposals. The making of smaller AC members to get feedback as a small village to the CBSA committee would be more effective. Information about the meeting was to present the agendas to the CBSA board about 2 to 4 weeks in advance. Charles Spud, Sr. wanted to let Alissa contact the IRA Councils in the villages to let them know about the terms for all the Advisory Committee. The councils in the villages will decide if they want to keep the AC members.

The village of Quinhagak will need to replace the AC member. Alissa will contact the village about selecting a new representative for the village to replace Frank Fox. Frank Fox is no longer with us.

**Awards & Recognition:**

Next on the agenda was Awards & Recognition to the Past AC Members.

John Phillip, Sr. wanted to thank Frank Fox's service to the Advisory Committee about his hard work and commitment. Alissa J. wanted to know if we should make a plaque or something to mail to the Quinhagak in thank you service to Frank Fox. AC members suggested sending one to his family and one to City of Quinhagak. Also, Phillip Moses will get a plaque for his service too. Also, goes to Teddy Kugstun and Evon Azzen.

**Public Comments:**

Next on the agenda was Public comment.

Meeting adjourned by Chairman David Bill, Sr. @4:15pm. The meeting will reconvene at 8pm

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CBSA committee restarted @9:05 by Chairman David Bill, Sr. at the Long House Conference room.

Invocation led by George Hooper, Sr.

Roll call by Secretary Stan M. Atchak, 11 present and two absent.

The CBSA Chairman introduced Fish and Game with the following guests- Patrick Jones with ADF&G and Travis Elison with ADF&G Assistant Area Management Biologist. And Greg Roczicka

Greg R. with Orutsararmiut Native Council

**ADF&G Subsistence Report:**

Chairman introduced Brandon Chapman with the ADF&G subsistence resource. He worked for Kotzebue doing subsistence mapping for their region. He wants to come to the villages to do subsistence surveys.

Enclosed is the report (enclosure)

They do the subsistence surveys in the villages.

**4 Projects:**

- 1) Donlin Creek Project-Multi-year project to document subsistence harvests, along with traditional knowledge, economic and demographic data.
- 2) Lower Kuskokwim Big Game Survey- ADF&G conducted about 500 surveys in Bethel for caribou, moose, black bear, and other species.
- 3) Bethel Comprehensive Harvest Survey- ADF&G staff will hire local people to conduct surveys in Bethel for 2 months between January and April.
- 4) Kuskokwim Salmon Ethnography- Researchers do interviews about subsistence salmon fishing in 2009.

**David Carl** asked what these subsistence surveys will do to help the fishing on the Kuskokwim.

**ADF&G Brandon Chapman:** The surveys help to manage the ADF&G fishery for commercial and subsistence fishing.

**David Carl** was to ask if they were in control of the fishery on the Kuskokwim.

**ADF&G** responded that they are not in total control of the fishery here.

**David O. David** asked Brandon how long he has been in Alaska.

**ADF&G** About 2 years for Brandon.

**David O. David** Explained about the subsistence ways that we have as natives our own rules. He commented that we don't need other people to give us rules to live our subsistence ways of our lives.

(Recess for about 15 minutes @ 9:45a.)

**ADF&G Comm. Fish Report:**

Next on the agenda is Commercial Fisheries Division with ADF&G Travis Elison Asst. Area Management Biologist. Travis introduced himself as ADF&G biologist for the Kuskokwim area. Enclosed is the report with the

2012 Preliminary Kuskokwim Area Management Season Summary.

The subsistence surveys are very helpful for management. ANS (amount necessary for subsistence) Summary presented by ADF&G Travis about the Kuskokwim Area Salmon Summary. There was a low run on the king salmon in 2012, that many of the smaller rivers were closed to fishing due to low number of escapements. Travis explained the 2012 Commercial Harvest Outlook for the different salmon fish. He noted that about 127,000 Chinook fish for management objective for the 2012 for subsistence and explained about the subsistence closures during the 2012 summer. Travis noted that the Commercial Fishery opened from July 13 to August 27 with 23 openings.

**Chairman David** asked if the Chinook salmon was increasing or decreasing on the Kuskokwim. **Travis** said that the Chinook salmon is on the low periods for about three years. The salmon go up and down on the numbers. He noted that we are on the low cycle.

**Chairman David** asked again if the by-catch would be reduced will it effect the commercial fishing and the subsistence for Chinook.

**Travis** explained that he's not very good with the By Catch information with its effect with our Fisheries.

**John Phillip, Sr.** asked that if some fish gets not too many to blame it on some effects. He noted about the blame might be the by-catch that is having effect on the fish here on the Kuskokwim.

**Travis** responded with the four topics that were questioned. Sport fishing was closed in all the Kuskokwim Rivers. On the net size on 6" to 8", you can catch more salmon with 6" inch than you can with 8" mesh. Currently the subsistence fishing is with unrestricted mesh sizes. He noted that the State of Alaska has no authority for the By-catch fisheries. They do work together on the by-catch.

**David Carl** asked if they use sonar for the Kuskokwim.

**ADF&G Travis** responded that they don't use Sonar only use test fishers, subsistence surveys, and also weirs on the rivers to estimate the escapement and the fish population. Much discussion about the low number of salmon and some possible solutions with the different AC members. Travis than talked about the important escapement goal recommendation for all the different salmon. They use escapement at weirs, aerial surveys, and preliminary abundance to determine their estimates.

Lunch recess 12:00p

## **Wild life Conservation:**

**Roll call vote to keep the antlerless moose.** 11 member wanted it.

**ADF&G Patrick Jones for Wildlife Conservation-** talked about antlerless moose hunts and want AC input on the hunts. Collared bunch of caribou and musk ox. 741 musk on Nelson Island currently with many calves. Still counting the musk ox on Merkoyuk.

**David Carl** asked if they only count the musk ox at Nelson Island and Merkoyuk. Mainly there because they are concentrated on those Islands. May open on the mainland for musk ox someday in the future. Some talk about the wolves in the area.

**ADF&G Patrick** said the wolves don't impact the musk ox, because they are growing rapidly.

**Charlie Spud** asked if they are going to increase the musk ox hunts on Nelson Island.

**ADF&G Patrick** said they have been increasing the limit sometimes. The open season will be Feb. and March in the Nelson Island area. Moose population is healthy for now that is why there is open season from August to February. The moose around north of Kashunak is doubling every year. Next Spencer from USFW service to talk about the marine mammals like the seals. Seals are losing fur and NOAA will explain the outbreak on these.

**Andrew George** asked if he went to the Barrow area to find out about these seal problem. No he hasn't been there only info was from the internet or news.

**David Carl** asked if the contamination is the blame for the seal fur like from Japan waste. It is a big concern with the waste coming from Japan's disaster. Seals are traveling great distances and would have gotten sick from the waste.

## **USFWS AYK RAC:**

**Alex Nick** works for YKDAC coordinate them.

The proposal 95 was not supported and was opposed.

The proposal 97/98 oppose.

The proposal 105 was taken no action because of the subsistence activities.

The proposal 106 was supported.

The proposal 107 was opposed.

The proposals 108-109 was supported.

The proposals 110 was taken no action.

(see the print out on the proposals or the proposal book to look at the numbers)

## **AVCP:**

Next in line are AVCP Myron Naneng, Sr., Tim Andrew, and Casie.

Myron made an introduction to the others with him. He noted about the Kuskokwim fishermen that were sited during the summer. Myron said all the emergency orders information needs to be posted in Yupik and English in the villages. The fishermen that were cited didn't know the mesh sizes to use when fishing. These need to be known to the fishermen in Yupik and English. During the 1984 meeting at Hooper Bay the villages were blamed on the declination of the birds. He said that the sports hunters are only required to take the breasts of the birds because of the regulations. AVCP will make a proposal to let the sportsmen to take the whole bird and not only the breasts. They are working with other agencies to make this proposal. Andy Williams said there are sports fishermen in his area. There were used to be not too many of them but now there is lots of sports fishermen. The subsistence fishermen have seen sick fish because of the sports fishermen.

**Tommy K.** stated we have to stand our grounds and somehow go against the sports fishermen.

**Myron Naneng** said FWS issues sport hunter guide permits. Subsistence hunters in one area were asked to leave because they were in their hunting area by the sports hunters/guide. This is a problem that is arising in our area and need to work on to solve the problem.

**Tim Andrew from AVCP** said when they had the convention talked about the summer Chinook salmon. They made a resolution to close the down state by-catch fisheries. They made a resolution to have more test fisheries during the salmon runs. He noted that the population of caribou is low and the non-local residents not to harvest them. Made a resolution to let the local people harvest the caribou only. Another resolution was to harvest musk ox in the mainland because they are available around the villages.

**Casie Stockdale from AVCP biologist.**

They are working on several projects which one is Coastal Kuskokwim Subsistence Salmon Harvest Surveys. Another project is Bering Sea Elders Group Youth Intern to work with the AVCP to gather information. Another project is the Whitefish Harvest, Use and Traditional Knowledge in Yukon and Bering Sea Coast.

The last project is the Availability and Utilization of Different Gillnet Mesh Sizes in YK delta.

Next on the agenda are the Proposals for the Kuskokwim area.

**Proposal 95** – This applies to only sport fishing.

Motion- Andrew George 2<sup>nd</sup>-David O David, opposed.

Ammend for Sport fish ONLY, not effecting subsistence fishing

**Proposal 103** –YK, Norton about chum and sockeye salmon – motion past

**Proposal 104** – review the data for subsistence harvest in the Kuskokwim drainage. Motion passed.

**Proposal 105**-Tommy to make a motion for no action, seconded Charlie Spud. No Action.

**Proposal 106**- Support

**Proposal 107**- Opposed

**Proposal 108**- Support; it will be more difficult for fish and opposes to this proposal. These permits do not. So, I will not say or comment on this proposal or vote. This proposal was not liked by the AC and they are not willing to pass this proposal. **David O David**, opposes; because he worries about his children and his dogs. He is afraid that if this is passed that there will be more issues that will rises regarding this proposals and doesn't want this to happen.

**Travis Ellison**- proposal 108 (require subsistence permit to send fish outside the Kuskokwim area). If you had family in anchorage and sent them fish, you will need a permit require and report for sending fish.

Motion by Tommy Kusiak- No action, 2<sup>nd</sup>- Charlie Spud, Unanimous passed

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**Proposal 109**- Spud, the way David O David understood this proposal, if people around here would get permits, today. In the long run, grandchildren and still will be able to get permit without any strings? Spud, no action; I really don't know how. If we push it and become it in effect to get permits for people. The natives will only be able to take what we want and our children's- grandchildren, what we can't see right now.

Alex Nick is explaining the Proposal to the Chairman in a way that he can understand the proposal.

Chairman, some people just buying a few lush

Motion-Spud, 2<sup>nd</sup>- Joseph John, unanimous passed.

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**Proposal 110**- Greg Roczicka- that are targeted and any surplus of those fish should be allocated. Commercial fishing shouldn't be directed to the Chinook salmon fishery.



1985-that is why there is no more or rarely to see chinook over 50 lbs.

Chairman- I don't know if I have this right, this year or last year there was smaller mesh used in king salmon. Is this proposal 110 giving the allowance up to 8" mesh gear in W-1 of Kuskokwim of fishery, will they be able to use 8" mesh.

There was a clarification called on the floor for the explanation for the understanding of this proposal.

Greg Roczicka- mouth of the river down by eek to the mouth of Tuluksak

Unanimously passed for no action

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**Proposal 111-** Motion- David O David; passed 2<sup>nd</sup>- Spud

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**Proposal 112-** Travis- gave description of proposal 112.

Discussion:

To close all sport and commercial fisheries from June 1 to July 25, limit gear size for subsistence and commercial to 4".

No Action, unanimously passed

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**Proposal 113:** T-explains the proposal. Chairman explains the proposal in Yupik.

David-Motion to pass 2<sup>nd</sup>- Spud, unanimous decision

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**Proposal 114:** T-explains the proposal. Chairman explains the proposal in Yupik.

Spud- Support 2<sup>nd</sup>- David O David, unanimous decision

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10/30/2012 (Wanted to make a proposal)-wasn't voted on by AC

From: David O. David

To: Managers of the resources for Western Alaska

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"Make readable for people who can read what I want to say to the fish board is...

State of Alaska Natives are people like anybody else on the planet. Eat, catch what they eat and gather food in long winters with snow. We are not able to go chicken shopping, ply for food for families. Gather when food is available. They Alaska natives, since Alaska Natives have to live on the land. They have to have enough for families and some have big families and share with people who are unable to hunt or gather food. Elders who can't able to hunt for food. An that is the law of the Alaska Native which is the "unwritten law", very important to the families that they father food when it's available. An what happen last spring hurt many of our people. No money to buy food or work for money for store. Don't want to see what would happen, people to hunt for food. Once the resources are gone, they will not go back for families."

"Taking nets, taking fish, species aren't ours. But are to be used wisely. Not good endings like movies. We are looking after the fish. It's written in the new and old testament (psalms and Corinthians), world dwells with it.