

Pelican Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 9, 2023, 6:00 pm

Location: Pelican City Office

Call in 1-833-548-0282 Access Code 836 8732 6232

Members Present: Michael Allard, Patricia Phillips, William Combs

Members on Teleconference: Norm Carson, Celeste Weller Quorum Present.

Also on Teleconference: Troy Tydingco, Fishery Biologist; Jake Wielickiewicz, Fishery Biologist, ADFG

Board of Fish Proposals:

Proposal 156, 5 AAC 77.010. Methods, means, and general restrictions. (n) the use of footgear with absorbent felt or other fiber material on the soles is prohibited while personal use fishing in fresh water.

Celeste Weller moves to support; Norm Carson seconds. 5 in favor, **Motion carries.**

Right thing to do. Things are getting worse, don't need to bring in more invasives. There are a lot more out-of-state visitors and the State can't take a chance on the introduction of invasive species.

Proposal 161, 5 AAC 77.010. Methods, means, and general restrictions. (n) the use of footgear with absorbent felt or other fiber material on the soles is prohibited while personal use fishing in fresh water.

Celeste Weller moves to support; Michael Allard seconds. 3 in favor, 2 opposed, **Motion carries.**

5 AAC 28.XXX. New Section. Create and establish Alaska Board of Fisheries policy regarding the management of groundfish fishery resources in waters of Alaska...

The policy is broad, covers a lot of substance. Needs to be refined to address areas that haven't already been taken care of. Goals are clarified; have other policies in place for other fisheries. These are statement of goals, covers a lot of species. The Alaska Department of fish & Game favors more specific policies. May improve transparency with the Board of Fish process and the Department. The Board of Fish process is transparent.

Proposal 159, 5 AAC 39.XXX. New Section. Close commercial fishing for a given species within one-fourth of a mile of any area to sport fishing for that species, as follows: In areas where sport or other personal use fishing is closed it shall be unlawful to commercially harvest or target the stock of that species within ¼ mile of the Area closed to sport fishing.

Michael Allard moves to support, William Combs seconds. 5 nays, **Motion does not carry.**

Commercial fisheries are already locked down with restrictions and regulations. If this proposal is approve, these type of regulations could spill over to other fisheries and areas, like high abundance chinook salmon areas. Will this proposal stop salmon trollers from catching their 3% hatchery fisheries?

Proposal 160, 5 AAC 39.XXX. New Section. Require surrender of proceeds gained from sale of wild king salmon caught in hatchery terminal harvest areas, as follows: Require any opener intended to harvest hatchery salmon to immediately record and then surrender the sale price of wild feeder king salmon to the state.

Michael Allard moves to support, Celeste Weller seconds. 5 nays, **Motion does not carry**.

Trollers have been cut back on spring king salmon harvest openers; Pelican is being discriminated against. Pelican resident salmon trollers can't make a living already. When a fisherman catches a fish/salmon, they should be able to sell the fish. When the charter fish salmon season begins, they catch the same fish that trollers get and yet the charter fish business does not pay 3% for enhancement.

Proposal 162, 5 AAC 75.077 Sport fishing guide vessel registration requirements. Allow the Kenai River Special Management Area – DNR decal to serve as proof of ADF&G sport fishing guide vessel regulation.

Celeste Weller moves to support; Norm Carson seconds. **Motion carries** 5 in favor, unanimous.

Less redundancy, less work for the Department and guides. Saves the Alaska Department of Fish & Game time and energy.

Proposal 163, 5 AAC 77.XXX New section. Prohibit guiding in personal use finfish fisheries, as follows:

Guiding of persons engaging in personal use fisheries shall not be allowed.

William Combs, moves to support; Michael Allard seconds. 5 nays, **Motion does not carry**.

It would cause personal use to have a reduced harvest. Personal use is for Alaskan residents. There is a harvestable surplus for the personal use fishery. Personal use is not a guided personal use fishery. Keep charter boats restricted from personal use. Personal use does not allow the use of rod and reel. Personal use applies to dipnet, gillnet, beach seine it is a way for local residents to harvest a local resource. There is too much room for abuse. Members agree the proposal addresses a loophole, needs clarification.

Proposal 164, 5 AAC 77.XXX New section. Establish registration and reporting requirements for personal use guides and transporters, as follows:

-Personal use guides and transporters shall be registered similarly to sport fishing guides following the same requirements established in 5 AAC 75.

-Personal use guides and transporters shall report to the department all retained fin fish and shellfish, estimated fishing effort, and any other information deemed helpful to the department.

Michael Allard moves to support; William Combs, seconds. 5 nays, **Motion does not carry**.

There shouldn't be personal use guides and transporters, but it is already allowed. Were not aware of the regulations that allowed for the use of guides and transporters in the personal use fisheries. When a guide and transporter is getting compensation or paid for guiding in a personal use fishery then it turns into commercialization. There are plenty of forms of payment out there since it is an allowed practice. The proposal highlights an area in regulation that is not being addressed. This is already happening and needs to be reported on. Personal use guides and transporters need better definitions and this proposal is duplicative if both the harvester and the guide have to report. This is a way for sportfishing guided operations to commercialize personal use. How does it affect personal use users themselves? Personal use users in Pelican don't need anyone to take them out; or users can take others out with them.

Proposal 165, 5 AAC 01.XXX New section. Prohibit compensation for guide services in subsistence fisheries, as follows: No person or persons shall pay more than the pro rata share in exchange for guide services while engaged in subsistence fisheries. For the purpose of this section “guide services” include direct instruction in fishing techniques and locations, or operating watercraft while subsistence fishing is taking place from that watercraft. “Guide services” do not include transportation to and from the fishing site, customary and traditional carter, fish processing services, ear rentals, but do not include cost of durable goods such as boats, fishing equipment, or regular maintenance costs of equipment.

Celeste Weller moves to support; Michael Allard seconds. 5 in favor, **Motion carries**.

When you are helping someone to subsistence fish you should not take advantage of the fishery by making money. Cannot singlehandedly define subsistence guiding. Guiding is a commercial enterprise; this proposal gives guiding a loophole to make money. Support restrictions now to protect subsistence.

Proposal 166, 5 AAC 77.015. Personal use fishing permits and reports and display of personal use fish. Establish a statewide bag limit for personal use finfish fisheries, as follows. Statewide bag limit for all Personal Use dip net fisheries. A bag limit is defined as a maximum number of salmon of any one salmon species a permit may take. A permit may not exceed the statewide bag limit of salmon between all the personal use dip net fisheries.

Michael Allard moves to support, Celeste Weller seconds. 5 nays, **Motion does not carry**.

Personal use is to take what you use. This proposal is restrictive to personal use and subsistence. Regulation should be more restrictive on the establishment of statewide bag limits on non-resident salmon harvest. Personal use and subsistence should not be restricted to one location. Each person’s or community’s needs are different. The proposal could be a problem for people with big families, the regulations should allow a bigger bag limit for big families.

Proposal 167, 5 AAC 01.015. Subsistence fishing permits and reports, and ACC 77.015. Personal use fishing permits and reports and display of personal use fish. Subsistence/personal use reports must be completed on forms provided by the department and submitted to the department office from which the permit was issued within 5 days of harvest for each particular area and fishery.

Celeste Weller moves to support; Michael Allard seconds. 5 nays, **Motion does not carry**.

There should not be additional restrictions on personal use and subsistence. The Pelican AC is mainly aware of our use areas. 5 days is a short amount of time to report. Not all areas have ability to report within days. This area has poor communication coverage. Need a department provided logbook and better online reporting system.

Proposal 169, 5 AAC 41.075. Classification of banned invasive species. Amend the list of banned invasive species [...]

Michael Allard moves to support, Celeste Weller seconds. 5 in favor, **Motion carries**.

Support the list classified as invasive by the department.