## AC3Q

## FAIRBANKS FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Comments for the Board of Game for Proposals Under Consideration at the March 4 - 10, 2011 Meeting

(Proposals are listed in order of the "roadmap" for the BOG meeting.)

The Fairbanks Advisory Committee (FAC) is involved in the Region IV Issues and especially interested in GMU 13 where high numbers of our constituents hunt. For these comments, we have listed only those with our recommendation and/or comment(s). The FAC either did not discuss the unlisted proposals or chose not to make a recommendation or comment. These recommendations passed the AC by a vote of 13 (In favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Obstaining, 2 Absent) unless shown differently in the recommendation column. The FAC votes on the positive action, meaning that actions for Do Not Adopt have failed. Vote taken 3/1/11.

Proposal # Issue

Recommendation Comment

Palmer Area

Prop #	Issue	Recommendation	Comment
87	Antlerless Moose Hunting	Adopt	FAC prefers the "hot spot" registration as the most effective method to harvest moose in or near development, especially to reduce auto-moose collisions.
84	Antlers and Jaw bones to F&G	Do Not Adopt	FAC opposes having hunters bring in specimens unless there is a specific research component to the hunt. To collect sample that will not be analyzed and reported is a waste of time. Having hunters bring in the specimens does not make a research project.
83	Late Spike Fork in 14A	Do Not Adopt	FAC opposes because the timing is in the rutting season and we oppose the "segmented" bag limit of S/F only.
86	Any Bull Moose drawing 14A	Adopt	This hunt allows control over number of hunters and harvest. Consider adding a short reporting period. The dates can be changed to "fit" the season and environmental conditions.
92	Any Bull Moose drawing 14B	Adopt	Same as #86
97	Close 16B except for Tier II 16B	Do Not Adopt	The Harvestable Surplus exceeds the ANS so a Tier II

			hunt isn't needed at all.
99	Eliminate Winter Tier II in 16B	(comment only)	Consider Tier I Registration Hunt
94	Non Resident Season Moose 16B	Adopt	Should be a limited number drawing hunt
80	Establish Oct. Registration Goat 14A	Adopt	Additional opportunity
74	# of Bear Bait Stations Guides/Outfitters	Adopt	This concept has worked in other areas. Where bears are part of the IM predator management project, this would allow additional harvest.
76	Year Around Brown Bear Season 16	Do Not Adopt (vote 5,7,1,2)	Would allow more harvest. Difficult access even in Summer. Concern for uses, hides, meat (Summer) Brown bears are trophy animals and 16B is mostly in the BB zone not the Grizzly zone.

103	Reauthorize IM Plan for 16	Adot	The moose population recovery has not yet
			recovered to the minimum IM objective.
75	Consider C&T and traditional Use for 16A	Do Not Adopt	This is a non-subsistence area. Process and policy are
			to not do C&T or Subsis. Use findings.
102	Modify the ANS for Wolves in 16	Do Not Adopt	Same comment as #75
101	Reduce Bag Limit for wolves in 16A	Do Not Adopt	No need for these actions. Non-subsistence area.
	Close Nonresident Season		
	Glennallen Area		
50	Community Harvest for Caribou et al.	Do Not Adopt	FAC formal comments in AC Com. Book. FAC would
			prefer a two season registration hunt similar to the
			Fortymile. Quota(s) for the Nelchina herd are much
			higher than Fortymile and the registration hunt works
			fine there.
46	Allocate Drawing Tags for Caribou	Adopt	FAC prefers a registration hunt but this is acceptable.
48	Repeal Com. Harvest for 13	Support Concept	Another expression of our dislike for Com. Harvest.
58	Review IM objectives for GMU 13	Adopt/Review	The Board should discuss the IM objectives for both
			moose and caribou. This is an IM requirement.
			Moose and caribou population objectives are too
			low, set when the department was absolutely
			opposed to IM. Reconsider the Year Around habitat
			for population objective. Include Winter habitat
			outside of 13 for Nelchina caribou.
59	Early Moose Season 3 Brow Tines 13 BCDE	Do Not Adopt	Moose population recovery has a positive trend.
			Discourage additional harvest seasons and conditions
			until the population is in mid range.
56	Early Moose Season, 3 BT, Residents	Do Not Adopt	Same comment as for #59
64	4 BT to 3 in 13	Do Not Adopt	Same comment as for #59
63	Drawing Moose Hunt after General Season	Do Not Adopt	Don't move hunts into rutting season. Other units
			(20A and 20B) have hunts with different conditions at
			the same time without undue problems. Hasn't been
			a problem for the last two years in 13.
57	Close 13 to NonRes. Moose	Do Not Adopt	The Harvestable Surplus exceeds the ANS and there is

			a general season. With the small number of NR permits, there is not overharvest problem.
231	Antlerless Moose Hunt in 13A	Do Not Adopt	The road to recovery and the IM minimums for population and harvest are not yet reached. This proposal is too early in the IM process.
68	Revise Tier II Point System for 13	Do Not Adopt	Not necessary until Subsistence Statute is revised.
52	% Curl (Sheep) to full curl in 11	Ament/Adopt Vote (Am) 10F, 3 Op Vote 8F,3Op,2Ab,2Absent	Amend to delete the two extra days in the season. Not needed biologically. Uniformity good for hunters and enforcement. Full curl regulation produces more rams for harvest without losing rams of minimum breeding age.
51	Modify ¾ curl to full in 11	Adopt	See comments #52
54	Eliminate Sheep sealing requirement 13	Do Not Adopt Vote 5F, 5Op, 3Ab, 2Abs.	This is a Statewide Issue. The board should schedule this item for a statewide meeting discussion. The arguments are valid especially if the department continues to just collect data and not analyze it. The minority opinion on this issue is that the sealing requirement makes hunters look more carefully before shooting, thus cutting down the harvest of illegal rams. We are disappointed that the department is not using the sealing data. It is a significant inconvenience to hunters.
40	Restrict Season and Bag Limit Br. Bear 13	Do Not Adopt	The brown bear population in 13 is high and the department testimony has been that present harvest rates are not causing any decline. There is no reason to restrict based on land management issues.
66	Modify ANS for caribou and wolves in 11	Do Not Adopt	The Board should disregard this proposal because it does not come from subsistence users or hunters. The park preserves are intended for subsistence and other harvest uses. The land management is not a factor, the wildlife populations should guide these issues.
65	Modify the ANS for wolves in 13	Do Not Adopt	The minimum population of wolves in the IM project protects the subsistence uses. There is no need to

			change the ANS.
69	Modify the Clearwater CUA for pri. Prop. Access.	Amend/Adopt	The FAC supports the department's recommendation which would solve the problem. Hunters should not be restricted from using their vehicles to access commercial accommodations.
70	Restrict ATV use near MacLaren River	Do Not Adopt	There is no reason to adopt this closure. It would be difficult to enforce and would result in restricting ATV's but remain open to boat access.
39	Extend the Ptarmigan season 13	Adopt	The bag limit is already low and will protect the population density of ptarmigan. Opening up the season will allow addition recreational opportunity. Nobody drives a highway vehicle in mid Denali Highway country in the Winter. Other bird seasons, grouse, for example, are not limited like the ptarmigan season.
	King Salmon Area		
3	Extend Wolverine Trapping Season 9B	Adopt	This extension is consistent with other areas. No fur value or overharvest reasons not to extend.
2	Extend Wolverine Trapping Season 9B	Adopt	See comments #3
	Dillingham Area		
24	Delete sealing Bl Bear in 17	Adopt	There are few bears harvested AND it eliminates paperwork for both hunters and the department.
38	Use of radio and cell phones wolves in 17	Amend/Adopt Vote 13,0,0,2	Amend to use for trapping/trappers only NOT those with only a hunting license. This is a very remote and well defined geographic area. If the use of radio and phone is a permit condition, this would be a good area to test effectiveness without risk to a large area. This is a moose and caribou population recovery area but we do not want to see this be a precedent for wider use in other areas. Treat as research for

			effectiveness.
33	Modify permit deadline regist. 17	Adopt	The deadline should never fall at a time when the department is not open for business in any remote area. If the registration permit is not available from vendors or on line, the deadline must fall during normal business hours.
	Units 9,11,13,14A,14B,16 and 17 – Region IV		
116	Full curl only 14A and 13D	(comment only)	The FAC supports the uniform full curl regulation. The existing "experiment" should conclude as soon as possible.
105	Same day airborne black bear bait stations	Amend/Adopt	Establish a minimum distance for harvest from aircraft, perhaps ¼ mile. Baiting is allowed in high bear population areas. Making airborne hunters wait for hours to become "eligible" to hunt their own bait stations reduces opportunity.
108	Modify black bear bag limits	Adopt (concept)	If the bag limit of black bear for a GMU, subunit or even a Region is based on the bear population estimates, it makes no sense to mix and match the bag limit "between" geographic areas. If the bear bag limit is one, a hunter should be able to kill one bear. When "next door" where the limit is three, he should be able to kill three. We realize there are few hunters who would take advantage of this new "bag limit" mix but it does offer more opportunity.
110	Brown Bear Tag Fee exemption 11,13, 16B	Adopt	IM projects have not resulted in reaching population objectives and bear populations are high thus no conservation concern.
109	Require the tag fee for 11, 13 and 16B	Do Not Adopt	There is no conservation concern and bear populations are high. Restricting the harvest by adding back the tag fee goes in the wrong direction for reaching ungulate IM population objectives.

112	No bag limit, no season coyotes salvage RIV	Adopt	Coyotes have become efficient predators, especially on lambs. The loss of trophy value for those harvested during the Summer is not significant. They have high reproductive rates and will not be eliminated because of high harvest.
	Statewide		
223	Discretionary authority – trophy value destruction	(comment, proposal is for "review" of issue.	The FAC generally opposes antler destruction. It is especially bad when hunters in the field with differing types of permits face different "trophy value" conditions. Even those hunting "only for meat" normally bring antlers and horns home. When antler destruction is done at a single location where traveling hunters pass by, there is often a discrimination as opposed to those hunters who have the same permit but can transport their game without passing the "location". As a discretionary permit condition, trophy value destruction should be last resort and for all hunters in the permit group. For specific hunts, like the Koyukuk moose, the FAC has voted to support antler destruction.
222	Review antler destruction for proxy hunts	Do Not Adopt Vote 3F, 10Op, 0Ab, 2Absent	Contradictory within the proxy regulations. The statute says "treat all hunters including proxy beneficiaries the same" and the regulation says destruct. (92.011) The board should decide which way to go not have the regulation different in intent. Our comments ran from "senseless" to having the board ask the enforcement representatives to define "abuse" in terms of number of citations, warnings, prosecutions, etc. The requirement for "both" proxy hunter and beneficiary animals to have trophy destruction is very ambiguous. Apply the present language to the situation where a hunter who took

			his own moose on opening day returns to the field a week later to proxy hunt for grandpa. If successful does he then return home and cut up his own antlers? The board should not leave this to discretionary but should discuss it and give direction. For example, you do not require destruction in the Nelchina caribou CHP which is really a proxy hunt. The FAC wants to eliminate the ability for an individual hunter to harvest large numbers of animals. In 20A some antlerless proxy hunts have appeared more like commercial meat operations.
	Interior Region		
202	Reauthorize brown bear tag exemptions	Adopt	The bear populations are high and growing. Range for brown bear is expanding. IM populations in many of these units have not been met.
203	20D Antlerless Moose reauthorization	(comment only)	Board should follow comments and suggestions from the Delta AC.
	20A Antlerless Moose reauthorization	Amend/Adopt Vote 9F,4 Op,0 Ab, 2 Absent	For Proposal 203(A)(20A Subunit) When the existing language was discussed, the FAC thought that limiting antlerless drawing permit hunters to ONLY antlerless would increase the harvest of the antlerless component. Instead the department has had to greatly increase the number of permits and the harvest has not gone up significantly. We ask the board to remove the limiting language, "; a recipient of an antlerless drawing permit is prohibited from taking a bull moose in Unit 20(A)". Bull moose hunters will take an antlerless if they are unsuccessful in finding a bull. Removing this language would allow them to carry a drawing permit but still hunt for bulls. Another amendment is to add to the new "location" requirement wording that either the

			latitude/longitude OR GPS locations is required. We do not want to make GPS mandatory. If hunters can take the lat/long from maps, that is good enough for location. The new requirement would read, "; latitude/longitude or GPS location of kill required". The FAC also recommends that the first time the subunit total of 2,000 antlerless permits is written in the regulation an explanation that the number represents the total for the entire subunit. At present it is found in two places leading to the misconception that 4,000 permits could be issued. We would like to remove the confusion.
	20B Antlerless Moose reauthorization	Adopt 12F, 0 Op, 1 Ab, 2 Absent	Proposal 203A (20B Subunit) The FAC supports the antlerless reauthorizations in 20B including the new "tier" of drawing permit hunts and a late registration hunt. The moose population is on the verge of being out of control and we support increased harvest to slow and hopefully stop the growth. At over 20,000 moose, the subunit is way over the IM population objective. (Note that the FAC Prop. 233 seeks to extend the bull season.) Our discussions for 20B included the public controversy on having the November muzzleloader drawing permit hunt include an area in the upper Salcha River drainage. The Salcha, estimated as 20(B) East has a lower moose density and is not included in the drawing antlerless hunt areas. We have analyzed the likely impact of the muzzleloader harvest and feel that the issue of antlerless in the Salcha can be revisited during the regular Region III board cycle. (The analysis is attached.)
232	Motorized for antlerless in Yanert CUA	Adopt Vote 7F, 5Op, 1 Ab. 2	The FAC supports this concept. The members opposed in the vote reflected a request by the Healy – Middle Nenan River AC to delay this discussion at

		Absent	the board until the regular cycle. Normally our AC would defer to such a request but in this case the toolbox for moving antlerless harvest around in 20(A) is empty. We would not object to changes offered by the Healy AC but wish to show the board how serious we think the issue of sharing the zones for antlerless harvest is. Many constituents have been impacted negatively by the high participation and conduct in some years pervious antlerless hunts. Finding new areas to spread out the harvest is important. In this case the area is already a zone but the CUA limits access so severely the department puts a minimal harvest. Being able to harvest 20 antlerless in this zone instead of 2 would help.
233	Extend general moose season in 20B	Adopt	The high moose population and relatively high bull/cow ratio combined with the need to stop the growth of the population support the additional time. The extension discussed would be to add five days to the general bull season, which would then be September 1 – 20. If the department offers alternate extension dates, for example, earlier than the existing season, the FAC still supports the proposal.
	Arctic Region		
	Southeast Region		