

**Lower Yukon Advisory Committee
December 16th, 2013
Lions Club, Bethel, AK**

- I. Call to Order: Time by 9:03AM [Raymond Oney]
- II. Roll Call:
Members Present:

Raymond Oney	Alakanuk
	Andreafski
John Lamont	Emmonak
Jonathan Smith	Hooper Bay
Joseph Uisok	Kotlik
Vassily Sergie, Sr.	Marshall
	Mt. Village
Dominica Strongheart	Nunam Iqua
Evan K. Polty	Pilot Station
John Riley	Pitkas Point
Stanley J. Peters	Russian Mission
Sven A. Paukan	St. Mary's
	Scammon Bay

Members Absent: Jonathan Smith, Sven Paukan,
Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 7

- III. Approval of Agenda:
Motion to Approval of Agenda-Dominica Strongheart, Nunam Iqua
2nd- Stan Peters, Russian Mission Unanimously passed.
- IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: September 16th, 2013
Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes- Stan Peters, Russian Mission
2nd- Dominica Strongheart, Nunam Iqua, Unanimously passed.
- V. Fish and Game Staff Present:
Patrick Jones, ADFG Wildlife Division
Phillip Perry, ADFG Wildlife Division
Eric Newland, ADFG Summer Season Commercial Fisheries
Breena, ADFG Summer Season Commercial Fisheries
Jeff Estensen, ADFG Fall Season Commercial Fisheries
Alissa Nadine Joseph, ADFG Boards Support Coordinator

- VI. Guests Present:
Gene Sandone, Kwirpak
Fred Bue, USFWS

Village Reports:

Alakanuk, Raymond Oney: We usually have a village joint meeting to consider proposals. No one has really complained or said anything.

Emmonak, John Lamont: There were a lot of people who were fishing with a dipnet and were satisfied. Although for both Hunting and fishing, it's been a tough year.

Kotlik, Joseph Uisok: Ice fishing is starting back at home for "Sheefish" Innoko and "Lush" Burbot. Some of people had made it out to the Yukon to set net with 5 ½ inch. There were a lot of people who weren't able to go out fishing this year, because they had no equipment with the Board of Fish regulation changes and some people couldn't afford the costs of purchasing dip nets. There also was a shortage of nets out here, many people had to ask friends and families to ship them out from Anchorage or get themselves. No one has gone moose hunting just yet; it will be starting at the end of this week.

Marshall, Vassily Sergie, Sr: We have seen a lot of changes in the river and heard a lot of comments about the catches of king salmon. Other than that we have been trying to manage to put fish away.

Nunam Iqua, Dominica Strongheart: Were happy to start going out moose hunting at the end of this week. Most of our local people were able to gather and put away fish from this summer. Some of our men didn't go out fishing, because they had to go to work.

Pilot Station, Evan Polty, Sr: What occurred during dip netting season was that most of the commercial fisherman didn't go out fishing at all. Within a week a lot of boats were anchoring in swift water and they were enjoying taking turns dip netting. For our subsistence we started late due to flood water. Most of our fish racks and fish camps were flooded and there was nothing we could do, but wait. Moose season would probably be delayed, due to the conditions of the ice and open water holes on the Yukon still.

Pitkas Point, John Riley: Last summer my family and I had put up chums strips for the first time in the history. This was the first time we weren't allowed to fish for kings and some of the elders are missing their food. Salt fish (Alissa noted for readers information: Salt fish is only made with Kings, because of the cartilage in the head and the way the meat with oil mixes with the salt.), strips and all the other parts of the kings we always eat; even the stomachs, nothing is ever wasted or thrown. Other than that we will survive, but not allowing us to catch just a few Kings isn't right.

Russian mission, Stan Peters: In Russian mission our subsistence fishing was good and seemed like everyone had caught salmon. Everyone had caught chum salmon and we caught a little over 100 for our youth and youth programs. For myself, I had gotten over 40-50 chum. Trapping has been introduced last winter to our community and it's been doing good. We order our traps from down states. What were really trying to do is to conserve the animals that are around our area and go hunting away from the community. We have a lot of foxes that are coming into the village and we get worried about rabies. There are about 5 wolves behind our school, which was a problem to the safety of our kids. We are trying to get our youth to do a trap line and learn respect for nature, as

we all were taught. Another thing that we have to talk about is safety: Gun, Trapping, Survival, and those kinds of things to be prepared. It seems like we are getting more and more people showing up at our program. Just going up to the trap line is growing up. Mostly, we finally caught a lot of eels this year. The run was late this year compared to many other years. We figured out and learned not to use a chainsaw when we make our dip netting holes for fishing eels. The small amounts of oil that resides in the holes, reduces the ability for us to catch eels. The small amount of oil from the chain saw gets into the water and the eels distinctively go around our holes.

VII. New Business:

a. Resource Reports

ADFG Summer Season Area Manager Commercial Fisheries, Eric Newland

Eric Newland, ADFG- How do you feel about managing those coastal fisheries?

Raymond Oney, Chairman, Alakanuk- How many coastal villages are we talking about?

Eric Newland, ADFG - Place like Hooper and Scammon Bay? When we make changes to schedule and gear types. There are more on the North side that would possibly be affecting the Yukon bound salmon.

Raymond Oney, Chairman, Alakanuk - Is there anyone that wants to comment on that?

John Lamont, Emmonak- Are there any people going out or is there any projects that would identify these fish and know where they are going?

Eric Newland, ADFG - We should have protected those kings a lot closer. Regardless if these salmon are headed to the Yukon and Norton Sound, it would do everybody a favor to have those identified. In the past we tried to minimize who we affect with our actions. We don't want to affiliate people and were getting down to where every fish counts. There are other stuff that is important that they would like to talk about. For example: last years with the new gear types. The subsistence with gillnets, we offered commercial and subsistence fishing with the gear types. That is something that we would like to talk about, to see if they were useful. There are people who wanted commercial and subsistence fishing at the same time. I think the big thing to look at last year is the 6" mesh gear. There wasn't very much of that last year and different gear types. If we have to ration lower, we have to look at subsistence fishing with dip net.

John Riley, Pitkas Point- Last year we were hit pretty hard with restrictions. Last year Fish and Game opened a 9 hour fishing period with dip net only. Who had dip nets at the time? Then there was a shortage of dip nets in the whole district. When you open subsistence with commercial fishing there are many of us who can't do both. That's how many commercial fisherman got hurt last year, trying to fish both commercial and subsistence. It takes a lot of hard work, hard back breaking work and folks can't be on the go for long periods of time, it wears you out, completely.

Raymond Oney, Chairman, Alakanuk -When we see a concern of over harvest in the area, I believe that is when it becomes a concern. Is there anyone else that would like to speak upon coastal village restrictions?

John Lamont, Emmonak- I believe it would be helpful for those fisherman to fish different times for commercial and subsistence. Those people who are fishing for subsistence fishing with dip net, we have to work harder and it takes longer. By the time we are done, we are exhausted and tired.

Eric Newland, ADFG - I don't want to limit the AC's comments here. One of the questions that we have been talking about, we have started out the season with an outlook flyer. We mail it out in the beginning of May with a schedule. This year, I believe it was on the 31 of May to start subsistence fishing schedule. This year, we heard from folks that maybe that doesn't work so well without knowing the break up time.

John Riley, Pitkas Point- Last year there were many of us that got hurt during the window schedule. As soon as the ice goes out, we go for Chee fish (Innoko) and white fish. When we are not allowed to fish, many of us folks suffer. Why would we have to do revert to windows when there is still ice in the river.

Eric Newland, ADFG - We have heard that from other fisherman on the river. That is something that we have to pick up in the spring meetings, okay. I have one more question. The 4" mesh, during salmon fishing closures. Any time of those closures we allowed a 4" gear to target other species than salmon. We have looked at how we used this and those people who used this gear to catch other fish in other ways. I want people to know and be aware that people want to use a 4" net to take fewer kings. I want people to make sure that they are aware, maybe instead we completely close and not use 4" mesh gear.

Stan Peters, Russian Mission- The things is with that 4" mesh, we have 4 species and I go after the bigger white fish and use a Chee fish net which is a 6 1/4" mesh size. These last couple years, I caught a Coho salmon. When I cut it up, I put it in a kipper box and smoked it for 12 hours. When I process this Coho salmon, my grandchildren and we don't notice any difference between kings and Coho. It does taste way better than Chum salmon then we can fish for Coho. We need to try and target other species than the king salmon; there are different ways that we can process other fish. (He goes on to tell a story of when he went upriver and ate dried Chee fish strips.)

Eric Newland, ADFG - We should just pass it over to Jeff, if you have questions or comments.

Fall Season Report, Jeff Estensen, ADFG Fall Season Area Manager Commercial Fisheries.

Jeff Estensen, ADFG-Because of the state of the salmon on the Yukon, we have asked people to target other species, other than King Salmon. In terms of the commercial fishery, we were able to commercial fish most of the season. If people are indeed switching over to fall chum. We are looking at a preliminary run size for 2014 and we will see how things are going to be working out. Going into the season, for those of you that have been fishing Lower River we have been having really calm weather. The only substantial pulse that we had was later on in the season. 2014 that we are assuming that we are looking at a large run to continuing commercial fisheries. This year we didn't have a Coho fishery this year, 2nd lowest Coho on record to pass the sonar this year. As it turns out, Coho had just barely met the average run size upriver. That's all I have, any question.

Evan Polty, Pilot Station- You're discussing the fall time chum salmon. Would you be able to start the commercial fishery a lot sooner?

Jeff Estensen, ADFG- You know in the years past we have been coming in the season 6-7 thousand of fish. We have waited July and August, because we have been starting later in the season we have been able to fish all the way through. In the last few years our target point has dropped. I'm suggesting that we go ahead to fish before the pulse gets in knowing that we are going to be ok. Since the mouth of the Yukon are using dip nets; what's the outcome with the commercial fishing with dip net during fall season.

Gene Sandone, Kwirpak Fisheries:

Board of Fish proposals that will be heard in March, through ACR in Girdwood and the latest one was submitted by Yukon Delta Emergency Order.

1. Allows leads on fish wheels, Virgil Umphenour
 - a. Legalize the use of leads to operate fish wheels.
 - b. Long standing practice which was found to be illegal.
2. In the dip net and Beach sein commercial fishery: all kings must be returned to the river. , ADFG
 - a. Specifies that all kings caught in the commercial dip net and beach sein fisher to be released to the river alive.
3. Allows Dip net size to be unrestricted, YDFDA
 - a. Presently, there is a 5 ft. straight line maximum on all dip nets
 - b. On hoop nets the 5ft is measured as the diameter of the dip net
 - c. On the triangle dip nets, the max straight2

4. Allow purse seines in the lower Yukon area for commercial fishing for summer chum salmon, YDFDA
 - a. Washington and Oregon are prohibiting gillnets on the Columbia River for fishing for salmon
 - b. Fishers are now selectively harvesting hatchery kings and releasing wild kings.

2013 Yukon River Test Purse Seine Information and Results

YDFDA and ADFG cooperatively conducted a test to harvest chum without harvesting kings.

The vast majority of chum salmon 73% captured during the July 2-6 sampling period in 22 sets.

Catches of chum salmon were directly related to the number of chum salmon.

Conclusions: Purse seines gear can be safely operated in the.. Environment of the Lower Yukon River.

Purse seing gear can be used to selectively harvest commercial fishery. Recommendations: Length 50 fathoms in length, Web multi strand mono-filament or 12 count sein material maximum 3.5 or 2" stretch mesh. 100 mesh deep. Rings. 2X5/16 inch stainless steel rings on 6" bridals, spaced every 10 feet along the lead line. Lead line 75 or 85 pound lead line.

BOARD OF FISHERIES, Statewide, March 14th-18th, 2014, Egan Center, Anchorage, AK, CD: FEB 28th, 2014

Emergency Petition, Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association

During times of king salmon conservation, to include purse seines as commercial gear for the summer chum fishery.

(Break 5:05PM)

Mandatory- Please Summarize Your Proposal Comments in this Form			
All motions must be made in the affirmative.			
BOG or BOF	Proposal Number	Proposal Description	
Supports or Opposes?	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments/Discussion (list Pros and Cons)/Amendments to Proposal
BOG Support	1 Unanimous		Modify the Lower Yukon Area for moose hunting in Unit 18. Q/D: No comments made.
BOG Support	2 Unanimous		Modify the Lower Yukon Area for moose hunting in Unit 18, extend the resident season, and liberalize the bag limit. Recommendation: Motion -Evan Polty, Pilot station 2 nd - Dominica Strongheart, Nunam Iqua Q/D: No comments made.
BOG Support	3 Unanimous		Modify the season and bag limit for moose in Unit 18 Remainder and Lower Yukon Area. Motion to support- Joseph Uisok, Kotlik 2 nd - Stanley Peters, Russian Mission Q/D: No comments made.
BOG Support	4 Unanimous		Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 18. Motion to support- Joseph Uisok, Kotlik 2 nd - Stanley Peters, Russian Mission Q/D: No comments made.
BOG Support	5 6	2	Open a subsistence musk ox hunt in Unit 18 and 19. Motion to Support- 2 nd -

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All motions must be made in the affirmative.

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Supports or Opposes?	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments/Discussion (list Pros and Cons)/Amendments to Proposal
			<p>Q/D: John Riley, Pitkas Point- I've seen them in Unalakleet, do they belong to Unalakleet Patrick Jones, ADFG- Those coming down from Seward Peninsula are populations from that area and they are still considered to be wildlife of the state. Stan Peters, Russian Mission- If you leave those by the moratorium, count that be a hunt mostly for Register guide people. People who like to go get Musk-ox, who gets the permits. Patrick Jones, ADFG- Nothing is set in stone, all bulls permitting hunt. Cows registration 1st come- 1st serve. January 22nd is when we give out those tickets. It's almost all local people. Nelson Island has 5 villages that we rotate which village gets the tickets. Evan Polty, Pilot Station- Limit of 500 is still really low. I can recall 7 years ago when musk-ox migrated to the mail land and this was brought up. We suggested and recommended the Board of Game to wait till the minimum population count exceeded 2,000 musk-ox. That was the number we decided was a reasonable number before hunting to give a better opportunity. Vassily Uisok, Marshal- We seen about 7 musk-ox on the west side of Andraefski. Patrick Jones, ADFG- That is goodnews to hear that they are in the middle area. Raymond Oney, Chairman Alakanuk- Education of the Musk-ox information for the possibility of a hunt would be best. The increase of the population for the hunt, I'm in support of 2,000.</p>
BOG	6	Remove the upper limit of Nelson Island musk ox registration permits issued for the winter season, and retain the requirement that permits are issued on a first-come, first-served basis.	
Support	Unanimous		<p>Motion to Support- 2nd- Q/D: (Recorded 7)</p>
BOG	7	Shift the wolverine hunting season dates in Unit 18.	
Support	7	1	<p>Motion- 2nd- Q/D: There were no comments made. Raymond Oney, Alakanuk-No, I was going along with the Departments recommendation to keep the dates. John Lamont, Emmonak-Yes Joseph Uisok, Kotlik- Yes Vassily Sergie, Sr., Marshall-Yes Domonica Strongheart, Nunam Iqua-Yes John Riley-Yes Stan Peters-Yes Evan Polty- Yes</p>
BOG	8	Lengthen the lynx hunting season in Unit 18	
Support	8		<p>Motion- Evan Polty, Pilot Station</p>

Mandatory- Please Summarize Your Proposal Comments in this Form

All motions must be made in the affirmative.

BOG or BOF	Proposal Number	Proposal Description	
Supports or Opposes?	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments/Discussion (list Pros and Cons)/Amendments to Proposal
			2 nd - John Riley, Pitkas Point Q/D: There were no comments.
BOG Support	9 Unanimous		Extend the lynx hunting season in Unit 18. Motion- Evan Polty, Pilot Station 2 nd - Stan Peters Q/D: There were no comments.
BOG Support	10 Unanimous		Modify the game management unit boundaries for Units 18, 19, and 21. Motion- 2 nd - Q/D: <u>Evan Polty, Pilot Station</u> - I will be remaining neutral on this proposal.
BOG Support	11 Unanimous		Prohibit the use of .22 caliber ammunition for taking big game animals, excluding wolves and wolverines. Motion- 2 nd - Q/D: <u>Stan Peters, Russian Mission</u> - I flew up there and seen dead moose up by Piamiut. 36 dead bull moose, I wasn't about to go back there and investigate. Randy when he was alive, he went back there and found they all were shot with .223. A guy who is a good shot they can shoot them with a .223 and it's a good rifle but they have to know how to use it. <u>John Lamont, Emmonak</u> - You get to bring home the moose without the blowing out head and salvaging more edible parts. I kind of agree with the people who agree to use a smaller
BOG Support	12 Unanimous		Change the salvage requirement for wildfowl in Unit 18. Motion- Evan Polty, Pilot Station 2 nd - Joseph Uisok, Kotlik Q/D:

Comments:

Stan Peters, Russian Mission- Last season there were a couple of guys that were at the airport with some big antlers. If this panel would like to make a resolution:

1. Have guides and outfitter account for how many trophy animals are taken out of an area.
2. Account for the distribution of the meat.

how many animals would be taken out of the area, because I believe there are some illegal activities going on with guides and outfitters bringing people in. They would fly back to where they came from and they would be flying out of the place. I know that they would be able to land a 207 back there. Where is all the edible meat going and there was

no enforcement back there. I went back to holy cross to my old hunting areas, there were 2 cubs flying around in that area. They tried landing in areas, but weren't able to land due to high water. To account for the trophy

Patrick Jones, ADFG- All those guides are getting landing permits from the Federal Government. It is possible to get those from the federal. If there is a case where the meat is spoiling at the airport, make sure to call us. If they are taking just the antlers and no meat, please call us. We will get ahold of troopers and we will have them on it right away.

Lower Yukon AC memberws- Perdiem should be issued in full rather than a daily perdiem. We should be getting more perdiemd

Old Business:

Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn- Dominica Strongheart, Nunam Iqua

2nd- John Riley, Pitkas Point

Benediction: Stan Peters, Russian Mission

Minutes Recorded By: _____

Minutes Approved By: _____

Date: _____