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CENTRAL BERING SEA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

State of Alaska Department of Fish & Game

Board of Game Proposals Discussion and Voting

October 24th-26th, 2013, 3:00PM

Teleconference: 1-800-504-8071 Access Code: 5432709#

Arctic/ Western Region BOG Final Draft Meeting Minutes

- I. **CALL TO ORDER 1:33PM OCT 25th** : Chairman David Bill
- II. **INVOCATION:** John Phillip, Sr.
- III. **ROLL CALL 11 members Present/ QUORUM ESTABLISHED: (YES / NO)**

<u>NAMES:</u>	<u>VILLAGES:</u>
<u>Stanley Anthony</u>	<u>Nightmute</u>
<u>Charlie Spud</u>	<u>Mekoryuk</u>
<u>Galen Float</u>	<u>Mekoryuk</u>
<u>David O. David</u>	<u>Kwigillingok</u>
<u>Annie C. Cleveland</u>	<u>Quinhagak</u>
<u>Peter Julius</u>	<u>Goodnews Bay</u>
<u>Anthony Angaiak</u>	<u>Tununak</u>
<u>David Bill</u>	<u>Toksook Bay</u>
<u>Tommy Kusaiak</u>	<u>Chefornak</u>
<u>Stan Atchak</u>	<u>Chevak</u>
<u>Leo Moses, Jr.</u>	<u>Chevak</u>
<u>John Phillip, Sr.</u>	<u>Kongiganak</u>
<u>Henry Williams</u>	<u>Platinum</u>
<u>Joseph M. John, Sr.</u>	<u>Newtok</u>
<u>David Carl</u>	<u>Kipnuk</u>

IV. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS & STAFF:

Alissa Nadine Joseph, ADF&G Board Support Section, Western Regional Coordinator
 Phillip Perry, ADF&G Wildlife Conservation Area Manager Biologist
 Patrick Jones, ADF&G Wildlife Conservation Area Assistant Manager Biologist
 Travis Ellison, ADF&G Commercial Fisheries Area Manager Biologist
 Aaron Tierman, ADF&G Commercial Fisheries Area Assistant Manager Biologist
 Jeff Park, ADF&G Subsistence Division
 USFWS Staff (on HOLD)
 Steve Miller
 Greg Roczicka, Orutsarmiut Native Council
 Association of Village Council Presidents
 Raymond Oney, Chairman Lower Yukon Advisory Committee, *Teleconference*
 Robert Aloysius, Chairman Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee, *Teleconference*
 Aki Komulainen, *Teleconference*
 Jon Lavalley, *Teleconference*
 Suzanne R. Little, Manager Western Lands Initiative, Alaska

**CENTRAL BERING SEA STATE OF ALASKA FISH & GAME
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Guests:

Jacqueline Cleveland, Quinhagak, Pat Samson, Translator Bethel, James Charles, Lower Kuskokwim AC Chairman, Melvin Pavilla, KYUK, Joseph Johns Wife, Stan Atchak's Wife, Stanley Anthony's Wife, Julian Jacobs

- V. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:** September 17th, 2013
Motion to Approve- Annie Cleveland, Quinhagak 2nd- David Carl, Kipnuk, Unanimous

VI. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Discussion/ Question:

Tommy Kusaiak- Add Executive session under New Business.

David Carl- Since we are now discussing to have one meeting per year, we need to look at the M&IE amount given.

Motion to Approve- David Carl, Kipnuk 2nd- Stanely Anthony, Nightmute, Unanimous

VII. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. Joint Board of Fish & Game Review:

Chairman David Bill, Toksook Bay- Summarizes results of the Joint Board of Fish & Game meeting in Anchorage October 12-16, 2013.

Stanley Anthony, Nightmute- (Comments scratched), Point of Order

Chairman David Bill, Toksook Bay- (*Translated by P. Samson*) Proposals that were adopted at the Joint Board of Fish & Game. Subsistence comments about creating Bethel a non-subsistence area.

Stanley Anthony, Nightmute- Window of subsistence closure for the general populations, if they close the area for subsistence it would be devastation for coastal villages for YK Delta. The areas of the YK Delta area of the two rivers rely on subsistence.

John Phillip, Sr., Kongiganak – Subsistence is our way of life... back in the day people from upriver would exchange with us for food that we didn't have. People would barter food from Nunivak, Toksook Bay, Kuskokwim areas, I want to see that begin continued. We don't want USFWS/ ADFG to ... (Example being used: Mouse Food Gathering). The non-subsistence use areas should just be tied to one area.

Chairman David Bill- Review of how we live and how we take care of the people in the village. They would rather have it the way it is and not change the way it goes.

- b. Resources Reports:

• **STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME (543-2433)**

- Wildlife Conservation Division: Phillip Perry & Patrick Jones- *Confirmed*

Phillip Perry- There are 12 proposals coming up in the Board of Game in Kotzebue. Brief update on the Moose season for the Kuskokwim: 118 moose were harvest in a 6 day hunt. 11 hundred people reported that they hunted moose out of the nearly 1600 that got registration permits. In the Goodnews Hunt, 42 residents of Platinum and Goodnews Bay got permits and harvested 15 moose.

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No proposals for Caribou, this regulatory year the first time they are going to be required for harvest reporting information. Unit 18, 17, 19, we try to manage caribou consistently in that area. RC 503. Mulchatna Caribou is no long declining.

(Translated by P. Samson into Yupik)

Stanley Anthony- (Comments Scratched), 2nd Point of Order Called

Jacqueline Cleveland, Quinhagak- I'm worried about the moose management. To open federal lands.

Phillip Perry, ADFG- You can ask, whether or not the federal system. There is more moose... it depends on what the community wants and how they want it.

(*Jacqueline Cleveland, Quinhagak translates conversation in Yupik*)

Stanley Anthony, Nightmute: (Comments Scratched), 2 ½ Point of Order Called

Pat Samson, Bethel (Translated Question of Order): If people can go hunt, because they don't have any food. Would it be alright to hunt moose and muskox out of season? Would it cause a hardship cause?

Phillip Perry, ADFG- Short answer is no, seasons are set up... they don't really make hardship. The only way moose that are harvested out of season, for those with low income you can get a hunting license for \$5.00.

Stanley Anthony, Nightmute: Then why don't you change this... (Comments were scratched). Warning Point of Order was called again on Stanley Anthony.

Chairman David Bill, Toksook Bay: There are some people on the island where I'm from; they did not get enough herring or salmon this spring. We knew that there was going to be shortage of food. There was a message I was asked to report to you, there will be more stories about fish in March. There is musk-ox on the mainland, we need to hunt moose somehow, question: "If we don't have anything to eat or during the festival time. We would like to hunt Musk-ox out of season to put food on the table. Is this possible? We never had musk-ox before, now we do.

Charlie Spud, Mekoryuk- If I'm stranded in the wilderness and I got no more food, can I take a moose or muskox for food? Spring time muskox wanders on to the ice and I want to know if we can take those on the ice?

Phillip Perry, ADFG- There is special provisions for taking big game that are stranded. There is a provision in state law; they are allowed to take game animals, until they are out of dire emergency.

Ken Acton, AK Wildlife Trooper: That is correct, that law is for emergency only if there are no other means of survival. If it is in the village that is not covered by state law. If there is a funeral service contact ADFG to issue a ceremonial harvest.

Chairman David Bill, Toksook Bay- We have 4 wolves down on the Nelson Island. They are always coming and eating the Muskox.

Phillip Perry, ADFG- August, tracking November. If you know anyone with hunting or trapping license they can go hunting for them. The only thing would be to get the animal sealed. It's an open season and are long seasons

Chairman David Bill, Toksook Bay- A hungry person is more dangerous than a lion or bear.

(15 min. Break)

- Commercial Fisheries Division: Travis Ellison- *Teleconference 5:23PM*
Hand out: (2013 Preliminary Kuskokwim Area Salmon Season Summary)

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Travis Ellison, ADFG- The Kuskokwim River salmon fisheries were managed according to the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 07.365). The Kuskokwim Bay salmon fisheries were managed according Goodnews Bay Weir. We went into the fishery pretty conservatively, one thing we did that was new this year in district 5. We only had them fishing on the platinum side of the bay. They were catching a lot more Chinook out in the mouth of Goodnews Bay than Platinum. That fishery was built for maximum escapement, we had below escarpments. Sockeye and Chum salmon catches were below average, average for Chum salmon. Quinhagak... next year in Goodnews south district openers next season, end of June early July, to see the kings get through the openers. Quinhagak district 4, below Chinook salmon 2012 was a really low year, average 15,000 or better. We didn't meet our escapement goal for the weir counts, 2012... improvement. Conservation managers we did miss a part of the (...) salmon. (Refer to hand out of numbers). Kuskokwim River salmon fishery, little run, we let the subsistence proceed without restrictions. Akiak was getting good catches. The run had abruptly shut off, we restricted the subsistence fishery that started on June 28 in the lower Kuskokwim and went through July 6 (Rolling restrictions). Next year we are going into the next season with restrictions. (Refer to hand out for numbers)

- Subsistence Division: Jeff Park- *Confirmed*

Jeff Park, ADFG- Upcoming research (hand out), Akiachak, Chevak, Nicolai... Bethel Comprehensive Survey, completed in April complete subsistence harvest by Bethel residents. Ongoing/ Upcoming projects. I'm here to talk about muskox hunting in response to a BOG proposal, C&T, input, speakers to document the importance of Muskox over generations.

Stan Atchak- Do you have a check list that you use for your surveys? How long is the interview?

Jeff Parks, ADFG- Yes, we do have a checklist and the average time is about 30 min.

Stanly Anthony, Nightmute- (Comments Scratched) 3rd Point of Order. Final Warning.
(Alissa Joseph, ADFG Clarification to Order of topic.)

John Phillip, Sr., Kongiganak- Ocean hunting way back in the day and found a lot of Chinook at the mouth of the river, he did catch the Chinook in May of Spring time. Those salmon are the first pulse that goes up under the ice. There additional stories from back in the day, (Point of Order).

- **FEDERAL UNITED STATES FISH & WILDLIFE (543-3151) *HOLD**

Fisheries Project: Tom Doolittle- *Invited*

- Chinook Salmon Fisheries: Steve Miller- *Confirmed*

Steve Miller, USFWS- Through the office of OSM there are a few questions that were asked about Chinook staging within the system. After Bethel, somewhere between 7-10 days, from Bethel to Tuluksak, Kwethluk, it's approximately 17 days. One of the things that I wanted to address. (Reference to hand out) If you look at the first page, you will see the adult escapement has been a concern. There is a project that was looking at juvenile rearing habitat, if you look at Chinook juveniles, Coho you can see there is downward spiral. I was looking at the escapement this past summer. The escapement was below the

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goals. If you go to the fact sheet with the work that we have done, it's an ongoing project. This basically addresses research projects, funding from OSM to fund these projects then another fact sheet after that one. Life is changing it is not the same. I didn't have a lot of information, but if you have fisheries question, I can address them.

Stan Atchak, Chevak- Questions regarding times of weirs projects, funding, and dates. The RAC meeting will be meeting 13-14 November 2013, weir, survey and project will be up for approval and funding. I can get that list if you would like. As far as fisheries project, all we have is the McGrath and the SORAN site at Kwethluk. One of the things that you have to remember are index days (Same time every year). We rarely see any fish till June 25th. June 15th- September 20th. We try to get those projects in at that time.

Chairman David Bill, Toksook Bay- Why are the salmon getting fewer? Trawlers are they a problem and fishing in the bay?

Steve Miller, USFW- How many adult Chinook would we get back from 5 thousand eggs? We get 2.5 fish back. Chinook will stay in the system for 1 year and go to sea for 6-7 years. What is making the trend going down: Low returns, survival rate, for example: Kwethluk was frozen April and May, it kills the fry salmon. These low productive cycles, it may continue for years. Yes, the numbers of the salmon are declining. Harvest is harvest; those questions would be for another agency.

Break for Dinner (7:30PM)

- Wildlife: Spencer Rearden- *Invited*
- Waterfowl: Kyle Spragens- *Invited*
- YK Delta RAC: *Alex Nick- Invited*
- **ALASKA WILDLIFE TROOPERS (543-5918)**
 - SGT Ken Acton- *Invited*
- **ORUTSARARMUT NATIVE COUNCIL (543-2608)**
 - **Director of Natural Resources:** Greg Roczicka- *Confirmed*
- **AVCP- ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS (543-7300)**
 - **Director of Natural Resources:** Tim Andrew- *Invited*
 - **Fisheries Biologist:** Cassie Stockdale- *Confirmed*
- **Coastal Villages Regional Fund (888-795-5151)**
 - Salmon Report & Forecast: Nick Souza- *Invited*

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Bering Sea Western Interior Resource Management Planning
 - Suzanne R. Little, Manager Western Land Initiative, Alaska
PEW Environment Group (907-245-2400)
- b. Board of Game Proposals, Comment Deadline: *December 27th, 2013*

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE & LOCATION: __ Update by Coordinator __

**X. Adjourn: __11__:43__ PM
Called by Coordinator due to flight departures for AC members.**

CENTRAL BERING SEA FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 State of Alaska Department of Fish & Game Board of Game Proposals
 Discussion and Voting Meeting Records
 October 25th-26th, 2013, 1:33PM

NO.	Vote	Comment or Suggestions:
1	Supported / Adopted	<p>Modify the Lower Yukon Area for moose hunting in Unit 18. Phillip Perry & Patrick Jones ADFG Wildlife introduced the proposal Discussion: <u>Stan Atchak, Chevak</u>- You said that the seasons time limit, when does it start? Even the northern part of Kashunak? <u>Phillip Perry, ADFG</u>- it would start earlier and close to. It would change the bag limit to any moose (Dec-Feb) 2 moose. Ya, those wouldn't change at all <u>Leo Moses, Jr. Chevak</u>- Our people go hunting up in that area and if you guys open up that area that would be great. Question: Motion to Support- Leo Moses, Chevak 2nd- David Carl, Kipnuk, Unanimous</p>
2	Supported / Adopted	<p>Modify the Lower Yukon Area for moose hunting in Unit 18, extend the resident season, and liberalize the bag limit. Phillip Perry & Patrick Jones ADFG Wildlife introduced the proposal Discussion/ Question: Clarification of proposal by AC members to understand the impact of this proposal. Motion to Support- Joseph John, 2nd- Leo Moses, Jr. Chevak, Unanimous</p>
3	Supported / Adopted Ammend date: April 30 to March	<p>Modify the season and bag limit for moose in Unit 18 Remainder and Lower Yukon Area. Phillip Perry & Patrick Jones ADFG Wildlife introduced the proposal Discussion: <u>Chairman David Bill, Toksook</u>- In the month of April, no one goes out hunting. The land is too soft and there is lots of water. You can't even use snow-machine in that area or a kayak. April 30 is just too late. What if we just end it in February or March. By the time of March we are out hunting seals by the ocean. <u>Patrick Jones, ADFG</u>- It's hard on the cow moose that are just about to give birth. Motion to <u>Charlie Spud, Mekoryuk</u>- When you guys fly around in planes during spring, how does it look from the sky? <u>Phillip Perry, ADFG</u>- <u>David Carl, Kipnuk</u>-and they see rise in the moose population and also comes diseases and sickness. Every year it breaks up late and breaks up early, so we can't... <u>Charlie Spud, Mekoryuk</u>- In the month of April all the animals are calving (Big Game). <u>Annie Cleveland, Quinhagak, Leo Moses, Jr. Chevak</u>- Both agree with Charlie Spud. Question: Motion to Support with Amendment- Annie Cleveland, Quinhagak 2nd- Charlie Spud, Mekoryuk, Unanimous</p>

4	Support	<p>Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 18. Phillip Perry & Patrick Jones ADFG Wildlife introduced the proposal Discussion: <u>Chairman David Bill, Toksook</u>-December 20th, <u>Phillip Perry, ADFG</u>- in the non-resident season is Sept 1. – Sept 30... <u>Stan Atchak, Chevak</u>- Does this has to be every year or every two years? <u>Phillip Perry, ADFG</u>- This has is passed by the AC's every year, if they want to keep that. Even with these winter harvest and heavy fall harvest, these populations are high and still growing. The higher the level is the more moose we can harvest. Question:</p> <p>Motion to Support- Leo Moses, Jr. Chevak 2nd- Tommy Kusaiak, Chefornak, Unanimous</p>
5	Support/ Approve	<p>Open a subsistence musk ox hunt in Unit18 and 19. Phillip Perry & Patrick Jones ADFG Wildlife introduced the proposal Discussion: <u>Tommy Kusaiak, Chefornak</u>- He probably talked with someone else and not to the correct person. He may have asked someone in the department <u>Patrick Jones, ADFG</u>- Normally when someone calls we let them know what is in season, we don't normally let people go hunting when the season is closed. <u>Stan Atchak, Chevak</u>- Is there count for the mainland and if so, how many? <u>Patrick Jones, ADFG</u>- 130-150-200 in the whole area. We are starting to get more and more of them here, we don't want to get a hunt for them till we get 500. <u>John Phillip, Sr., Kongiganak</u>- There musk ox that came into the village. The school kids tried to scare them off, but they wouldn't leave. We were scared that they would attack the kids. What do we do about it? The go the docs and use their horns to attack I guess for school kiss there is always kids around he was watching a musk ox attack the dog. If they can't do anything about it, the will kill it and feed it to the people. Inland people go to the ocean to hunt the sea animals and someone told him a story about hunting toward the ocean. He seen a musk ox that went to the ocean and the hunter didn't know what to do. <u>Patrick Jones, ADFG</u>- Musk ox don't like to be pushed around. They have instincts and they don't like wolves... we don't have... when a muskox has walked into a village get a hold of troopers... just kill every musk ox that walks into the village. He did the right thing by leaving him alone. Musk ox aren't good swimmers, but they are used to being wet and will be fine. <u>Charlie Spud, Mekoryuk</u>- Unit 18 and19, what was your last count outside of Nelson Island. At Nelson Island... after the hunt, we lose more each year from Nelson Island. <u>Patrick Jones, ADFG</u>- On the mainland outside of Nelson island there is a difference between Nelson Island and the mainland, unless they get stuck on the ice. There was 741 musk ox. We need 400-500 before we start hunting. <u>Joseph John Sr., Newtok</u>- Inland people go to the ocean to hunt, you don't have regulations for all the animals. He went to the ocean to go hunt and seen a floating musk ox, can we salvage the meat? <u>Parick Jones, ADFG</u>- 2nd birthday they can have their calves, some are 18 years old and have calves every year. <u>Annie Cleveland, Quinhagak</u>- Since next proposal is on musk ox, I would like to make a motion to support proposal 5.</p>

		<p><u>Chairman David Bill, Toksook Bay</u>- Musk ox will not survive in water, we don't want to see anything suffer, we just shoot them. 4 Musk ox are on floating ice, I'm going to shoot them.</p> <p><u>Patrick Jones, ADFG</u>- We will issue a permit for you to kill them right away; we want to keep track of the numbers.</p> <p>Motion to Support- Annie Cleveland, Quinhagak 2nd- Tommy Kusaiak, Chefornek, Unanimous</p>
6	<p>Support w/ Ammend change: First- come, First- Serve to For every 10 there will be only 1 non resident.</p>	<p>Remove the upper limit of Nelson Island musk ox registration permit issued for the winter season. Retain the requirement that permits are issued on a first-come, first-served basis.</p> <p>Phillip Perry & Patrick Jones ADFG Wildlife introduced the proposal Discussion: ... (<i>Discussion continued from previous proposal</i>)...</p> <p><u>Stan Atchak, Chevak</u>- For transplanting Musk ox and also the drawing for harvest permits.</p> <p><u>Chairman David Bill, Toksook</u>- Limit the number of sports hunters for our area. If we allow a higher limit there will be more sports hunters and the people who live in Unit 18 will suffer. I know that the State of Alaska can't tell hunters not to hunt. The amendment that we spoke of, 3-5 non-residents or 10 non-residents. We know that sports hunters do leave big game meat on the tundra, when they have no one to salvage the meat.</p> <p><u>John Phillip, Sr. Kongiganak</u>- If we are going to change these proposals, can we talk to our village or our village leaders before we decide?</p> <p><u>Stan Atchak, Chevak</u>- How many guides are there in Nelson Island? How many sport hunters contact ADFG for musk ox permits?</p> <p><u>Patrick Jones, ADFG</u>- People who wants to become guides have to go through background checks and take classes before they can take people out. (...)</p> <p>Support W/ Amendment-Tommy Kusaiak, Chefornek 2nd- Annie Cleveland, Unanimous</p>
7	Opposed/ Failed	<p>Hunting season and bag limits for wolverine. Discussion/ Questions: None were taken by Sec.</p> <p>Motion to Oppose- Annie Cleveland 2nd- Leo Moses, Jr.</p>
8	Oppose/ Failed	<p>Hunting season and bag limits for fur animals. Discussion/ Questions: None were taken by Sec.</p> <p>Motion to Oppose- Annie Cleveland 2nd- Leo Moses, Jr.</p>
9	Supported	<p>Hunting season and bag limits for fur animals. Discussion/ Questions: None were taken by Sec.</p> <p>Motion to Support- Annie Cleveland 2nd- Tommy Kusaiak</p>
10	Opposed/ Failed	<p>Description of game management units. Discussion/ Questions: Unanimous consent to keep the old lines, instead of changing them at all.</p> <p>Motion to Oppose- Annie Cleveland 2nd- Tommy Kusaiak</p>
11	Opposed/ Failed	<p>Unlawful methods of taking big game; expectations. Discussion/ Questions: None were taken by Sec.</p> <p>Motion to Oppose- Tommy Kusaiak 2nd- Galen Float</p>

12	Support	<p>Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides Discussion/ Questions: None were taken by Sec.</p> <p>Motion to Support- Charlie Spud 2nd- Annie Cleveland</p>
38	Support	<p>Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23, 26A. Discussion/ Questions: Roll Call Vote: <u>Stanley Anthony, Nightmute</u>- I vote to support to hunt the bear, because there are a lot of bears already. <u>Charlie Spud, Mekoryuk</u>- I vote to support the proposal. I don't want to have to pay a fee when there are a lot of bears. <u>Galen Float, Mekoryuk</u>- I say that I will support this proposal. <u>Annie Cleveland, Quinhagak</u>- N/A <u>David Bill, Toksook Bay</u>- We don't have brown in our area, but I will be in support to not having to pay to shoot a brown bear. I will support this proposal. <u>Tommy Kusaiak, Chefornak</u>- N/A <u>Stan Atchak, Chevak</u>- I vote to support. <u>Leo Moses, Chevak</u>- I vote to support paying nothing to kill brown bears. <u>John Phillip, Sr, Kongiganak</u>- I support it. <u>Joseph John, Sr, Newtok</u>- They don't need to pay, I support this proposal. <u>David Carl, Kipnuk</u>- I vote to support.</p> <p>Motion to Support- David Bill 2nd- Stanley Anthony, Roll Call Support</p>