
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Finfish Meeting

Fairbanks | November 18-22, 2025

On-Time Advisory Committee Comments

Bethel AC..... AC1

Delta AC AC2

Eagle AC AC3

Fairbanks AC..... AC4

Kotzebue Sound AC..... AC5

Matanuska Valley AC AC6

Northern Norton Sound AC..... AC7

Southern Norton Sound AC..... AC8

Yukon Flats AC..... AC9

Bethel Fish and Game Advisory Committee

AC1

Tuesday, October 7th, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Bethel ADF&G Conference Room & Via Web Conference

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83393301543?pwd=rRRsYUWMlX0lYe4lV5FmJbmMwN0dVx.1>

Call in Number: 1 (253) 215-8782

Meeting ID: 833 9330 1543

Passcode: BETH

Roll Call

Name	Present	Teleconference	Absent
Sam Hancock	x		
David Humphrey	x		
Alissa Rogers			x
Lucinda Alexie	x		
Jon La Valle	x		
Michael Glore	x		
Jeremy Brink			x
Seth Madole	x		
Travis Burks	x		
Cole Nance	x		
Kara Domnick	x		
Alternates?			

Number Needed for Quorum: 7

1) Welcome

2) Invocation- Moment of Silence

3) Approval of Agenda, Previous Meeting Minutes

4) Reports

a) Kuskokwim Area Fisheries Management Biologist – Sam Decker

i) Report on summer fisheries data including salmon counts and harvest data. Overall, counts were promising and was a positive report on salmon populations in for the Kuskokwim from the bay to the tributaries.

b) ONC reports lower fish distribution this season and is still working on post-season surveys. Avery Hoffman sat in for the meeting, and is the new ONC Natural Resource Director.

5) Public Comment – Keep to 3 mins

6) Old Business

a) Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings: May 21, 2025 and June 18, 2025

7) New Business

a) Board of Fisheries proposal discussion

i) Proposal Discussion

• Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Finfish Proposals (12 - 14)

• Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Island/Chignik Finfish Proposals (124 - 132)

ii) Representation/Testimony

b) Board of Game Proposal Ideas discussion

i) 2026-2027 Board Cycle – Finalized Proposals will be due in May 1, 2026

8) Other Business as necessary or desired

9) Adjourn

Bethel Fish and Game Advisory Committee

AC1

Tuesday, October 7th, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Bethel ADF&G Conference Room & Via Web Conference

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83393301543?pwd=rRRsYUWMIX0lYe4lV5FmJbmMwNOdVx.1>

Call in Number: 1 (253) 215-8782 Meeting ID: 833 9330 1543 Passcode: BETH

<p align="center">Alaska Board of Fisheries Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Finfish Proposals November 18-22, 2025 Fairbanks, AK</p>			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<p><i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i></p>			
12	Add eel stick as a legal subsistence gear type for nonsalmon species in the Kuskokwim Area		
Support	9	0	Hancock proposed, Madole second. Sam Decker elaborates that this is a traditional harvest method that should be encompassed in regulations. She requests someone that practices this fishery be able to speak to the board about it.
13	Amend sport fishing season for king salmon in the upper Kuskokwim River		
Support	9	0	Hancock proposed, Madole second. Consistency in regulation is a good thing, easier management, easier for people to apply
14	Repeal bag and possession limits for sheefish in the Kanektok, Goodnews, and Arolik Rivers		
Support	9	0	Hancock proposed, Burks second. There is not a notable population of sheefish in these rivers, and this is misleading to fisherman and sets false expectations.

<p align="center">Alaska Board of Fisheries Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Island/Chignik Finfish Proposals February 18-24, 2026 Anchorage, AK</p>			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
124	Amend the <i>Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan</i> to reflect changes to Chignik River sockeye salmon allocation		
No Action			Hancock proposed, Madole second. No action. Bethel AC has no stake in this proposal; Unfamiliar with area.

Bethel Fish and Game Advisory Committee

AC1

Tuesday, October 7th, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Bethel ADF&G Conference Room & Via Web Conference

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83393301543?pwd=rRRsYUWMIX0lYe4lV5FmJbmMwNOdVx.1>

Call in Number: 1 (253) 215-8782 Meeting ID: 833 9330 1543 Passcode: BETH

Alaska Board of Fisheries Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Island/Chignik Finfish Proposals February 18-24, 2026 Anchorage, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
125	Amend the <i>Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan</i> to allow more fishing time		
No Action			Hancock proposed, Madole second. Same as 124.
126	Amend regulatory language to reduce commercial salmon fishing time and area by incorporating the Volcano Bay Section of the Southwestern District into the South Central District, and include the Volcano Bay, East and West Pavlof Bay Sections in the and <i>Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan</i>		
No Action			Hancock proposed, Madole second. Hancock proposed, Madole second. Same as 124.
127	Establish a 10 consecutive day closure between June 10 and June 23 for seine and drift gillnet gear		
Amended, Approved	9	0	Hancock proposed, Madole second. Voted unanimously as it is a great effort to improve subsistence fishing opportunity in the Kuskokwim region. Hancock motioned to amend to include set nets for commercial harvest. Madole second - seine, set, drift netting. Unanimously approved amended version.
128	Adopt chum, coho and king salmon catch thresholds that trigger time and area closures to conserve Koyukuk River salmon		
Approve	9	0	Hancock proposed, Madole second. Continue sustained management and conservation of salmon populations for AYK region.
129	Amend the <i>South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan</i> to reduce commercial salmon fishing time		
Approve	9	0	Hancock proposed, Madole second.
130	Amend the <i>South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan</i> to reduce commercial salmon fishing time		
Approve	9	0	Hancock proposed, Madole second. Recognition that we don't know what is causing a decrease in salmon, smaller body size, etc. Supports this proposal as it will better allow for the migration of sockeye to the Chignik.
131	Amend the <i>South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan</i> to reduce commercial salmon fishing time and area for purse seine and drift gillnet gear		
Approve	9	0	Hancock proposed, Madole second

Bethel Fish and Game Advisory Committee

AC1

Tuesday, October 7th, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Bethel ADF&G Conference Room & Via Web Conference

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83393301543?pwd=rRRsYUWMIX0jYe4lV5FmJbmMwNOdVx.1>

Call in Number: 1 (253) 215-8782

Meeting ID: 833 9330 1543

Passcode: BETH

Alaska Board of Fisheries Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Island/Chignik Finfish Proposals February 18-24, 2026 Anchorage, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
132	Amend the <i>South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan</i> to reduce commercial salmon fishing time for purse seine and drift gillnet gear		
Support	9	0	Hancock proposed, Madole second

Minutes Recorded By: David Humphrey
 Minutes Approved By: [Signature]
 Date: 10/13/2025

Delta Fish & Game
Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025 at 6:30 pm at the
Delta Junction Community Center and by web/teleconference

I. Call to Order: 6:45 PM by Jacob white

Roll Call: **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jacob White – Vice Chair

Alan Waldo

Vern Aiton

Robert Mathews

Mike Bender

Cutter Stockwell

Tim Webb – alternate

Paul Dudgeon - alternate

Absent:

Tisha Kennel

Jeff Lipscomb

Jesse Cummings

Tony Williams

II. Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 6

III. Introduce Fish and Game Staff Present:

Brandy Baker

Ellie Mason

TJ Alderguise

IV. Introduce Guests Present:

Don Quarberg

Ellen Clark

Paul Karezmarczyk

Kurt Schmidt

V. Approval of Agenda: approved

VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: 5/13/25, unavailable

VII. Reports:

a. Chairs Report Mention of email from Jeff Wells about antlerless permits in GMU 20A

b. ADFG Staff Reports

Ellie Mason – Introduce TJ Alderguise as the new Bison Coordinator in the Delta Office. Bison survey conducted with the results of 403 adults and 130 calves.

Plans on the re-instatement of the revoked bison permits to be completed over the next 2 seasons. Bison Range work continues. McComb caribou comp counts to be conducted. 5 new gps collars for the McComb Caribou herd. Moose survey to be conducted in 20D south. 2nd year short yearling weights upcoming this winter. Wolf survey funded.

Brandy Baker – Fishing surveys in the mail, please fill out. Stocked waters assessment to be conducted on various local lakes. Report of fish die off (Pike) at Volkmyer Lake, due to a common parasite. Burbot assessment completed for Birch Lake, report to come. Good Coho run reported for the DCW.

- c. Others
- VIII. Public Comment - none
- IX. New Business
 - a. Discuss 2025/2026 Boards Cycle
 - b. Board of Fisheries Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim proposal comments due Nov 3rd
 - c. Planning for election meeting to fill [1] vacancy and officer elections for Secretary
 - d. Other fisheries, wildlife, and committee business as needed
- X. Set next meeting date: 19 NOV 2025 @6:30 PM
- XI. Other
- XII. Adjourn

Alaska Board of Fisheries Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Meeting Proposals November 18-22, 2025 Fairbanks, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
12	Add eel stick as a legal subsistence gear type for nonsalmon species in the Kuskokwim Area.		
			No Action
13	Amend sport fishing season for king salmon in the upper Kuskokwim River.		
			No Action
14	Repeal bag and possession limits for sheefish in the Kanektok, Goodnews, and Arolik Rivers.		
			No Action

Alaska Board of Fisheries Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Meeting Proposals November 18-22, 2025 Fairbanks, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
15	Establish a 2 year closure on harvest of Yukon River Fall Chum salmon.		
			No Action
16	Close the mainstem Yukon River to the use 4" or less mesh gillnets for Fall Chum salmon conservation.		
17	Allow the use of 6" or less mesh gillnets during times of salmon conservation.		
			No Action
18	Repeal the bag limit reduction and modify the open season for northern pike in Minto Flats.		
			No Action
19	Repeal the bag limit reduction and modify the open season for northern pike in Minto Flats.		
			No Action
20	Repeal the bag limit reduction for northern pike in portions of Minto Flats.		
			No Action
21	Allow a catch-and-release fishery for northern pike and modify gear in Harding Lake.		
			No Action
22	Allow a catch-and-release fishery for northern pike in Harding Lake.		
			No Action
23	Repeal special regulations for northern pike in Volkmar Lake.		
OPPOSE	3	6	Oppose for lack of population assessment after spring die off
24	Repeal designated youth fishing days for Arctic grayling in the Chena River.		
			No Action
25	Repeal registration requirement for ice houses that are not removed from the ice daily in the Tanana River Area.		
OPPOSE	2	5(2 AB)	Proposal not clear. Rules need updated
26	Repeal Arctic grayling special regulations and gear restrictions for the confluence area of the Tanana River and Shaw Creek.		
	9		
27	Increase the bag and possession limit of stocked species in Rainbow Lake.		
	9	0	
28	Define beach seine gear specifications in effect when Norton Sound-Port Clarence subsistence fisheries are closed and immediately reopened with the non-retention of specific salmon species.		

Alaska Board of Fisheries Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Meeting Proposals November 18-22, 2025 Fairbanks, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			No Action
29			Establish a seasonal harvest limit of 25 sockeye salmon for the Sinuk River subsistence fishery.
			No Action
30			Increase waters closed to subsistence fishing in the Sinuk River.
			No Action
31			Expand waters closed to subsistence fishing for salmon in the Sinuk River.
			No Action
32			Repeal the subsistence fishing schedule in the marine waters of west of Cape Nome in Subdistrict 1 of the Norton Sound District.
			No Action
33			Prohibit the retention of king salmon when subsistence fishing with a beach seine in the Pilgram River.
			No Action
34			Reduce the subsistence fishing annual limit for Pilgram River king salmon.
			No Action
35			Repeal the requirement for hook and like subsistence fishermen to follow sport fishing bag and possession limits in the northern Norton Sound area.
			No Action
36			Allow catch and release sport fishing for king salmon in the Unalakleet River drainage when the subsistence fishery is closed to the retention of kings.
			No Action
37			Close sport fishing for king salmon in the Pilgrim River.
			No Action
38			Modify hook size specifications when sport fishing for salmon in the Northwestern Management Area.
			No Action
39			Reduce the annual bag and possession limits for sheefish.
			No Action
40			Establish a subsistence sheefish permit in the Kotzebue Area.
			No Action
41			Allow the use of bow and arrow when subsistence fishing for non-salmon fish species in the Arctic-Kotzebue Area.
			No Action

Alaska Board of Fisheries Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Meeting Proposals November 18-22, 2025 Fairbanks, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
42	Close waters in the Kotzebue District adjacent to the end of the Kotzebue airport runway to subsistence and commercial fishing.		
			No Action
43	Repeal the commercial fishing season for sheefish in the Kotzebue District.		
			No Action

Adjournment: 8:15 PM

Minutes Recorded By: Paul Dudgeon_____

Minutes Approved By: __Jacob White (Vice Chair)__ __

Date: __11/3/2025_____

**Eagle Fish & Game Advisory Committee Minutes from
Monday, November 3rd, 2025 at 3:30 pm**

**Eagle Community School 168 3rd Ave. Eagle AK.
and by web/teleconference**

- I. **Call to Order:** 3:31pm
- II. **Roll Call:** Andy Bassich (chair), Don Woodruff (vice chair), Denise Becker (Secretary), Steve Robbins, Ruby Becker, **Jackie Helmer**, Chalia Selman, **Karma Ulvi**, **Ben Juneby**,(Red Absent) **Lance Kozma**(alternate), **Beth Jeffers** (alternate).
- III. **Number needed for Quorum on AC:** 5. 6 present
Introduce Fish and Game Staff Present: Kyle Campbell, (ADFG Aiden Hunter, Mike Parker,) BOF Olivia Henaayee Irwin, TCC. Gale Vick, (YRITFC, Venessa Newman, Craig Cythlook, Jasmine Vent) BSAF Amy Spareck
Introduce Guests Present: Mike McDougal, 20 year Eagle resident
Genevieve Muldoon, Eagle School Student
O’Neil Jones, Eagle Resident
Helen Gilmore, Eagle Resident
- IV. **Approval of Agenda :** Motion: Don W. 2nd Steve R. **unanimously approved**
- V. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Motion: Don W. 2nd Steve R. **unanimously approved**
- VI. **Reports**
Chair: 1. Recognition of extensive amount of conservation work, and building of coalitions regarding fisheries, in responding to crises in the river and marine environments.
2. Reminded AC of Resolutions to the BOF on raising stock status for Chinook and Mainstem Fall Chum to STOCK OF CONSERVATION CONCERN due to chronic inability of stocks to meet minimum escapement goals (mainstem Fall Chum 6 years, Mainstem Chinook 5 years)
3. AC has strong concerns for STOCK OF CONSERVATION CONCERN designation process not set in place for the BOF to implement top protection by the State for threatened Salmon Stocks. No process to establish “SET”
4. Reminded members to review Draft 40 mile Caribou Harvest Plan for next meeting discussion.
- Olivia: Updates from the Board of Fish work session where escapement goals for the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim region and Aleutian Peninsula were presented, with no immediate board action taken. The board decided to review two ACRs (5 and 8) at the March statewide meeting, and approved a 5% increase in the guideline harvest limit for western Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod fishery, with a scheduled decrease to 32.5% in 2029. The board also declined to delist the Chignick River Early Run sockeye as a stock of management concern, and several stock of

concern memos will be addressed with action plans at the upcoming regional meetings. The work session focussed on the challenges of elevating Yukon, Chinook, and Fall Chum salmon stocks to a conservation concern status due to the lack of a defined sustainable escapement threshold (SET) and unclear management responsibilities. Olivia highlighted the ambiguity in regulations and the department's inability to set an SET.

Gale : Reminded attendees of the deadline for public comments on the AYK meeting and suggested raising concerns about stock conservation at the Board of Fish meeting. The discussion concluded with a review of Board of Fish proposals to limit mesh size in the Yukon River, with concerns raised about the poor escapement for most Fall Chum stocks.

Mike: Provided updates that escapement goals were not met in the Porcupine or Shinjak rivers, while early season surveys showed promising numbers in the Tanana River.

- VII. **Public Comment:** None
VIII. **Old Business:** None

XI New Business:

- a. Review Eagle AC BOF proposals 15&16 with amended language which will close the main stem Yukon River 4-inch mesh gear fishing starting July 16th when fall chum salmon runs are projected to be below escapement goals.
 Motion to **support**: Don W. 2nd Ruby B. **unanimously supported**
 Discussion: Some concerns regarding not being able to adapt restrictions to future run sizes, overshadowed by the critical need to get fish to spawning grounds to avert extirpation
Amended language will not change the intent of the proposals and will help to align the proposal with Current management dates and procedures
- b. Review BOF proposal 17 with amended language which allows 6-inch mesh gear in specific lower Yukon River tributaries between September 1-30.
 Motion to **support**: Don W. 2nd Steve, vote **not supported** 2 supported:4 opposed
 Discussion: Concerns raised about potential overfishing of large most productive fish in those areas: concern for; Can those fish stocks bear greater harvest pressure as Yukon fishers shift more heavily to local non salmon stocks? Once depleted, it takes a long time to recover. Looking into the future, Eagle AC does not intend to take the opportunity away, but intends to work off of past local experience in regard to current Chinook salmon declines. LOSS of 7&8 year old most productive fish, once lost, productivity declines and fisheries close to subsistence. Rebuilding is a long protracted hardship to subsistence fishers.
 Request to amend 300ft parameter to 500 ft.
- c. Review amended language of Area M BOF proposals 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132 & 134-135
- #127- aims to align area M fisheries management with the broader Alaska Board Fish cycle
 Motion to **support**: Don W. 2nd Chalia S **unanimously supported**
 Discussion: Eagle AC supports better conservation management practise, and oversight in the marine life stage for coastal western alaska stocks i.e Yukon River Stocks
- #128-addresses bycatch limits in area M fisheries
 Motion to **support**: Chalia S. 2nd Don W. **unanimously supported**
 Discussion: Eagle AC supports better monitoring of vessel catches and genetic testing for stock of origin of By-Catch in Area M
- #129-modifies start date for commercial fishing in the June fishery, allowing more salmon through
 Motion to **support**: Chalia S. 2nd Don W. **unanimously supported**

Discussion: Eagle AC supports better conservation management practise, and oversight in the Marine life Stage for coastal western Alaskan stocks i.e Yukon River Stocks

Gale provided clarification on Area M fisheries timing and suggested that the group focus on conservation measures in future discussions with the Board of Fish.

#130-deferred for further clarification

#131-aims to address chum salmon bycatch issues in the Bering Sea with more stringent measures with annual cycle

Motion to **support**: Don W. 2nd Chalia S. **unanimously supported**

Discussion: Critical conservation measure

#132-written by FAC to reduce by-catch of western AK stocks and involves detailed management measures for the Area M region.

Motion to **support**: Steve R. 2nd Chalia **unanimously supported**

Discussion: **Eagle AC Strongly supported**

#134&135-presented by the Area M Seiners Association and aimed to increase salmon fishing in the area.

Motion to **support**: Don W. 2nd Steve R. **unanimously opposed**

Discussion: Need for enforcement measures for chum chucking violations.

Self reporting is not reflective of true on board catches. Poor management

strategy. Inaccurate catch cards are making **Critical science** difficult to conduct.

Lack of prior State funded genetic collection is a poor reflection of ADFG scientific analysis regarding stock of origin identification. Comments from Craig of Yukon

River Intertribal Fish Commission and personal experiences as a commercial

fisherman in Bristol Bay as to the negative impacts to the smaller local fishing fleet downstream of the Salmon migration.

d. 40 Mile Caribou Harvest Plan- discussion deferred to next meeting

XII Next Meeting Date: To be announced, aiming for first week of February.

XIII Adjourn:

Motion: Steve R. 2nd Chalia **unanimously supported**

Adjournment: 5:45 p.m.

Alaska Board of Fisheries Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Meeting Proposals November 18-22, 2025 Fairbanks, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
15	Establish a 2 year closure on harvest of Yukon River Fall Chum salmon.		
SUPPORT AS AMENDED	6	0	<p><u>With amended language which will close the main stem Yukon River 4-inch mesh gear fishing starting July 16th when fall chum salmon runs are projected to be below escapement goals.</u></p> <p>Motion to support: Don W. 2nd Ruby B. unanimously supported</p> <p>Discussion: Some concerns regarding not being able to adapt restrictions to future run sizes, overshadowed by the critical need to get fish to spawning grounds to avert extirpation</p> <p>Amended language will not change the intent of the proposals and will help to align the proposal with Current management dates and procedures</p>
16	Close the mainstem Yukon River to the use 4" or less mesh gillnets for Fall Chum salmon conservation.		
SUPPORT AS AMENDED	6	0	<p><u>With amended language which will close the main stem Yukon River 4-inch mesh gear fishing starting July 16th when fall chum salmon runs are projected to be below escapement goals.</u></p> <p>Motion to support: Don W. 2nd Ruby B. unanimously supported</p> <p>Discussion: Some concerns regarding not being able to adapt restrictions to future run sizes, overshadowed by the critical need to get fish to spawning grounds to avert extirpation</p> <p>Amended language will not change the intent of the proposals and will help to align the</p>

Alaska Board of Fisheries Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Meeting Proposals November 18-22, 2025 Fairbanks, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			proposal with Current management dates and procedures
17	Allow the use of 6” or less mesh gillnets during times of salmon conservation.		
OPPOSE	2	4	<p>Motion to support: Don W. 2nd Steve, vote not supported <u>2 supported:4 opposed</u></p> <p>Discussion: Concerns raised about potential overfishing of large most productive fish in those areas: concern for; Can those fish stocks bear greater harvest pressure as Yukon fishers shift more heavily to local non salmon stocks? Once depleted, it takes a long time to recover. Looking into the future, Eagle AC does not intend to take the opportunity away, but intends to work off of past local experience in regard to current Chinook salmon declines. LOSS of 7&8 year old most productive fish, once lost, productivity declines and fisheries close to subsistence. Rebuilding is a long protracted hardship to subsistence fishers.</p> <p>Request to amend 300ft parameter to 500 ft.</p>

Minutes Recorded By: Denise Becker

Minutes Approved By: Andy Bassich

11/3/25

Fairbanks Fish & Game Advisory Committee Special Fisheries Meeting ¹
Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025 at 5:30 pm
ADFG Conference Room (1300 College Road)

- I. **Call to Order:** 5:30PM
 Meeting for the single purpose of reviewing and commenting on AYK proposals. No other agenda.

- II. **Roll Call:** Jeff Lucas (chair), Mark Richards (vice chair), Gale Vick (Fisheries Subcommittee Chair), Virgil Umphenour, John Wisnieski, Levi Lewellyn, Gabriel Davis, Mike Kramer, Chuck Derrick, Lance Nelson
Number FAC members present: 10
Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8

- III. **Introduce Fish and Game Staff Present:** (Fairbanks Office)
 Kyle Campbell, Interior Board Support
 Art Nelson, Board Support Director
 Deanna Jallen, Yukon River Summer Season Manager
 Matt Olsen, Yukon River Fall Season Manager
 Mike Parker, Summer season assistant
 Andy Gryska, Region III Sports Fish Director
 Klaus Wuttig, Region III Sports Fish Management Coordinator

- IV. **Introduce Guests Present:**
 Andy Bassich, Eagle AC
 Micheal Peter, Fort Yukon AC
 Krystal Lapp, TCC
 Brooke McDavid, EIRAC
 Colin Warren (CAW), UAF
 Jazmyn Vent, Huslia
 Craig Chythlook, NPA
 Olivia Irwin, Board of Fish / YRDFA
 Al Barrette, Board of Game

- V. **Approval of Agenda** n/a
- VI. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** n/a
- VII. **Reports:** n/a
- VIII. **Public Comment**
- IX. **Old Business**

¹ This was a full Fairbanks AC meeting

X. **New Business**

- a. Comments on Board of Fisheries Proposals 12-43 pertaining to Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Finfish regulations – due Nov 3rd

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.meetinginfo&date=11-18-2025&meeting=fairbanks>

XI. **Set next meeting date: November 12th, 2025 at 6:00 pm**

XII. **Other**

XIII. **Adjourn**

Alaska Board of Fisheries Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Meeting Proposals November 18-22, 2025 Fairbanks, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
12	Add eel stick as a legal subsistence gear type for nonsalmon species in the Kuskokwim Area.		
SUPPORT	10	0	Supported by unanimous consent
13	Amend sport fishing season for king salmon in the upper Kuskokwim River.		
NA	TNA by unanimous consent		
14	Repeal bag and possession limits for sheefish in the Kanektok, Goodnews, and Arolik Rivers.		
NA	TNA Mark Richards motion / Jeff Lucas second / Unanimous consent		
15	Establish a 2 year closure on harvest of Yukon River Fall Chum salmon.		
SUPPORT	10	0	Mark Richards motion/ Jeff Lucas second Unanimous consent
16	Close the mainstem Yukon River to the use 4” or less mesh gillnets for Fall Chum salmon conservation.		
SUPPORT	10	0	John Wisnieski motion / Mark Richards second Unanimous consent
17	Allow the use of 6” or less mesh gillnets during times of salmon conservation. (3 rivers below Mountain Village in September)		
NA	Mark Richards motion / Virgil Umphenour second TNA by unanimous consent FAC generally concerned about 6” mesh in the Yukon during Chinook and chum rebuilding		

Alaska Board of Fisheries Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Meeting Proposals November 18-22, 2025 Fairbanks, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
18	Repeal the bag limit reduction and modify the open season for northern pike in Minto Flats.		
SUPPORT	10	0	Mark Richards motion / Chuck Derrick second
19	Repeal the bag limit reduction and modify the open season for northern pike in Minto Flats.		
SUPPORT	10	0	Mark Richards motion / Chuck Derrick second
20	Repeal the bag limit reduction for northern pike in portions of Minto Flats.		
SUPPORT	10	0	Mark Richards motion / Chuck Derrick second
21	Allow a catch-and-release fishery for northern pike and modify gear in Harding Lake.		
SUPPORT	10	0	Lance Nelson / Mark Richards
22	Allow a catch-and-release fishery for northern pike in Harding Lake.		
SUPPORT	10	0	Lance Nelson motion / Levi Lewellyn
23	Repeal special regulations for northern pike in Volkmar Lake.		
SUPPORT AS AMENDED	10	0	Lance Nelson motion / Mark Richards Amendment: (Mike Kramer) Amend to background bag limit from May 1 st to October 1 st and retain two-fish bag limit with 1 over 30 October 2 nd to April 31 st .
24	Repeal designated youth fishing days for Arctic grayling in the Chena River.		
SUPPORT	10	0	John Wisnieski motion / Mark Richards second
25	Repeal registration requirement for ice houses that are not removed from the ice daily in the Tanana River Area.		
SUPPORT	10	0	Mark Richards motion / Chuck Derrick second
26	Repeal Arctic grayling special regulations and gear restrictions for the confluence area of the Tanana River and Shaw Creek.		
SUPPORT	10	0	John Wisnieski motion / Mark Richards second
27	Increase the bag and possession limit of stocked species in Rainbow Lake.		
SUPPORT	10	0	Mark Richards motion / Levi Lewellyn
28	Define beach seine gear specifications in effect when Norton Sound-Port Clarence subsistence fisheries are closed and immediately reopened with the non-retention of specific salmon species.		
NA			Mark Richards motion / John Wisnieski second
29	Establish a seasonal harvest limit of 25 sockeye salmon for the Sinuk River subsistence fishery.		
NA			Mark Richards motion / John Wisnieski second
30	Increase waters closed to subsistence fishing in the Sinuk River.		

Alaska Board of Fisheries Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Meeting Proposals November 18-22, 2025 Fairbanks, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
NA			Mark Richards motion / John Wisnieski second
31	Expand waters closed to subsistence fishing for salmon in the Sinuk River.		
NA			Mark Richards motion / John Wisnieski second
32	Repeal the subsistence fishing schedule in the marine waters of west of Cape Nome in Subdistrict 1 of the Norton Sound District.		
NA			Mark Richards motion / John Wisnieski second
33	Prohibit the retention of king salmon when subsistence fishing with a beach seine in the Pilgram River.		
NA			Mark Richards motion / John Wisnieski second
34	Reduce the subsistence fishing annual limit for Pilgram River king salmon.		
NA			Mark Richards motion / Lance Nelson
35	Repeal the requirement for hook and like subsistence fishermen to follow sport fishing bag and possession limits in the northern Norton Sound area.		
NA			Mark Richards motion / Lance Nelson
36	Allow catch and release sport fishing for king salmon in the Unalakleet River drainage when the subsistence fishery is closed to the retention of kings.		
NA			Mark Richards motion / Lance Nelson
37	Close sport fishing for king salmon in the Pilgrim River.		
NA			Mark Richards motion / Lance Nelson
38	Modify hook size specifications when sport fishing for salmon in the Northwestern Management Area.		
NA			Mark Richards motion / Lance Nelson
39	Reduce the annual bag and possession limits for sheefish.		
NA			Mark Richards motion / Levi Lewellyn
40	Establish a subsistence sheefish permit in the Kotzebue Area.		
NA			Mark Richards motion / John Wisnieski second
41	Allow the use of bow and arrow when subsistence fishing for non-salmon fish species in the Arctic-Kotzebue Area.		
NA		1	Mark Richards motion / Levi Lewellyn One opposition over concern for spawning areas vulnerability to bow and arrow fishing
42	Close waters in the Kotzebue District adjacent to the end of the Kotzebue airport runway to subsistence and commercial fishing.		
NA			Mark Richards motion / Chuck Derrick second
43	Repeal the commercial fishing season for sheefish in the Kotzebue District.		

Alaska Board of Fisheries Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Meeting Proposals November 18-22, 2025 Fairbanks, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
SUPPORT	10		Mike Kramer motion / John Wisnieski second

FAC Member Virgil Umphenour noted that there is not a single proposal in the AYK Yukon region regarding commercial fishing because there is NO fish to catch. That says a lot about the poor health of the fishery. There is no fish to fight over any more. The whole ecosystem is upside down now.

Thanks to guests for joining us.

Adjournment: 7:37pm

Minutes Recorded By: Gale K. Vick, Chair FAC Fisheries Subcommittee

Minutes Approved By: Jeff Lucas, Chair, Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Date: 11/3/2025

STATE OF ALASKA

FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee

Date: Wednesday October 22, 2025 at 6pm

Location: UAF Chukchi Campus Room 112 And Zoom/Teleconference

I. Call to Order: 6:19 pm

II. Roll Call

No	First Name	Last Name	Present/Excused/ Unexcused
1	Lance	Kramer	Present
2	Karmen	Monigold	Present
3	Alex	Whiting	Present
4	Thomas	Baker	Excused
5	Cyrus	Harris	Excused
6	Eugene	Smith	Unexcused
7	Adeline "Aucha"	Kameroff	Unexcused
8	Michael	Kramer	Present
9	Timothy	Smith	Present
10	Hans	Hansen	Present

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 6

List of User Groups Present:

- III. **Fish and Game Staff Present:** Alex Hansen (Caribou Biologist), Christie Osburn (Area Biologist) , Sam Kirby (Regulatory Program) Olivia Magni (Wildlife Biologist), Luke Henslee (Fisheries Biologist), Brendan Scanlon (Fisheries Biologist)
- IV. **Guests Present:** Raymond Coppock, Lenny Henry, Bill Carter, Wil Wiese (SNWR), Lou Pagel
- V. **Approval of Agenda:** Unanimous – take action on BOF proposals 39-43, and BOG proposals 250, 251, 266, 271. No action on all others.
- VI. **Election:** Vacant seats and/or expired seats
 - a. 5 vacant seats - No candidates
 - b. 3 expired seats – Hans Hansen reelected to 3 year term

VII. **Reports**

Fisheries
Proposals

Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Finfish November 18-22, 2025, Fairbanks, AK Deadline for comment Nov 3rd			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
39	Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Northwestern Area. Reduce the annual bag and possession limits for sheefish...		
	0	6	Sheefish populations appear healthy and commercial fishing and dog food use is still allowed. The village of Selawik in particular uses rod and reel during open water to harvest sheefish and do not need a reduced limit. The state will need to address both dog food use and commercial fishing before reducing bag limits for other users.
40	Subsistence fishing permits. Establish a subsistence sheefish permit in the Kotzebue Area...		
	0	6	Do not need unnecessary regulations, which this would be, since it does not address a conservation concern and does not apply broadly across all Unit 23 sheefish user groups and types of harvest. If the State would like harvest data on sheefish they should carry out a harvest survey program like they did for many years with chum salmon in the region. The user group focused on in the proposal would actually be the easiest to target for harvest information by the State if they desired to have this information.
41	Lawful gear and gear specifications. Season and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Northwestern Area. Allow the use of bow and arrow when subsistence fishing for non-salmon fish species in the Arctic Kotzebue Area....		
	6	0	There is no conservation concern associated with this proposal. People should be free to harvest pike with their preferred method.
42	Waters closed to subsistence fishing and 5 AAC 03.350. Closed waters. Close waters in the Kotzebue District adjacent to the end of the Kotzebue airport runway to subsistence and commercial fishing....		
	6	0	This was a housekeeping proposal to keep the airport safer from bird strikes.
43	Fishing Seasons. Repeal the commercial fishing season on the Kotzebue District....		

	6	0	With no current data on the size of sheefish stocks, escapement, or recruitment, and with no real way to track sales (no gate like with salmon where almost 100% are sold to 1-2 buyers with fish tickets) beyond voluntary self-reporting, and with years of anecdotal evidence of people shipping out (selling) sheefish from Kotzebue to dog mushers across the State, and with a recent rapid increase of sheefish tourism (including shipping out boxes of sheefish) the committee believes that commercial fishing for sheefish should be eliminated.
--	---	---	---

Game Proposals

Southcentral Region: Game Management Units 6, 7, 8, 14C, 15 March 20-25, 2026, Kodiak, AK Deadline for comment March 6 th			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
250	Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bears in Unit 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C		
	6	0	Encourage more hunting of brown bears is a good thing.
251	Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bears in Unit 18, 22, 23, and 26A		
	6	0	Encourage more hunting of brown bears is a good thing.
266	New regulation would require ADFG to use a plastic nonmetallic sealing tag on hides and furs that require sealing. A plastic seal is fur friendly in the tanning and taxidermy process as opposed to the current steel locking tag		
	6	0	Encourage ADF&G to switch to plastic tags.
271	Proxy tags will need to be notarized by both parties before the proxy tag is issued.		
			No vote, but seems onerous, and many villages lack notaries.

a. **Chair’s report:** Grizzly bears within City limits of Kotzebue need to be addressed, with a change in rules like using artificial lights and be able to keep night hunted bears. Explore BOG proposals and a bear management plan. The State of Alaska and Kotzebue police need to rethink their approach to bears within the City. Foxes in the City limits also need to be addressed. The lack of salmon is disrupting the main food for bears in the fall, creating

more conflicts and also winter survival issues for bears.

A lot less bears observed by hunters on the upper Noatak and on the lower Noatak – lack of salmon. Quite a lot of bear traffic on the southern Baldwin Peninsula. Beavers taking over and disrupting Dolly Varden habitat is a major concern. Need more monitoring of Dolly Varden populations in the Region. Subsistence salmon fishing good early then rapidly dropped off by mid-season – mostly sheefish instead of salmon.

b. **ADF&G:**

i. **Fisheries Report** – 33 permit holders commercial fished for salmon, caught 35,000 salmon. The catch rates started out okay but rapidly dropped off by mid-season. Weather may have been part of it with lots of rain high water in the latter half of the season. Looking at Noatak and Kobuk sonar projects, along with genetic projects to understand better the 2 rivers contributions to commercial salmon catch.

ii. **Wildlife Report** – Were able to count caribou this summer, should have new population estimate by late November. Need to encourage less cow harvest. Will work on community outreach on cow harvest.

c. **National Park Service:** N/A

d. **US Fish and Wildlife Service:** No commercial hunting or fishing activities to report.

e. **Comments for upcoming meeting:**

i. AYK – Comment deadline Nov 3, 2025

ii. Alaska Pen / Aleutian Island / Chignik Finfish – comment deadline Feb 3, 2026

i. Statewide Finfish and Supplement issues – comment deadline March 2, 2026

ii. Southcentral Region – comment deadline March 6, 2026

f. **Other:**

VIII. **Public Comment:**

IX. **New Business:**

a. Who will be attending the upcoming meetings? And which one?

X. **Set next meeting date:** TBD

XI. **Other**

XII. **Adjourn:** 9:34 pm

Minutes Recorded By: 

Minutes Approved By: 

Date: 10-31-25

**Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, October 22, 2025
Mat-Su College, 8295 E. College Drive Room FSM202, Palmer and Zoom**

I. Call to Order: 7:11pm by Herb Mansavage, Chairman

II. Roll Call

First Name	Last Name	Profile
Herb	Mansavage	Chair X
Dan	Montgomery	Vice Chair Game A/E
Michelle	Heun	Secretary X
Andy	Couch	A/E
Vacant		
Dom	Nickles	X (Zoom)
Hunter	Hongslo	X
Birch	Yuknis	A/E
Danny	Lewis	A/E
Robert (Bob)	Cassell	A/E
Ed	Soto	X (Zoom)
Bruce	Privett	X
Steve	Bartelli	X
Vacant		
Pete	Imhof	X
Austin	Manelick	Alternate A/E
Dewey	Bitler	Alternate A/E

*Present: **X**

*Members Absent (Excused): **A/E**

*Members Absent (Unexcused): **A/UE**

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8 members

List of User Groups Present: Hunting guide, sport hunter, subsistence hunter, fishing guide, commercial fishing, sport fishing, subsistence fishing, trapping, wildlife photographer, wildlife viewing, conservationist

III. Fish and Game Staff Present:
Leila Williams

IV. Guests Present:
Neil DeWitt
Corey Berg

V. Approval of Agenda
Chair Mansavage asked for motion to amend the agenda under New Business to add consideration of the Agenda Change Request (ACR) from the Fairbanks Advisory Committee to the Alaska Board of Game (BOG) on opening a resident general sheep season in Unit 19C in 2026. Mr. Bartelli moved and Mr. Imhof second. Agenda as amended was approved.
After a brief discussion a motion as amended made by Mr. Hongslo and second by Mr. Imhof.

VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
Motion approved without objection at previous meeting allowed for committee reviewed and approved meeting minutes of October 8, 2025, be sent electronic via email to members and Board Support. (Copy of meeting minutes can be viewed in secretary's book upon request.)

VII. Reports

a. Chair's report

- Ms. Heun announced a Game Management Unit 2 Wolf Season Discussion, Monday, October 27, 6pm-8pm, Klawock (Microsoft Teams meeting available).
- Ms. Heun announced the Mat Su Borough Assembly Resolution (RS) 25-072 approving Fishery Management and Fishery Protection (as amended) for 2026 State Legislative Priorities.
- Chair Mansavage discussed six important Board of Fisheries (BOF) proposals, but not too much on king salmon mostly chum. He went through and looked what was there and didn't see a reason to send anyone to the BOF meeting in Fairbanks in November. They are out of our area. He also didn't think the AC would need to meet in November.
He further stated the Bristol Bay Finfish would be next and can be done in December. The AC could potentially look at Units 1-5 Southeast (SE) Region BOG proposals.
Majority member discussion didn't see need for it. Chair stated there may be

some goat and deer, but it would probably be a small group of proposals. SE comment deadline is Jan 9, 2026. Bristol Bay Finfish comment deadline is December 29, 2025.

Chair Mansavage also announced the AC now has two vacancies (Mr. Hoffman resigned). He also said a former member, Mr. DeWitt, would like to return. The AC needs a vice-chair for fish and the AC make a motion to move officer elections and alternates to slots in December. Last officer elections were done is 2023.

b. ADF&G

- Ms. Williams stated the proposal books went out. Everyone should have received them all unless you were in SE or Southcentral Region (BOG starts at Proposal 70). Let Leila know if you want a copy. Southcentral has 191 proposals. Due to the typhoon, the Egan Center is not available for the BOF meetings in October and the work session and meetings have been moved to the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center in Anchorage.

c. Others

VIII. Public Comment

- None

IX. Old Business

- None

X. New Business

- a. Discussion on ACR 19C sheep. In 2026/27 there will be a draw, concessions in 2028.

Chair Mansavage thinks ACR verbiage is an emergency, but not necessarily an emergency, but it's possibly a violation of state constitution. There is zero warrant to go to a draw from the number of draw harvests from residents. I am in full support.

Mr. Privett: Who asked who drafted/reason? Fairbanks AC, and no biological concern not being open to harvest ticket for residents. No reason to close it this year (Proposal 90).

Mr. Imhof: Not hashed out at the working group. A 10 percent allocation? There was a stalemate at that.

Mr. Bartelli: The whole thrust of the ACR is the non-resident guided hunts who took all the sheep and now we have a concern. Their solution is a harvest permit for residents.

Chair Mansavage: The plan in place to turn into a concession. Still unclear how that will be done. Will go back to normal in three years to take care of that gap.

Mr. Privett: Resident harvest tickets in 19C.

Mr. Hongslo: At least there will be a season.

Chair Mansavage: Will have to make draw permits this season.

Ms. Williams (staff): ACR comments are due November. 1. Comments are due January 16, 2026.

Chair: Those who drew tags would get washed.

Question was called. Unanimous support for ACR, 8-0.

- b. Review of Board of Fisheries Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Finfish Proposals
 - o Standing motions and second on proposals will be done by Mr. Bartelli and Mr. Imhof.

Alaska Board of Fisheries Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Finfish Region Meeting

November 18-November 22, 2025 | Fairbanks, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<p><i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i></p>			
<p><i>Yukon River Subsistence Fisheries</i></p>			
15	Place a 2-year closure on harvest of Yukon River Fall Chum salmon, as follows		
Support	8	0	<p>PRO: Not familiar with area but almost immediately opposed. No paired conservation. This is in-river restrictions. No participation from commercial side.</p> <p>PRO: I don't believe any chum commercial fishery at all. Paired restrictions with commercial. Severity of how bad the chum run is right now. Only want to look at ones we can support at constituents can support. I see visual check lists as a larger AC it's worth supporting.</p> <p>PRO: Echo what previous member said. It's difficult to judge what people are doing and thinking that far north. What struck me the number of constituents coordination that grabbed a large group this is a community to make change to save a fishery.</p> <p>PRO: We are just advisory, but to the other member's point they have a lot of people together. Not sure how much it carries.</p> <p>PRO: I think there is some value.</p> <p>PRO: It's only for two years.</p>

Alaska Board of Fisheries Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Finfish Region Meeting

November 18-November 22, 2025 | Fairbanks, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			<p>PRO: There is no doubt thought went into this. Chum is a five-year fish. Haven't met goals for five years. I would like to see numbers.</p> <p>PRO: The two years would be back up in cycle.</p> <p>PRO: Any closure would help, but where is the long-term benefit.</p> <p>PRO: #7 low numbers returning fish every fish tagged counts.</p>
16	Close the mainstem Yukon River to the use 4" or less mesh gillnets for Fall Chum salmon conservation, as follows		
Support	8	0	<p>PRO: Subsistence coordinated with same individuals from Proposal 15.</p> <p>PRO: Four inch is small.</p> <p>PRO: How is this even feasible? You would have to have markers.</p> <p>PRO: All salmon markers are permanent. They will refer to markers at certain locations up the river.</p> <p>PRO: Closure is 1-5 district. Now killing larger chums?</p>
19	Repeal the bag limit reduction and modify the open season for northern pike in Minto Flats, as follows		
Support	8	0	<p>PRO: I think it's easy to support to our constituents. Large pike to fish another month to fish the cold water for big pike.</p> <p>PRO: Going to stay with same mantra.</p> <p>PRO: This whole pike thing to extend the season. The department is spending money on this and should be focusing on salmon. Big Lake should be a slot limit.</p> <p>PRO: To clarify what I know the department will poison the lake if it's connected to anadromous lake. In years past seen salmon or salmon fry in it. If not connected, they do not target those lakes.</p> <p>PRO: Anderson did get poisoned. This whole pike not being native to the valley, but there is a photo of 1920 of someone who had one.</p>
24	Repeal designated youth fishing days for Arctic grayling in the Chena River, as follows		
No Action			-Outside of the regular season?

Alaska Board of Fisheries Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Finfish Region Meeting

November 18-November 22, 2025 | Fairbanks, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			-The two things is there a biological reason why? If there is a cultural reason like the community? There be some reasons we aren't aware and whether we should be commenting on this. -Concur. -Unintended consequence and now it's not a good idea and didn't work out. -One person's story. -Leaning toward not taking it up. -Agree. AC agreed not to take this proposal up and took no action.
<i>Kotzebue Commercial Fisheries</i>			
43	Repeal the commercial fishing season for sheefish in the Kotzebue District, as follows		
No Action			-May not have a lot of support from around the state. It's against the lack of stock assessment oversight. -We complain a lot of lack of stock assessment. Declining returns determining whether you have a viable season then if not getting much you'll quit. If you are catching fish there are fish present. -That's the best stock assessment such as the tanner crab harvest. Let the people go fishing and if there is nothing there, they can't afford to do it. If there were that low number of fish to be stock of concern that's when it stops. They'll shut themselves down when no fish are caught. Two thirds (2/3) people in state buy the fish others get to fish. Never heard of commercial fishery for sheefish. -An allocative issue. We don't know what the commercial issue is there. -Might not have the money. -Without knowing the fishery, I am not comfortable voting in favor. If more of local fishery then I wouldn't want to take part in that. -Proposal 40 looks at a different perspective. A lot of things going on here; subsistence, commercial, permit. We don't know what the stock is doing and there is a significant lack of food source such as

Alaska Board of Fisheries Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Finfish Region Meeting

November 18-November 22, 2025 | Fairbanks, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			caribou and salmon there is an increased focused on white fish rather than support or oppose, we can approach a concern on the increased pressure on the fishery. If we can't do that, I am not comfortable commenting on it. -Concur with previous comment. AC agreed not to take this proposal up and took no action.

Other Fish & Game Business as Needed

- XI. Select representative(s) for board meeting
 - o Mat Valley AC will not send anyone to the Board of Fisheries meeting in Fairbanks on November 18-25, 2025.

- XII. Set next meeting date: Tentatively December after Chair Mansavage has a chance to get input on what proposals should be taken up. He will send an email out to members.

- XIII. Other

- XIV. Adjourn 8:01 pm

- XV. Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: Michelle Heun, Secretary
 Minutes Approved By: Herb Mansavage, Chairman
 Date: November 3, 2025

NNSAC

10/22/2025

- I. Call to Order- 1:51 pm (technical difficulties)
- II. Roll Call
 - a. Charlie Lean- Present
 - b. Brandon Ahmasuk- Present, left meeting at 4:04 pm
 - c. Jacob Mannix- Present
 - d. Davis Lincoln- Present
 - e. Tom Gray- Present
 - f. Louis Stang- Present
 - g. Pat Knodel- Present
 - h. Kevin Knowlton- Present, left meeting at 3:00 pm
 - i. Jack Fagerstrom- Present after roll call, unsure of time, left meeting at 3:55 pm.
 - j. Alfred Weyiounna- Present
 - k. Paul Nagaruk- Present, elected after roll call
 - l. Andrew McCann- Absent
 - m. Wales- Absent
 - n. Brevig Mission- Absent
 - o. Teller- Absent
- III. 9 are present for roll call, quorum established
- IV. List of User Groups Present
 - a. Fish and Game Staff Present
 - i. Sara Henslee- Wildlife
 - ii. Alicia Carson- Wildlife
 - iii. Deb Lawton- Education and Outreach Coordinator- Kotz
 - iv. Kevin Clark- Comm Fish
 - v. Trooper Tyler Thornal- AWT
 - vi. Luke Henslee- Comm Fish
 - vii. Sam Kirby- Boards Support
 - viii. Brendan Scanlon- Sport Fish
 - ix. Brynn Parr- Wildlife
 - b. Guests Present
 - i. Nikki Braum- Nome
 - ii. Penny Olanna- Shishmaref/ Nome
 - iii. Dawn Wehde- NSEDC
 - iv. John Wade- NSEDC

- v. Austin Ahmasuk
- V. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Motion to approve Pat Knodel, 2nd Brandon Ahmasuk
 - b. Motion Passes, hearing no opposition
- VI. Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes
 - a. No action, based on no quorum for March 25 meeting
- VII. Elections
 - a. Nome Seats up for election
 - i. Charlie Lean- self nominate
 - ii. Kevin Knowlton- self nominate
 - iii. Pat Knodel- self nominate
 - iv. Louis Stang- self nominate
 - b. Elim Seat
 - i. Paul Nagruk
 - c. Wales Seat
 - i. None present- remains vacant
 - d. Teller Seat-
 - i. None present- remains vacant
 - e. White Mountain Seat
 - i. Davis Lincoln
 - f. Golovin Seat
 - i. None Present- remains vacant
 - g. Undesignated Seats
 - i. Brandon Ahmasuk- self nominate
 - ii. Tom Gray- self nominate
- VIII. Unanimous Support for all seats
 - a. Charlie Lean- Nome
 - b. Kevin Knowlton- Nome
 - c. Pat Knodel- Nome
 - d. Louis Stang- Nome
 - e. Paul Nagruk- Elim
 - f. Wales- Vacant
 - g. Teller- Vacant
 - h. Davis Lincoln- White Mountain
 - i. Golovin- Jack Fagerstrom
 - j. Brandon Ahmasuk- Undesignated
 - k. Tom Gray- Undesignated
 - l. Alternate Seats Elected

- i. Penny Olanna- Nome
 - ii. Nikki Braum- Nome
- IX. Board Seats
 - a. Chair- Charlie Lean nominated by Pat Knodel, 2nd by Tom Gray
 - i. Unanimous, None Opposed
 - b. Vice Chair- Brandon Ahmasuk nominated by Paul Nagruk, 2nd Pat Knodel
 - i. Unanimous, none opposed
- X. **Arctic/ Yukon/ Kuskokwim Finfish Proposals**
 - a. Kevin Clark F&G- No official state position finalized as of yet.
 - b. Chair recommends that the board take no action on Proposals number 12, 24, 26, and 27.
 - i. No discussion, no action taken on 12, 24, 26, and 27.
 - c. Proposal 28- defining beach seine gear specifications.**
 - i. Discussion- Kevin Clark F&G: there is no defined gear for beach seines in Norton Sound, you could be using an 8.5” stretch mesh gillnet that’s 300 feet long as a beach seine. The language we used as the department is language that’s used in other areas.
 - ii. Clarification on drift gillnetting: drift gillnetting is a different technique which would not be covered by this regulation because in beach seining the net is deployed and returned from the beach.
 - iii. Jacob Mannix- This seems like there is a conservation element to the proposal as it could allow for the return of fish, like king salmon, alive to the water.
 - iv. Kevin Knowlton- Point of Order to make a motion to approve.
 - v. Motion to approve Jacob Mannix, 2nd by Brandon Ahmasuk.
 - vi. Charlie Lean, Kevin Knowlton, Tom Gray, Brandon Ahmasuk, and Jack Fagerstrom all brought up concerns about this regulation change placing a significant burden on subsistence users who may have to purchase new nets. The Merbok storm wiped out a lot of gear in some communities and residents just replaced nets, and this regulation may force them to replace them again. Kevin Knowlton said some residents use marginally larger nets, like 4-4.5” and that this regulation change seems more like a house keeping proposal rather than an actual conservation measure and emphasized again that subsistence users will bare the burden of the change.
 - vii. Brandon Ahmasuk asked whether there would be outreach and education on the change. Kevin Clark responded that during the

annual trips to sign people up for permits they could do some education and the change would also be announced on the radio during opening and closure announcements.

- viii. Tom Gray and Paul Nagruk also brought up the fact that many residents beach seine for other species and that the requirement to use a smaller net may result in other species of smaller fish getting caught in a smaller net and gilled.
- ix. Charlie Lean and Jacob Mannix brought up the conservation aspect of the proposal and that the conservation concerns for King Salmon are real and that this proposal could help return live kings caught in a beach seine, to the water. Nikki Braum also mentioned that some use of gillnets as a beach seine does happen but to what extent is difficult to say, and that this regulation may make more sense targeted in specific drainages.
- x. Kevin Knowlton: Also brought up that as an alternative, the department can reopen a fishery and, in the order to reopen, limit the mesh size in that new reopening rather than create a blanket regulation.
- xi. Pat Knodel calls the questions
- xii. **Proposal 28, Motion fails, 4 in favor, 9 opposed.**

d. Proposal 29- Establish a harvest limit of 25 sockeye salmon annually per permit. Tom Gray motions to approve, Pat Knodel 2nds.

- i. Discussion:
- ii. Members Tom Gray and Brandon Ahmasuk discussed the recent poor returns and that it wouldn't take much fishing pressure to kill the run.
- iii. Nikki Braum: Is there a good idea of escapement and harvestable surplus? Do we know how hard that river is getting hit?
- iv. Kevin Clark F&G: It's a small stock, we have reached that goal. There is a harvestable surplus, it's a moving goal based on the escapement goal and what's left over.
- v. Austin Ahmasuk: I think that the limit should be lower. I believe there is a larger issue in all of the streams west of Nome. There's nothing in Penny, nothing in Cripple, nothing in Sinuk. I grew up on Sinuk, this is the only year I can remember that the Sinuk had no fish in it. There has not been enough action or conservation measures. This limit should be 20.
- vi. Pat Knodel calls the question

- vii. **Proposal 29 Unanimous Support, motion carries**

- e. **Proposal 30- waters closed to subsistence fishing on Sinuk River. Tabled.**
- f. Discussion on whether members should abstain from votes if they don't fish on the specific river being fished. Paul Nagaruk brought up several concerns.
- g. **Proposal 31- expand waters closed to subsistence fishing on Sinuk River.**
Motion to approve by Jacob Mannix, 2nd Pat Knodel.
 - i. Discussion
 - ii. AC members had discussed this proposal at length in a previous meeting, citing safety concerns over net placement.
 - iii. **Proposal 31, unanimous support, motion carries.**
- h. **Proposal 32- Change the subsistence fishing schedule in marine waters to 7 days a week. Motion to approve, Jacob Mannix, 2nd Brandon Ahmasuk.**
 - i. Discussion- Austin Ahmasuk: Clarification on whether this would liberalize the subsistence fishery west of Cape Nome. What actually limits the subsistence users west of Cape Nome is the lack of fish, not the schedule. There were dramatic changes this season in particular with rivers west of Cape Nome.
 - ii. Nikki Braem: The intent of the proposal isn't to allow more fish to be caught, it's to limit the struggle with the weather. It seems like there isn't a ton of effort in marine waters right now. The primary intent is to be able to fish when the weather is good.
 - iii. Additional discussion on weather and fishing effort and whether this would increase harvest and effort.
 - iv. Jacob Mannix- share the concerns that Austin has and I am concerned about salmon returns in the area and liberalizing opportunity after several years of low returns.
 - v. Brandon Ahmasuk- shares conservation concerns. Very low chum returns west of Cape Nome make it difficult to support liberalization of opportunity.
 - vi. Charlie Lean- Brought up concerns about Tier II and discussed the history of the regional fisheries and past restrictions. When there were low chum salmon returns in the past we started to see an increase in sockeye in the pilgrim which removed some pressure from chums. If we put this into place, and we see reduction in the sockeye run it may push effort towards marine waters and increase harvest.

- vii. Nikki Braem: It might be worth looking at regulations targeting west of Cape Nome in the next board cycle.
- viii. Tom Gray calls the question
- ix. **Proposal 32, motion fails.**
- i. **Proposal 33, King Salmon on the Pilgrim River. Prohibit retention of kings when fishing with a beach seine. Motion to approve, Jacob Mannix, 2nd Pat Knodel.**
 - i. Discussion: Austin Ahmasuk- Echoed concerns that the King Salmon were severely depleted and nearing extinction. What other options are there aside from piece meal proposals.
 - ii. Charlie Lean- there's a working group that talks about this larger issue every week.
 - iii. **Proposal 33, unanimous support, motion carries.**
- j. **Proposal 34, reduces the annual limit for King salmon on Pilgrim to one annually. Tom Gray motions to approve, 2nd Pat Knodel.**
 - i. Discussion: None
 - ii. **Proposal 34, motion carries, unanimous support.**
- k. **Proposal 35, repeals the requirement for hook and line subsistence fishermen to follow sport fishing bag and possession limits in the northern Norton Sound area. Motion to approve, Jacob Mannix, 2nd Tom Gray.**
 - i. Discussion: Nikki Braem- if I am subsistence fishing with a rod and reel, under a subsistence permit, I have to abide by the sport fish regulations.
 - ii. Kevin Clark F&G: We have closed waters in District 1 because we're on the road system, this is to protect salmon that are easily accessible on the road system. When rod and reel was first allowed as subsistence gear they were not required to follow means and methods or bag limits of sport fishing, they were restricted to fishing in areas only in areas open to subsistence fishing. When the board looked at this issue again, they rejected a department generated proposal and aligned rod and reel bag limits for subsistence and sport fishing.
 - iii. Nikki Braem- Could this proposal be modified to only be applicable to existing subsistence zones?
 - iv. Kevin Clark, Nikki Braem discussed situations where there is a line where the sport and subsistence zones meet and users may potentially cross from subsistence to sport fishing zones.

- v. Trooper Thornal- there is discretion in these matters. I would take into consideration what area you are in, if you're in an area where you can use a net and catch a higher limit but you're using a rod and reel, I would consider the bag limit for what permit you're fishing under.
 - vi. Charlie Lean- when a lot of these regulations were put into place and these lines were drawn they were based on lower limits of chum spawning areas.
 - vii. Clarification on the writing of the proposal. The proposer would modify the proposal to be limited to subsistence zones in flowing waters that drain into Northern Norton Sound from Cape Prince of Wales to Bald Point only and only in subdistrict 1.
 - viii. **Proposal 35, take no action.**
- l. **Proposal 36, Allow catch and release catch of king salmon in subdistricts 5 and 6 and the Unalakleet River. Motion to support, Jacob Mannix, 2nd**
- i. Discussion: Charlie Lean- this is catch and release fishing for salmon when they are on or near the spawning grounds. There is mortality involved in catch and release
 - ii. Tom Gray- Brought up concerns about fish guiding businesses and economics but there are ways to keep in business and still go fishing. Brought up additional concerns about local catch and release fishing as well.
 - iii. Kevin Clark F&G and Tom Gray discussed additional concerns about targeting specific species.
 - iv. Jacob Mannix- shares concerns about mortality of salmon on their spawning grounds when escapements are low. Recognize that this proposal is tied to subsistence openers and we are not seeing those happen but it's still a potential liberalization.
 - v. Brendan Scanlon- The mortality of chinook salmon for catch and release can be as low as 5% and the radio telemetry suggests that Kings don't spawn in the area that this lodge is.
 - vi. **Proposal 36, motion fails.**
- m. **Proposal 37, close sport fishing on the Pilgrim River to King Salmon. Tom Gray motions to support, 2nd by Pat Knodel.**
- i. Discussion:
 - ii. **Proposal 37, unanimous support, motion carries.**

- n. **Proposal 38, Modify hook size specifications for salmon in the Northwest Management Area to allow for 19/32 or a 2/0 hook. Motion to support, Jacob Mannix, 2nd Pat Knodel.**
 - i. Discussion: Brendan Scanlon F&G: this is a statewide regulation to combat snagging.
 - ii. Tom Gray: subsistence does not allow snagging? No
 - iii. Brendan Scanlon: Snagging is legal in saltwater with any size hooks, not fresh.
 - iv. Jacob Mannix- I'm inclined to not support this proposal as it doesn't seem necessary.
 - v. **Proposal 38, Motion fails.**
- o. **No action on remaining proposals.**
- XI. Representative for the Board of Fish Meeting
 - a. Motion to send Charlie Lean, 2nd by Pat Knodel.
 - b. **Motion carries for Charlie Lean to attend Board of Fish meeting in November.**
- XII. Chair Discussion on Area M Fishery and Upcoming Meetings
 - a. Recent genetic studies show that the Area M June fishery is largely made up of salmon that are not spawning in Area M rivers. There are multiple proposals to change the fishery including gear restrictions on net length and reducing net depth, reducing fishing time by having closure windows and opener windows. There are a lot of proposals on this fishery that we should meet on again and discuss. Additional discussion on proposal deadlines and meetings.
 - b. Paul Nagruk- I am in support of fish hatcheries, we had a coho hatchery once and it brought our numbers up and it could do that again.
- XIII. Wildlife Reports
 - a. Sara Henslee F&G- Proposal deadline for our region is May 1st. November 1st through December 15th for permit applications. Upcoming surveys:
 - i. 22B West for bull/ cow ratios and population abundance this fall and spring
 - ii. Kuzitrin is trending relatively high for harvest, and may be turning into a 2-day hunt.
 - iii. RM843 winter hunt will be 15 antlered bulls.
 - iv. Highest twinning rates in the state. 78% of collared animals.
 - v. Browse removal rates around 10-25%. Low consumption.
 - vi. Very productive population, high predation by brown bears. Abundance surveys in B and C should show an increase.

- vii. Should have numbers on Western Arctic Caribou herd by the working group meeting time.
 - b. Jacob Mannix gave recap of Moose Subcommittee Meeting and asks for support to send the letter to F&G. Letter Attached to minutes.**
 - i. Motion to support sending the letter by Charlie Lean, 2nd by Pat Knodel.
 - ii. **Motion carries to send letter.**
 - iii. Tentative meeting date for Moose Subcommittee meeting, December or January.
 - iv. Tom Gray- brought up concerns about not losing track of the moose subcommittee goals to address short seasons and making sure we have proposals ready by May 1st. Davis Lincoln agreed. Jacob Mannix said that draft proposals can be ready before the next moose subcommittee meeting.
 - c. Caribou working group discussion. There are several potential development projects that will overlay with the WACH, including potential oil development, communication projects. Working group members are weighing in on mitigation discussions.
 - i. Tom Gray and Charlie discussed prior working group bag limit that was proposed to the Board of Game and how it was changed to 15 by the board due to input from other users, primarily on the North Slope and Anaktuvuk Pass.
- XIV. Final comments.
 - a. None.
- XV. Meeting Adjourned at 5:11.

Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee
Tuesday, October 7th at 11:00am
Zoom

I. Call to Order

Chair Jacob Ivanoff called the meeting to order at 11:24 am.

II. Roll Call (7 quorum)

First Name	Community	Present/ Excused/ Unexcused
Jacob Ivanoff	Unalakleet	Present
Renae Ivanoff	Unalakleet	Present
Kelsi Ivanoff	Unalakleet	Present
Wes Jones	Unalakleet	Present
Gary Eckenweller	Unalakleet	Present
Perry Burress	Unalakleet	Unexcused
Morris Nassuk	Koyuk	Present
Randy Takak	Shaktoolik	Excused
Matilda Hardy	Shaktoolik	Unexcused
George Flynn	Stebbins	Unexcused
Dominic Richardson	St. Michael	Present
Johnny Richardson	Undesignated, St. Michael	Present
Shyler Johnson	Alternate, Unalakleet	Excused
Vacant	Stebbins	
Vacant	St. Michael	
Vacant	Koyuk	

III. Fish and Game Staff Present

Sara Henslee, Sam Kirby, Kevin Clark, Luke Henslee, Patrick Landback, Jenefer Bell, Cody Watkins

IV. Guests Present

Elliot Nassuk, Mitchell Wisniewski

V. Approval of Agenda

Morris Nassuk made a motion, seconded by Wes Jones to approve the agenda with the ability to amend as needed. There was no opposition.

VI. Elections:

- a. 2 seats from Koyuk – Morris Nassuk, Elliot Nassuk
- b. 1 seat from Unalakleet – Wes Jones

- c. 1 seat from Shaktoolik – open
- d. 1 seat from St. Michael – Johnny Richardson
- e. 1 seat from Stebbins – Morris Nashoanak
- f. 1 Undesignated seat – Shyler Johnson
- g. 1 Alternate seat – Gage Ivanoff

Jacob Ivanoff nominated Morris Nassuk and Wes Jones to retain their Koyuk and Unalakleet seats, respectively. Renae nominated Johnny Richardson to be resealed in the St Michael seat. Wes Jones nominated Shyler Johnson to the undesignated seat. Morris Nashoanak was recommended and nominated by the tri-organizations for the Stebbins seat. Kelsi Ivanoff nominated Gage Ivanoff for the alternate seat.

Kelsi Ivanoff moved, seconded by Renae Ivanoff to approve nominations as a block and the election of members. The question was called. There was no opposition.

Johnny Richardson moved, seconded by Renae Ivanoff to approve the nomination of Gage Ivanoff to the alternate seat. The question was called. There was no opposition.

VII. Elections: Chair, Vice chair, Secretary

Morris Nassuk moved, seconded by Wes Jones for Jacob Ivanoff, Morris Nassuk, and Renae Ivanoff to retain their seats as Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary, respectively. The question was called. There was no opposition.

VIII. New Business

- a. Alaska Board of Fisheries – Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Finfish
Refer to Table below for discussions on the following proposals – 28, 33, 34, 36, 37, and 38.

Kelsi Ivanoff moved, seconded by Wes Jones to support proposal 28. The question was called. Motion passed 8 – 0.

Kelsi Ivanoff moved, seconded by Johnny Richardson to support proposal 33, 34, and 37 as a block. The question was called. Motion passed 8 – 0.

Kelsi Ivanoff moved, seconded by Morris Nassuk to support proposal 36. The question was called. Motion failed 3 – 2 – 3.

Kelsi Ivanoff moved, seconded by Renae Ivanoff to take no action on proposal 29, 30, 31, 32, 35 and 38. The question was called. Motion passed 8 -0.

- b. Alaska Board of Fisheries – Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Island/Chignik Finfish
Refer to Table below for the following discussions on the following proposals – 132, 147, and 152.

Wes Jones moved, seconded by Kelsi Ivanoff to support proposal 132, 147, and 152 as a block. The question was called. Motion passed 8 – 0.

- c. Alaska Board of Game – Southcentral Region
Refer to Table below for the following discussions on proposal 251.

Rena Ivanoff moved, seconded by Morris Nassuk to support proposal 251. The question was called. Motion passed 8 – 0.

IX. Reports

- a. Chair’s report: Overview of the Statewide BOF meeting in March
On behalf of Chair Jacob Ivanoff, Wes Jones gave an update on the Norton Sound crab related proposals submitted before the Board of Fisheries and noted that all proposals failed.
- b. ADF&G
 - i. Fisheries Report
Kevin Clark summarized the Norton Sound-Port Clarence salmon season and commercial crab fisheries. There were questions and discussion on sustainable escapement goals for Shaktoolik River and the sport fishery related project on egg collecting activities occurring in the Unalakleet River drainage.
 - ii. Wildlife Report
Sara Henslee provided an update on the RM841 hunt, reporting 63 moose being harvested in game management unit 22A. She also gave a recap on the moose survey that took place along the Unalakleet River drainage during the spring of 2024, reporting a moose population estimate of 972 noting an average recruitment. This estimate is an increase from the 2021 survey of 767 moose. It was brought to the Department’s attention that there was a possibility that local hunters were hunting unknowingly or knowingly hunting in the adjacent game management unit with potential reporting issues.
- c. Jen Bell’s Sonar Project on the Unalakleet River
Jennefer Bell gave a summary of ADF&G’s objective to continue a long-term salmon monitoring program on the Unalakleet River drainage to establish the necessary information for drainage wide salmon escapement. ADF&G is seeking funds to purchase the necessary equipment to operate a sonar project in supplement of the Unalakleet River Weir as it is no longer operational. She has requested support from the Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee to provide a letter of support for outside entity funding.

Renae Ivanoff made a motion, seconded by Wes Jones for the Southern Norton Sound Advisory committee to provide a letter of support for the purchase of necessary equipment to operate a sonar project on the Unalakleet River. The question was called. There was no opposition.

- d. Comments for upcoming meetings
 - i. Work Session – comment deadline Oct 13, 2025
 - ii. AYK – comment deadline Nov 3, 2025
 - iii. Alaska Peninsula / Aleutian Island / Chignik Finfish – comment deadline Feb 3, 2026

- X. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

- XI. Select representative(s) for board meeting

Kelsi Ivanoff moved, seconded by Morris Nassuk for Jacob Ivanoff to attend the Board of Fisheries meeting occurring in November 18 – 22, 2025. The question was called. There was no opposition.

- XII. Set next meeting date

The next meeting date is anticipated April 2026.

- XIII. Adjournment

Kelsi Ivanoff moved, seconded by Morris Nassuk to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:03 pm.

Minutes Recorded By: Renae Ivanoff

Minutes Approved By: Jacob Ivanoff

Date: 10/22/2025



Renae Ivanoff

Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Finfish November 18-22, 2025, Fairbanks, AK Deadline for comment Nov 3rd			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
28	Lawful gear and gear specifications. Define beach seine gear specifications in effect when Norton Sound Port Clarence subsistence fisheries are closed and immediately reopened with the non-retention of specific salmon species...		
	8	0	There was some concern from a couple committee members that these lawful gear and gear specifications for defining beach seine gear will affect subsistence users that have limited access to gear type resources if this regulation were to pass.
29	Subsistence fishing permit; annual limits for salmon. Establish a seasonal harvest limit of 25 sockeye salmon for the Sinuk River subsistence fishery...		
No Action			
30	Waters closed to subsistence fishing. Increase water closed to subsistence fishing in the Sinuk River...		
No action			
31	Waters closed to subsistence fishing. Expand water closed to subsistence fishing for salmon in the Sinuk River...		
No Action			
32	Fishing season and periods. Repeal the subsistence fishing schedule in the marine water of west of Cape Nome in Subdistrict 1 of the Norton Sound District...		
No action			
33	Limitation of subsistence fishing gear. Prohibit the retention of king salmon when subsistence fishing with beach seine in the Pilgrim River....		
	8	0	The Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee would like to support proposals that the Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee has endorsed to support the long-term sustainability of such a resource.

Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Finfish November 18-22, 2025, Fairbanks, AK Deadline for comment Nov 3rd			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
34	Subsistence fishing permit; annual limits for salmon. Reduce the subsistence fishing annual limit for the Pilgrim River king salmon...		
	8	0	The Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee would like to support proposals that the Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee has endorsed to support the long-term sustainability of such a resource.
35	Limitations on subsistence fishing gear. Repeal the requirement for hook and line subsistence fishermen to follow sport fishing bag and possession limits in the northern Norton Sound area....		
No action			
36	Subdistricts 5 and 6 of Norton Sound District and the Unalakleet River King Salmon Management Plan. Allow catch and release sport fishing for king salmon in the Unalakleet River drainage when the subsistence fishery is closed to the retention of kings...		
3 Abstained	2	3	There were two committee members that were in support of allowing catch and release sport fishing for king salmon in the Unalakleet River drainage, three committee members that abstained, and three committee members that were opposed to protect the long-term sustainability of such a vital resource that is an already depressed state not only in Norton Sound, but the Arctic Yukon Kuskokwim as a whole. There was discussion on the King salmon management plan, effective regulatory date of actions, and clarifying regulatory language.
37	Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Northern Area. Close sport fishing for kings salmon in the Pilgrim River....		
	8	0	The Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee would like to support proposals that the Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee has endorsed to support the long-term sustainability of such a resource.
38	Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish. Modify hook size specifications when sport fishing for salmon in the Northwestern Management Area....		
No action			

Alaska Peninsula / Aleutian Islands / Bering Sea and Chignik Pacific Cod February 18-24, 2026, Anchorage, AK Deadline for comment Feb 3rd			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
132	South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan. Amend the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to reduce commercial fishing time for purse seine and drift gillnet gear...		
	8	0	The Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee would like to support proposals that have the highest chance of success with a focused approach, clear and compelling language, and a well-defined plan with proof of feasibility and the SNSAC believes that this proposal exemplifies that.
147	Gillnet specifications and operations. Reduce maximum gillnet depth to 70 meshes...		
	8	0	The Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee would like to support proposals that have the highest chance of success with a focused approach, clear and compelling language, and a well-defined plan with proof of feasibility and the SNSAC believes that this proposal exemplifies that.
152	Seine specifications and operations. Amend the seine specification to reduce the allowable size gear...		
	8	0	The Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee would like to support proposals that have the highest chance of success with a focused approach, clear and compelling language, and a well-defined plan with proof of feasibility and the SNSAC believes that this proposal exemplifies that.

Southcentral Region: Game Management Units 6, 7, 8, 14C, 15 March 20-25, 2026, Kodiak, AK Deadline for comment March 6 th			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
251	Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bears in Unit 18, 22, 23, and 26A		
	8	0	Beneficial for resident bear hunters in Unit 22 to reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions as brown bear harvest rates are low and well within the sustainable yield limits and have been exempt in Unit 22 for over 20 years.

Yukon Flats Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 30th, 2025 at 6:30 pm

web/teleconference only

Join the meeting online: <https://bit.ly/yukonflatsACoact30>

Dial in: (669) 444-9171 or (888) 475-4499 Toll-Free

Meeting ID: 824 8314 9927

Passcode: 205680

- I. **Call to Order:** Walter Peter called the meeting to order at 6:54PM
 - a. Bruce Thomas Seconded
- II. **In Attendance:**
Walter Peter (chair), Rhonda Pitka, Larry Nathaniel, Margaret Henry-John (alternate), Bruce Thomas (alternate)
- III. **Not Present:** Ron Yatlin, Michael Peter, Peter Hjelm, Gary Simple Jr., Clayton Tacket, Charles John
- IV. **Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 5**
 - a. Quorum of 5 was established by Walter Peter at 6:54pm
- V. **Secretary Appointment:** Walter Peter appoints Krystal Lapp as secretary for this meeting
- VI. **Introduce Fish and Game Staff Present:**
 - a. Luke Rogers - ADF&G, Wood Bison Restoration Biologist
 - b. Jordan Pruszenski– ADF&G, Assistant Area Biologist for the Northeast
 - c. Mark Bertram – F&W, Yukon Flats Refuge Manager
 - d. Matt Olson ADF&G – Fall Season Area Manager
 - e. Deena Jallen ADF&G – Summer Season Area Manager
 - f. Leila Williams – Filling in for Kyle
- VII. **Introduce Guests Present:**
 - a. Krystal Lapp – Tanana Chiefs Conference
 - b. Jazmyn Vent – Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
 - c. Janessa Newman – Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
 - d. Craig Chyyhlook – Native Peoples Action
 - e. Ben Stevens
- VIII. **Approval of Agenda**
 - a. Walter Peter motions to approve the agenda
 - b. Larry Nathaniel seconds
 - c. Passed by unanimous consent
- IX. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: 2/26/2025**
 - a. Walter Peter motions to approve the previous meeting minutes
 - b. Larry Nathaniel seconds
 - c. Passed by unanimous consent
- X. **Reports**
 - a. Jordan Pruszenski– ADF&G

- i. ADF&G reported continued challenges conducting fall moose aerial surveys due to insufficient snow cover, which affects sightability. Because of this, biologists plan to shift to spring surveys beginning this year, likely in March, to ensure surveys can occur in predictable weather conditions. Spring surveys will not produce a bull-to-cow ratio, meaning composition data will be lost, but the department stressed the need to obtain population numbers given low moose densities in the Flats and upcoming potential bison releases. The last full moose survey occurred in 2017. Community members expressed concern about declining moose numbers and harvest difficulty, and managers acknowledged predation pressure—particularly from black bears—as a major factor.
- b. Luke Rogers – ADF&G: Wood Bison Restoration Project Update
 - i. The final Minto Flats wood bison release occurred this spring with approximately 60 animals released and 61 currently on the landscape. The department is now beginning planning for a potential wood bison release in the eastern Yukon Flats, with 2027 identified as the earliest likely timeline. The expected release size ranges from roughly 12 to 60 animals, depending on logistics, availability, and stakeholder input. ADF&G emphasized that they are seeking Tribal and Advisory Committee guidance on release considerations, including land selection and cultural/community preferences. Weather and snow-ice events have influenced past herd performance, and the state plans to coordinate closely with communities as planning continues.
- c. Mark Bertram – Yukon Flats Refuge Manager
 - i. Mark Bertram, Acting Refuge Manager for the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge, reported significant staffing reductions across federal agencies, including the Refuge. Over the past several months, three key refuge staff retired: the refuge manager (Jimmy Foxx), habitat biologist (Delia Kretzinger), and pilot biologist (Nikki Guler), leaving the Refuge with only three staff members — himself, wildlife biologist Bryce Lake, and subsistence coordinator Clayton Merrill. Despite the losses, Bertram noted that the Refuge was able to complete most of its mission work this past summer after securing a temporary pilot, but emphasized that future capacity remains uncertain. He anticipates potential reorganization among Alaska refuges to consolidate resources and prioritize conservation capacity moving forward.
- d. Matt Olson ADF&G – ADF&G Fall Season Manager
 - i. The fall season manager discussed how current and proposed regulations could trigger main-stem gillnet closures when the first fall chum are genetically detected, potentially as early as mid-late June. Under the proposal discussed, the first detection would close all gillnet use, including four-inch whitefish nets, until the fall chum run concludes. This would significantly impact subsistence whitefish harvest access. Managers noted that the timing of fall chum arrival increasingly overlaps

with late summer fishing, creating challenges when applying rigid preseason dates. They highlighted the need to balance conservation with ensuring communities retain some access to non-salmon subsistence fisheries.

- e. Deena Jallen ADF&G – ADF&G Summer Season Manager
 - i. The summer season manager reported very poor Chinook and chum runs in 2025. The total Chinook run at Pilot Station was approximately 60,000 fish, with only 23,000–24,000 passing Eagle—well below the 71,000 escapement objective. As a result, Chinook fishing was closed all season, and a two-plus-week closure on four-inch gear was implemented to protect kings during migration. The summer chum run was approximately 400,000 fish, also too low to allow openings. Subsistence harvest was limited to selective gear for pink, sockeye, and non-salmon species. The manager noted that reduced non-salmon harvest in recent years is tied to limited opportunity and the high fuel cost of going out when few harvestable species are available, making this a very difficult fishing year for communities.

XI. New Business

- a. Comments on [Board of Fisheries Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim](#) proposals (comments due Nov 3rd)
 - i. Rhonda Pitka motions to only vote and comment on Yukon River Proposals 15, 16 and 17
 - ii. Larry Nathaniel seconds
 - iii. Passed by unanimous consent

XII. Other Business

- a. Reminder: TM940 subsistence permits open November 1, 2025. Rhonda Pitka encouraged all Yukon Flats residents to apply early to secure permits due to low moose harvest and increased food security needs

XIII. Select Representative:

- a. Board of Fisheries AYK Meeting - Nov 18-22 in Fairbanks
 - i. Larry Nathaniel volunteers to attend the meeting
 - ii. Rhonda Pitka motions to send Larry Nathaniel to the AYK Board of Fish meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska, November 18-22, 2025
 - iii. Walter Peter seconds
 - iv. Passed by unanimous consent
- b. Rhonda Pitka motions to appoint Larry Nathaniel as the Yukon Flats AC representative to the Wood Bison Working Group meeting December 2-4, 2025 in Fairbanks, Alaska
 - i. Bruce Thomas seconds
 - ii. Passed by unanimous consent

XIV. Set next meeting date: January 14, 2026 @ 6:30PM

XV.

Alaska Board of Fisheries Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Meeting Proposals November 18-22, 2025 Fairbanks, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
12	Add eel stick as a legal subsistence gear type for nonsalmon species in the Kuskokwim Area.		
13	Amend sport fishing season for king salmon in the upper Kuskokwim River.		
14	Repeal bag and possession limits for sheefish in the Kanektok, Goodnews, and Arolik Rivers.		
15	Establish a 2 year closure on harvest of Yukon River Fall Chum salmon.		
Opposed	1	4	The committee discussed that multiple conservation measures are already in place for fall chum and that there is no evidence an additional two-year closure would aid recovery.
16	Close the mainstem Yukon River to the use 4" or less mesh gillnets for Fall Chum salmon conservation.		
Opposed	0	5	No comments
17	Allow the use of 6" or less mesh gillnets during times of salmon conservation.		
Support as Amended	5	0	Amendment: Add Yukon Flats tributaries and sloughs to the proposal allowing the use of 6" or less mesh gillnets during salmon conservation periods. Amendment to include Alfred Creek, Dutt, Conan Creek, upstream of the Dull River Confluence, Edburg Slough, Fish Creek upstream of the Fish Slough Confluence, Grass River upstream of the 17 Mile Sioux Confluence, Island Lake Creek, Martin Creek upstream of the Cut-Off, Slough Confluence, Nolitna Creek, Old Lost Creek, Rogers Creek, Ross Creek, Sucker River, the Chautaundoc River, and Twin Lakes Creek.
18	Repeal the bag limit reduction and modify the open season for northern pike in Minto Flats.		
19	Repeal the bag limit reduction and modify the open season for northern pike in Minto Flats.		

Alaska Board of Fisheries Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Meeting Proposals November 18-22, 2025 Fairbanks, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
20			Repeal the bag limit reduction for northern pike in portions of Minto Flats.
21			Allow a catch-and-release fishery for northern pike and modify gear in Harding Lake.
22			Allow a catch-and-release fishery for northern pike in Harding Lake.
23			Repeal special regulations for northern pike in Volkmar Lake.
24			Repeal designated youth fishing days for Arctic grayling in the Chena River.
25			Repeal registration requirement for ice houses that are not removed from the ice daily in the Tanana River Area.
26			Repeal Arctic grayling special regulations and gear restrictions for the confluence area of the Tanana River and Shaw Creek.
27			Increase the bag and possession limit of stocked species in Rainbow Lake.
28			Define beach seine gear specifications in effect when Norton Sound-Port Clarence subsistence fisheries are closed and immediately reopened with the non-retention of specific salmon species.
29			Establish a seasonal harvest limit of 25 sockeye salmon for the Sinuk River subsistence fishery.
30			Increase waters closed to subsistence fishing in the Sinuk River.
31			Expand waters closed to subsistence fishing for salmon in the Sinuk River.
32			Repeal the subsistence fishing schedule in the marine waters of west of Cape Nome in Subdistrict 1 of the Norton Sound District.
33			Prohibit the retention of king salmon when subsistence fishing with a beach seine in the Pilgram River.

Alaska Board of Fisheries Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Meeting Proposals November 18-22, 2025 Fairbanks, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
34			Reduce the subsistence fishing annual limit for Pilgram River king salmon.
35			Repeal the requirement for hook and like subsistence fishermen to follow sport fishing bag and possession limits in the northern Norton Sound area.
36			Allow catch and release sport fishing for king salmon in the Unalakleet River drainage when the subsistence fishery is closed to the retention of kings.
37			Close sport fishing for king salmon in the Pilgrim River.
38			Modify hook size specifications when sport fishing for salmon in the Northwestern Management Area.
39			Reduce the annual bag and possession limits for sheefish.
40			Establish a subsistence sheefish permit in the Kotzebue Area.
41			Allow the use of bow and arrow when subsistence fishing for non-salmon fish species in the Arctic-Kotzebue Area.
42			Close waters in the Kotzebue District adjacent to the end of the Kotzebue airport runway to subsistence and commercial fishing.
43			Repeal the commercial fishing season for sheefish in the Kotzebue District.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:43PM by Rhonda Pitka, seconded by Walter Peter.

Minutes Recorded By: Krystal Lapp
 Minutes Approved By: Walter Peter
 Date: 10/30/2025