

# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH Fish & Wildlife Commission

350 E Dahlia Ave., Palmer, Alaska 99645

## CHAIRPERSON

Andy Couch

## VICE CHAIR

Pete Probasco

## MSB STAFF

Maija DiSalvo



## BOARD MEMBERS

Howard Delo

Larry Engel

Tim Hale

Gabe Kitter

Bill Gamble

Kendra Zamzow

*Ex officio:* Jim Sykes

## Regular Meeting

April 11, 2024

## Meeting Packet - Table of Contents

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**Physical Location of Meeting:** Assembly Chambers, DSJ Bldg, 350 E. Dahlia Ave., Palmer

**Remote Participation:** See attached agenda on p. 1

**Planning and Land Use Department - Planning Division**

<http://www.matsugov.us> • [planning@matsugov.us](mailto:planning@matsugov.us)

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission  
AGENDA**

Edna Devries, Mayor

Andy Couch – Chair  
Peter Probasco – Vice Chair  
Gabriel Kitter  
Howard Delo  
Larry Engel  
Tim Hale  
Bill Gamble  
Kendra Zamzow  
Jim Sykes – Ex officio member

Maija DiSalvo – Staff



Michael Brown, Borough Manager

PLANNING & LAND USE DEPARTMENT  
Alex Strawn, Planning & Land Use Director  
Vacant, Planning Services Manager  
Jason Ortiz, Development Services Manager  
Fred Wagner, Platting Officer

*Back of Assembly Chambers  
Dorothy Swanda Jones Building  
350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer*

**April 11, 2024  
REGULAR MEETING  
4:00 p.m.**

Ways to participate in MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission meetings:

IN-PERSON: Assembly Chambers, DSJ Building

REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS:

Join on your computer:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 240 807 914 87

Passcode: 8yXzCY

Or call in (audio only):

1-907-290-7880

Phone Conference ID: 210 691 36#

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
- III. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
  
*"We acknowledge that we are meeting on traditional lands of the Dena'ina and Ahtna Dene people, and we are grateful for their continued stewardship of the land, fish, and wildlife throughout time immemorial."*
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. February 8, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes
  - B. March 21, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes
- VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*three minutes per person, for items not scheduled for public hearing*)
- VIII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS
- A. Staff Report
  - B. Chair's Report
  - C. Waterbody Setback Advisory Board Report
- IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- A. Board of Fisheries After Action Report
    - i. Consideration of Recommendations for the Future
  - B. ADF&G Game Season Summary Meeting Planning
    - i. Prioritization of Questions
  - C. 2025 Board of Game
  - D. Seldon Corridor Moose Safety Lighting
- Items Pending Updates:*
- A. *State Legislative Budget*
  - B. *NOAA/NPFMC Updates*
  - C. *MSB Resolution 24-031*
  - D. *Susitna Basin Recreational Rivers Plan Update*
  - E. *Beaver Meadows Subdivision*
- X. NEW BUSINESS
- XI. MEMBER COMMENTS
- XII. NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, May 9, 2024 @ 4:00 pm – Assembly Chambers\*
- \*Future New Business Items: 2025 CAPSIS Request*
- XIII. ADJOURNMENT

**Disabled persons needing reasonable accommodation in order to participate at a MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting should contact the borough ADA Coordinator at 861-8432 at least one week in advance of the meeting.**

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH**  
**MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission**  
Regular Meeting: February 8, 2024  
DSJ Building, Assembly Chambers/TEAMS  
**MINUTES**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Andy Couch called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM

I. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Present:

Andy Couch

Peter Probasco

Gabe Kitter

Bill Gamble

Larry Engel

Howard Delo

Kendra Zamzow – arrived at 4:16 pm

Absent:

Jim Sykes

Tim Hale

Quorum was established.

II. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

AC read the land acknowledgement:

*"We acknowledge that we are meeting on traditional lands of the Dene people, and we are grateful for their continued stewardship of the land, fish, and wildlife throughout time immemorial."*

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**LE moved to approve the agenda; seconded by PP.**

**No objections, motion approved unanimously.**

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Chennery Fife – Trout Unlimited

Marc Lamoreaux – Native Village of Eklutna

Margaret Stern – Susitna River Coalition

Neil Dewitt – public

Stefan Hinman – MSB Public Affairs  
Stephen Braund – ND Setnetters

VI. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Staff Report – Maija DiSalvo  
Chair’s Report – AC  
Waterbody Setback Advisory Board – KZ

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. BOF Planning

Discussion about Big Cabbage and KTNA radio shows, booklet distribution, group signups for BOF testimony, public work session, and additional meeting details.

**LE moved to form a work group to prepare for and participate in a public work session via zoom and in person, consisting of AC, HD, and LE; seconded by HD.**

**No objections, motion passed unanimously.**

B. NPFMC

KZ attended Science & Statistical Committee meeting; JS currently attending Advisory Panel discussions, both in Seattle, WA; KZ reported that in the future the focus to SSC should be more data-specific; SSC agreed they are concerned about overfishing but don’t have tools to deal with it before setting regulations this year. There was no discussion about allocative decisions or gear type, TAC would apply to all users.

C. Eklutna Hydro Project

PP and GK gave reports regarding public meetings they attended; members of the public on both sides; Governor will make the final decision.

**PP moved to resend original letter regarding the Eklutna Hydro Project, with a footnote referencing the original submission; seconded by LE.**

**No objections, motion passes unanimously.**

D. Susitna Basin Recreational Rivers Plan Update

**HD moved to designate AC and Maija (planning staff) to draft letter regarding Susitna Basic Rec Rivers Plan update, requesting comment deadline extension and expressing opposition to EO 134; seconded by KZ.**  
**No objection, motion passes unanimously.**

E. ADF&G Game Season Summary Planning

**GK moved to request a game harvest summary from ADF&G that includes: harvest by species (sheep, moose, caribou, goat, black and brown bears, wolves), sex, GMU – 13, 14, 16 (broken down by subunit), participants, by year (20 years) that will be available ahead of the June Game Summary meeting; seconded by PP.**

**No objections, motion passed unanimously.**

F. State Legislative Support for Weir/Scientific Study Funding

**BG moves to send up to 3 commissioners to Juneau between March 1-15 to meet with legislators to discuss priorities, dependent on funding; seconded by LE.**

**KZ amendment: “...legislators and other relevant state and federal agency representatives...”, seconded by LE.**

**No objections, amendment passed unanimously.**

**No objections, main motion passed unanimously.**

VIII. MEMBER COMMENTS

LE – See everyone at BOF

PP – Will need to discuss who will travel to Juneau

BG – Happy to contribute

GK – If budget is tight, would be willing to sacrifice BOF time/funds for Juneau

AC – Good work folks, as usual; appreciate everyone contributing and having conversations; thanks to KZ for going to Seattle

KZ – thanks to everyone; a lot of work for all of us, thanks for pitching in; thanks to Jim for putting things together on the fly, thought he did a really good job with what he had in front of a potentially not very friendly audience; good learning experience; should consider lobbying at state and federal level

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, March 21, 2024 @ 4:00 pm – Assembly Chambers

X. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH**  
**MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission**  
Regular Meeting: March 21, 2024  
DSJ Building, Assembly Chambers/TEAMS  
**MINUTES**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Andy Couch called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM

II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Present:

Andy Couch  
Peter Probasco  
Gabe Kitter  
Bill Gamble  
Larry Engel  
Howard Delo  
Jim Sykes

Absent:

Tim Hale  
Kendra Zamzow

Quorum was established.

III. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

AC read the land acknowledgement:

*"We acknowledge that we are meeting on traditional lands of the Dena'ina and Ahtna Dene people, and we are grateful for their continued stewardship of the land, fish, and wildlife throughout time immemorial."*

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**LE moved to approve the agenda; seconded by HD.**

**Amendment: Move BOF recap ahead of ADF&G presentation.**

**No objection, motion approved unanimously as amended.**

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**HD moved to approve the January 11, 2024 minutes; seconded by LE.**

**Amendment: change to "AK Chinook Charters" under audience participation.**

**No objection, motion approved unanimously as amended.**

**LE moved to approve the January 30, 2024 minutes; seconded by HD.  
No objection, motion approved unanimously.**

**LE moved to approve the February 5, 2024 minutes; seconded by HD.  
No objection, motion approved unanimously.**

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*three minutes per person*)

Chennery Fife – Trout Unlimited  
Manny Eicholz – ADF&G  
Mac Minard – Fisheries consultant  
Neil Dewitt – member of public  
Stephen Braund – Northern District Setnetters  
Parker Bradley – ADF&G  
Paul Warta – member of public

VII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Staff Report – Maija DiSalvo  
Chair’s Report – AC  
King salmon fisheries on Susitna and Little Su are entirely closed; additionally, change to ½ in hook restriction through July 13, causing issues for local businesses selling tackle and could prohibit individuals from catching pike; potential for FWC to be involved in the future.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Board of Fisheries Meeting Recap

FWC commended Mac Minard for a well documented report of effort.

**PP moved to accept BOF After Action Report as presented; seconded by LE.**

**HD moved to include the following info on AAR page 8: Board adopted using Little Su king salmon and coho in management of N Dist commercial fisheries, referenced in proposal 210; seconded by LE.  
No objections, amendment passed unanimously.**

AC and MM will work on order of group 2 and 3 on Red p. 21 and #5 on Red p. 25; Stephen Braund commented that king salmon commercial fisheries cap reduced to 4500, not 4000.

**PP moved to strike the second sentence in 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet – “oddly... N Dist fisheries” on page 9, seconded by LE.**



**No objections, amendment passed unanimously.**

**No objections to main motion as amended, motion passed unanimously.**

B. Pike in Upper Cook Inlet

Parker Bradley (ADF&G) presented on the issues with invasive Northern Pike in UCI drainages; discussion about history and future challenges.

C. State Legislative Support for Weir/Scientific Study Funding

JS and GK relayed report from trip to Juneau. Met with 25 legislators/staff March 5-7. Utilized the booklet and had an overwhelmingly positive response, good educational opportunity as many did not have any knowledge of federal management changes; could consider PR presence on future visits; DeLena Johnson has added all three requested items at this time, with updated costs from ADF&G. MSB Assembly presence simultaneously also reinforced priorities. Thanks to BG for helping with timing. Updates to CAPSIS request will be on May agenda, could consider update to economic study.

D. NOAA/NPFMC Updates

No updates, waiting on May 1 deadline for the release of final EEZ regulations.

E. ADF&G Game Season Summary Special Meeting

No discussion at this time, final approval of questions will take place at the April Meeting.

F. NOAA Fish Habitat & Recreational Fisheries Grant

Discussed various potential proposals, and decided there was insufficient time for the MSB FWC to pursue this grant at this time.

G. Susitna Basin Recreational Rivers Plan Update

Trout Unlimited feels good about the plan after review; next Rec Rivers meeting is April 10<sup>th</sup>; FWC appreciates the thorough personal comments submitted by KZ.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mat-Su Salmon Habitat Partnership

**PP moved to have staff draft a letter of interest to the Mat-Su Salmon Habitat Partnership, recommending GK fill the vacant Local Government seat as a MSB FWC member, seconded by LE.**

**No objections, motion passed unanimously.**

B. Seldon Corridor Moose Safety Lights

Manny Eicholz (ADF&G) discussed concerns with the Seldon Corridor project, as it crosses through significant moose habitat where you would expect to see crossings. More information is needed. ME, GK and MD will connect to find out more details about the project and will add as an April agenda item.

**PP moved to extend the meeting to 6:30, seconded by LE.  
No objections, motion passed unanimously.**

C. Board of Fisheries Appointment Recommendations

**LE moved to send a letter to the Governor's office in support of Peter Probasco's nomination to the Board of Fisheries, seconded by HD.  
No objections, motion passed unanimously.**

**HD moved to send an additional letter of support for Marit Carlson-Van Dort and Gene Sandone; seconded by BG.**

Discussion about setting priorities if provide two names, instead of three  
**HD retracted main motion.**

**LE moved to support Marit Carlson-Van Dort's reappointment to the Board of Fisheries; seconded by GK.  
No objections, motion passed unanimously.**

D. 2025 Board of Game

If there are proposals for consideration, submit ahead of the next meeting.

E. MSB Resolution 24-031

People in that area may want to give feedback on fish and wildlife in that area; discussion about Assembly resolution, but has already passed; will leave on next month's agenda to allow KZ to weigh in.

F. Alaska House Bill 169

Put forward by a valley legislator; something for FWC to consider.

X. MEMBER COMMENTS

BG – Bill 169 is interesting

GK – will ask PP more about MSSHP involvement

PP – thanks; think about adding time in advance for longer agendas

HD – no comment

JS – good meeting, appreciate all efforts

LE – no comment  
AC – appreciate all work

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, April 11, 2024 @ 4:00 pm – Assembly Chambers

XII. ADJOURNMENT

**LE moved to adjourn; seconded by HD.  
No objections, motion passed unanimously.**

*Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.*

DRAFT

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH**

350 E Dahlia Ave., Palmer AK 99645 Ph.907.861.7865

**CHAIRPERSON**

Andy Couch

**VICE CHAIR**

Pete Probasco

**MSB STAFF**

Maija DiSalvo

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Howard Delo

Larry Engel

Tim Hale

Bill Gamble

Gabe Kitter

Kendra Zamzow

*Ex officio*: Jim Sykes**MSB FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION****Memorandum**

RE: 1st Quarter 2024 MSB Fish &amp; Wildlife Commission Report per RS 21-128

During the first quarter of 2024, the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) met five times as follows:

- January 11: Regular meeting
- January 30: Special meeting - *Board of Fisheries Planning, Federal Fishery Management, Susitna Basin Recreational Rivers Plan Update, and Island Lake Float Plane Development*
- February 5: Special meeting - *Board of Fisheries Planning*
- February 8: Regular meeting
- March 21: Regular Meeting

The FWC spent much of January and February planning for and participating in the Board of Fisheries (BOF) Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meeting. Members also traveled to Seattle for North Pacific Fishery Management Council meetings regarding federal fishery management in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Cook Inlet, and to Juneau to advocate for full funding to ADF&G for weirs and scientific studies in our region. Additionally, the FWC has been developing questions to submit to Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) ahead of the FWC/ADF&G Game Season Summary meeting that is scheduled in the Assembly Chambers on June 6, 2024. They have also requested a Game Harvest Report along the same timeline. The FWC has discussed and submitted comments regarding the Susitna Basin Recreational Rivers Management Plan update, is currently considering involvement in the 2025 Board of Game meetings to be held in Wasilla and Anchorage next winter, and has had introductory conversations with ADF&G wildlife biologists regarding Moose Safety lighting.

Maija DiSalvo

907.861.7865

Long Range Planner – Planning &amp; Land Use Division

[maija.disalvo@matsugov.us](mailto:maija.disalvo@matsugov.us)

**Matanuska Susitna Borough  
Fish and Wildlife Commission**

**Alaska Board of Fisheries  
After Action Report**

**February 23 – March 6, 2024**

*Submitted by  
Mac Minard  
Northwestern Natural Resource Consultants*

**I. Meeting Outcome Goals**

There were six Matanuska Susitna Borough Fish Wildlife Commission (MSBFWC) outcome goals identified for the 2024 Board of Fish Meeting:

- 1) Long-term salmon conservation and protection of salmon habitat.**
- 2) Maintain and enhance the Conservation Corridor in the drift gillnet fishery management plan.**
- 3) Clarify or strengthen conservative management practices which provide protection for current and formerly identified Stocks of Concern.**
- 4) Increase inriver returns of coho and sockeye salmon to Northern Cook Inlet systems.**
- 5) Adjust existing king salmon management plan and strategies to more adequately address conservation concerns for king salmon returning to Northern Cook Inlet drainages.**
- 6) Maintain or extend Personal Use fishing opportunity for Alaskan residents fishing Northern Cook Inlet drainages.**

**II. Preparations and Coordination**

In the months prior to the Board of Fish meeting the nine-member Mat/Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission (MSBFWC) met frequently to produce the central document *It Takes Fish to Make Fish*. This 30-page publication effectively communicated the Borough concerns, priorities and prior accomplishments. Many positive comments were received from Board of Fish members and staff as to the utility of this publication.

Additionally, the fisheries work group and Commission reviewed and developed positions for proposals affecting fisheries within the Mat Su. Leadership was provided by the Commission members, included several former ADF&G biologists and managers, two former Board of Fisheries members, professional fishing guides and individuals with local expertise. Coordination with Department staff was included to the extent we were able and open discussions with Board of Fisheries members and Kenai River Sportfishing Association (KRSA) helped to inform the preparations by the MSBFWC. These position statements were sent in as part of the on time written comments to the Board.

### Planning and Communications

- 1) On July 28, 2023 Stefen Hinman produced a Facebook post [Fish Creek Personal Use](#).

This post reached an extraordinary number of folks (79k) and elevated the important results of the MSBFWC in the Board process. Follow up reporting such as this makes the actions at prior Board of Fish meetings relevant and elevates the importance of coming meetings.

- 2) A report titled *It Takes Fish to Make Fish 2024* was developed as a supporting document for the Mat Su by Commission members and staff members Miaja DeSalvo and Stefan Hinman.

The graphics, maps and easy to use format made the material highly effective and was used extensively in preparing Board members and Commission members concerning the issues and priorities. This report tells a compelling story that established a level of understanding and credibility necessary to gain Board of Fish member's confidence. Planning and Public Affairs staff deserve a great deal of credit for their work. This booklet was distributed as part of the on-time comments and as PC 138.

- 3) MSBFWC members Larry Engel, Pete Probasco and chairman Andy Couch all participated in several separate radio programs informing the public about the upcoming Board of Fisheries meeting and issues.
- 4) Three members of the MSBFWC along with borough staff hosted a public workshop on participation in the Board of Fisheries process days prior to the state of the Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fish meeting.
- 5) Commission members Howard Delo and Andy Couch also published informative newspaper columns prior to the start of the Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fish meeting.
- 6) On social media, prior to the Board of Fisheries Meeting, Public Affairs staff posted an explanation characterizing why residents should go and participate. A copy of the Mat Su fish booklet was posted drawing in 11k people (That's high).
- 7) A letter from the MSBFWC was drafted and sent to Board chairman John Wood requesting the order of the Group work be arranged in such a manner as to allow

- big issues like the Federal EEZ and Central District Drift Fishery could be discussed and deliberated on prior to moving into the Northern District issues. That letter, although sent, never reached the chairman, and no action or response on his part was taken.
- 8) Report detailing the Matanuska Susitna positions on Board of Fisheries proposals. This 17-page report (Comments on 2024 Upper Cook Inlet Finfish Proposals) was submitted as part of the on time public comments and was entered as [RC025](#) and [RC026](#).
  - 9) Andy Couch, Mat-Su Anglers Column for Friday February 23, 2024 Frontiersman.
  - 10) Mac Minard participated in a radio interview on 650am Kenai Radio with Amy Demboski on 2.26.24 at 7:30 am.
  - 11) Mac Minard briefed the Alaskan Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus via zoom at the request of the caucus advisory council on 2.28.24 at 5:15 pm.
  - 12) Stefan Hinman worked diligently to document the Board meeting with video snippets which were posted to the Borough Facebook page. His included seven different posts on BOF, including a link to our Booklet for people to thumb through virtually. In addition all the testimony given by the FWC was posted to the social media platform.
  - 13) Submission of Record Copies (RCs). The MSBFWC submitted thirteen RCs that supported positions and informed the Board on issues. These were generally prepared by Mac Minard and submitted on behalf of the Commission. We also supported the Matanuska Valley AC when the positions were aligned with the Commission. RCs may be viewed in Appendix A.

All documents for the meeting may be viewed here:

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.meetinginfo&date=02-23-2024&meeting=anchorage>

### **III. Logistics: Work Room and Equipment:**

MSBFWC combined logistical efforts with KRSA. Access to internet, copy machine, and office space made for an optimal mix of support and coordinated interaction. This coordinated effort reduced costs for both organizations and increased our overall effectiveness.

Housing the Commission and Borough members and Advisory Committee representatives at both the Captain Cook and Hilton was also a strong tactical decision.

Board of Fish members stay in both locations and we had reasonable access to Board members in the mornings and evenings. Regular contact provided for effective communications.

The combined effort produced an organized and coordinated approach that proved to be a formidable coalition and served the interests of the in-river users of the Mat/Su Borough very well.

Kenai River Sportfishing Association (KRSA) covered all of Mac Minard's lodging and incidentals at the Captain Cook Hotel and saved the Borough significantly.

#### **IV. Live Streaming and Email Updates**

While the Board was in session, visitors were able to [stream live audio](#) from the Board of Fisheries home page. This afforded real time opportunity to remain up to date while operating in a remote location.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEb1p1JBPh8>

At the close of each day, Mac Minard, Maija DiSalvo, and/or members of the Mat Su Committee would outline the content of a daily email summary sent to members of the Borough Assembly and members of the Mat Su FWC as well as interested parties. These updates kept those who were unable to attend the meeting informed and up to date. Approximately 11 Commission Updates were issued throughout the run up to and during the meeting.

#### **V. Staff Reports**

ADF&G presented two written reports and seven oral reports. Presentations were made in timely manner. Some published products were available only after the cut off for public comment making the timeframe for us to incorporate into our comments impossible. Reports can be viewed here:

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.meetinginfo&date=02-23-2024&meeting=anchorage>

#### **VI. Public Testimony Saturday - Sunday**

Approximately 106 people (153 testified in 2020) testified before the Board of Fisheries. Matanuska Susitna Borough coordinated nine presentations/testimonies and submitted 14 RCs as supporting documentation during this phase of the meeting. When coupled with KRSA testimony we produced a very concise and coordinated effort. Several Board members commented on the effectiveness of our team. RCs are listed in Appendix A.

ORDER	WHO	WHAT	Related Goal(s)	BOOKLET PAGES	RC
1	Maija DiSalvo	Introduce the Mat-Su Borough Fish & Wildlife Commission, Booklet, Topics	All	All	<a href="#">RC054</a>



2	Andy Couch	The Conservation Corridor	2	5	<a href="#">RC065</a>
3	Larry Engel	History and Efficacy of the Conservation Corridor	2	6 - 8	<a href="#">RC056</a>
5	Pete Probasco	Mixed Stock Fishery Complexity	1, 3	9 - 13	<a href="#">RC049</a>
4	Howard Delo	Stocks of Concern		19	<a href="#">RC047</a>
6	Kendra Zamzow	Federal Fisheries Management	3	14 - 17	<a href="#">RC055</a>
7	Gabe Kitter	Habitat in the Mat Su	1	23 - 24	<a href="#">RC046</a>
8	Jim Sykes	Fish Habitat Improvements in the Mat Su	1	25 - 26	<a href="#">RC048</a>
9	Mac Minard	Wrap Up/ Takeaways	All	27 - 28	

## VII. Committee Work

The Board established a Committee of the Whole with eight Groups. We detailed a Public Testimony schedule involving key representatives from the Mat SU Borough. Each testifier was armed/briefed with relevant materials and supporting RCs and Commission positions. Support material was very helpful and allowed full and complete participation by assigned committee members. In the future, MSBFWC must continue to develop this work product.

Committee work was conducted in a New England Town Hall format and was civil and provided an opportunity to get key information on the record. MSBFWC representation was excellent and there was an obvious coordination with most AC testimony as well.

Highlighted below are [Board Actions](#) concerning proposals that the MSBFWC commented on or had an interest.

**Committee of the Whole – Group 1: Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Action Plan**  
This committee and topic took up a lot of the meeting energy. MSBFWC did not participate directly in this committee. The following summary is for information only.

### Public Testimony

- The Board took 7 hours of public testimony regarding the late run Kenai King Salmon management plan.

### Board Deliberations on the Action Plan

- A draft action plan was brought to consideration by Marit Carlson-Van Dort. Her plan established rebuilding goals based on the current Optimum Escapement Goal

(OEG) and equitable sharing of the conservation burden among all fisheries consistent with a plan proposed by KRSA.

Board chair John Wood and members Mike Wood and Gerad Godfrey led the effort to reduce the Kenai River late-run king salmon Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) in order to increase opportunities in the set gill net fishery at low run sizes. This effort ignored clear direction from the Commissioner that managing for a lower goal would reduce the likelihood of recovery.

- An amendment from Mike Wood to reduce 15,000 to 13,500 failed 3-4 (Carpenter, Carlson-Van Dort, Zuray, Svendsen opposed). A subsequent amendment to change 15,000 to 14,250 passed 4-3 (Wood, Wood, Carpenter, Godfrey in favor). Carlson-Van Dort, Zuray, and Svendsen opposed plan adoption due to reduction in goal.

#### Assessment of Action

- The Board of Fisheries adopted a stock-of-concern action plan for Kenai late-run kings that reduced fishery impacts to low levels until such time as the stock is delisted. This is one of the most conservative action plans ever adopted for a stock-of-concern in Alaska. The action plan will remain in effect for a minimum of three years until the next in-cycle Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) Board of Fish meeting.
- The Kenai River sport fishery for kings was closed by regulation.
- The commercial set gillnet fishery was closed when escapement is not projected to achieve minimum goals. Up to eight, 8-hour fishing periods may be allowed when the minimum goal is projected to be achieved. There is no opportunity for liberalization beyond eight periods for the duration of this plan unless the commissioner chooses to exercise his authority to go outside the plan.
- The limited setnet fishery also included a series of innovations focused on units of gear allowed, as well as net length and depth intended to increase selectivity for sockeye and reduce interception of kings.
- The Board reduced the escapement goal from the current OEG of 15,000 to 30,000 to a recovery goal of 14,250-30,000.
- The setnet fishery will fish even when the sport fishery for kings is closed.
- The Board also created a provision for a NEW commercial gear type to include dip nets in lieu of set gillnets in an effort to test the concept and reduce king bycatch. This fishery could be used in the 2024 season.
- It is difficult to reconcile a reduction in the escapement targets in order to increase commercial fishing opportunity with the stock of concern listing and critical low levels of abundance and productivity of Kenai kings.

**Committee of the Whole – Group 2:** Northern Cook Inlet Subsistence, Northern District Commercial, Smelt, and Susitna River Sport and Personal Use Fisheries (29 proposals). MSBWFC members Pete Probasco, Andy Couch, Larry Engel, Howard Delo, Kendra Zamzow Maija DiSalvo and Mac Minard participated.

Committee met on 2.28.24. Mat Su Borough developed [RC 151](#) to amend Proposal 207 to clarify king salmon management targets and establish a historically appropriate king salmon target of 1,500 in the Northern District Set net fishery.

On Thursday 2.29.24 the Board deliberated Group 2: Northern Cook Inlet Subsistence, Northern District Commercial, Smelt, and Susitna River Sport and Personal Use Fisheries. Outcomes on all deliberated proposals are listed below.

#### Assessment of Actions

- The MSBFWC submitted an amendment to Proposal 207, suggesting changes to the Northern District King Salmon Management Plan that was not considered due to procedural issues with the board member submitting the amendment.
- On Proposal 206, the Board voted to lower the Northern District Setnet king salmon cap from 12,500 to 4,500 king salmon. MSBFWC recommended a cap of 1,500 based on evaluation of 30-year and recent 10-year average harvests. The 4,500 fish cap, selected by the Board, had no basis in prior performance and will be applicable between May 25 through June 24.
- For the 2024 season the Susitna River drainage sport king salmon fishery, Little Susitna River sport king salmon fishery, and the northern District commercial king salmon seasons will all likely be closed before the season starts, because of a poor projected 2024 king salmon return.

**Committee of the Whole – Group 3:** Cook Inlet Areawide Sport Fisheries, Knik River Area Sport Fisheries, and Anchorage Area Sport and Personal Use Fisheries (24 Proposals).

Committee met on Monday 2.26.24 and Mat Su Commission members and Mac Minard participated based on the submitted comments.

Deliberation on Proposals for the Committee of the Whole Group 3. Cook Inlet Areawide Sport fisheries took place on Tuesday 2.27.24.

#### Assessment of Actions

The Board of Fish made decisions concerning 23 of the approximately 186 fishing regulation proposals. Highlighted below are actions concerning proposals that the MSBFWC commented on or had an interest.

- Proposal 237 - Bow Fishing for Northern Pike in Palmer - Wasilla Zone flowing waters. This allows bow and arrow and spear fishing for northern pike and blackfish year-round in Palmer - Wasilla Zone flowing waters.
- Proposal 245 - Additional Days of Fish Creek Salmon Fishing. The portion of Fish Creek near Knik Goose-Bay Road, and open to sport salmon fishing, will now be open 7 days per week starting June 15 — July 14, and from the second Saturday in August - December 31.
- Proposal 234 - With substitute language, updated the boundaries of the Palmer - Wasilla Zone and allows northern pike fishing year-round in flowing waters between the Little Susitna River and Susitna River.
- Proposal 236 — Adds six lakes to the stocked lakes list where anglers may harvest larger limits of stocked fish.
- Proposal 246 — Will expand the list of waters where anglers may use 5 lines when ice fishing for northern pike.
- Proposal 250 — Sport fishing for king salmon will now be allowed year-round in the portion of Ship Creek open to salmon fishing.
- Proposal 251 - Closes Eklutna River drainage to coho and sockeye salmon fishing until populations can rebound to sustainable levels.
- Proposal 247 - Will prohibit the practice of chumming in Big, Mirror, and Flat Lakes from November 1 - April 30.
- Proposal 248 - Restricts Big Lake Arctic char to catch-and-release year-round in the Fish Creek drainage.
- Proposal 244 - Redefined Fish Creek near Knik Goose-Bay Road to include all waters within 1/4-mile radius of its confluence with Knik Arm.
- Proposal 249 — by ADF&G removed outdated regulation language.

**Committee of the Whole – Group 4:** Stock of Concern – Kenai River Late Run King Salmon Management Plan, Kenai River King Salmon, Upper Cook Inlet Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Plan (46 Proposals)

- The MSBFWC elected to not address this group of proposals.

**Committee of the Whole – Group 5:** Sockeye Salmon Management Plans (8 Proposals)

- The MSBFWC elected to not address this group of proposals.

**Committee of the Whole - Group 6:** Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan, Fishing Districts and Gillnet Specifications and Operations, Pink Salmon Management Plan, Hatchery Production, Upper Cook Inlet Management Plan, West Cook Inlet Salmon (25 Proposals) – Pete Probasco, Andy Couch, Larry Engel, Howard Delo, Kendra Zamzow and Mac Minard participated.

The Board deliberated Group 6 on Monday March 4, 2024. The Mat Su effort to bring forward a super exclusive registration area [RC200](#) and remand the drift gillnet fishery to the expanded harvest corridors stimulated some very good discussions.

#### Assessment of Actions

- No repeal of intent language placing sport and guided sport as priority fisheries for king and coho salmon. (Proposals 121, 125).
- No loss in the 1% rule and affirmation by the Commissioner to use harvest number from the EEZ in calculating the application of the 1% rule. (Proposals 122, 123, 124).
- No increase in drift fishing opportunity in drift area 1 or 2, all proposals to do so were defeated. We are thankful to Commissioner Vincent-Lang for his assurance that he will not allow commercial fishing in those areas at least for the next two years. This assurance on the record effectively guarantees the utility of the Conservation Corridor at least for the next two or three years, this can be considered a temporary “win”.
- Proposal 125 was amended by Board Chair John Wood, to allow additional fishing time and area in Drift Area 3 (west side) for coho. MSBFWC opposed this action.
- Proposal 136 closed areas to commercial fishing by prohibiting commercial drift fishing within 1 mile of mouth of Silver Salmon and Shelter creeks. MSBFWC supported this proposal.

**Committee of the Whole – Group 7:** Kasilof King Salmon Sport Fisheries, Vessel and Habitat Restrictions, and Guides (15 Proposals)

The Committee of the whole met on March 3, 2024 and was deliberated on March 4, 2024.

- The MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission elected to not address this group of proposals.

**Committee of the Whole- Group 8:** Kenai, Kasilof, and Russian River – Sport and Personal Use (39 Proposals)

The Committee of the whole met on March 3, 2024 and was deliberated on March 4, 2024.

- The MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission elected to not address this group of proposals.

## VIII. Evaluation of Goals

The MSBFWC team went into the Board meeting with six goals that guided their policy and involvement. The overarching goal was to protect all previous gains that had been achieved in the past and particularly those related to passage of fish to the Northern District.

The looming and unknown impacts of the Federally managed Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) are real and informed the MSBFWC comments and involvement.

The following is an assessment of those goals.

### 1) Long-term salmon conservation and protection of salmon habitat.

The MSBFWC were the leaders in the discussion of the threat that the EEZ presents to state managed fisheries. Having Commission member Kendra Zamzow attending the Council meetings, and bringing her knowledge to the topic, was cornerstone in our communication on this issue. The MSBFWC members wove the uncertainty and call for conservative management due to the threats posed by federal management of the EEZ into all the positions the MSBFWC took. With the exception of late-run Kenai River king salmon action plan, there were no changes in regulations that would have a negative affect on long term salmon conservation and protection of salmon habitat.

### 2) Maintain and enhance the Conservation Corridor in the drift gillnet fishery management plan.

**The Conservation Corridor was maintained** — There were 17 proposals that sought to diminish or eliminate the conservation corridor in one form or another and the MSBFWC defeated them all. MSBFWC introduced [RC228](#) to confine the Drift Gillnet fleet to the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof terminal harvest areas which did not pass, however, assurances from the Commissioner to not fish outside those terminal harvest areas may effectively protect/enhance the Conservation Corridor for the next two to three years. Overall, we protected the important gains made in previous Board of Fisheries meetings and by so doing continued the process of elevating the Northern District fishery issues.

### 3) Clarify or strengthen conservative management practices which provide protection for current and formerly identified Stocks of Concern.

**This Goal was Met.** We defeated several proposals that would have increased exploitation on Northern District king, coho, and sockeye salmon. Additionally, the MSBFWC elevated awareness that king and coho salmon depressed and ought to be listed as stocks of concern. This clearly informed Board member decisions.

**4) Increase inriver returns of coho and sockeye salmon to Northern Cook Inlet systems.**

**There was little progress on this goal — as measured by board action.** The MSBFWC softly supported-in-concept Northern District Salmon Management Plan proposals 212, 213, 214 — each of which sought to adjust shared surplus salmon harvest opportunities between commercial and inriver users of Northern Cook Inlet. All were rejected by the board with votes of 0-5 for 212, 1-4 for 213, and 1-4 for 214.

MSBFWC also supported Proposal 137 which would establish one-state mile commercial fishing closure areas from the terminus of Susitna River and Little Susitna River. ADF&G comment was opposed as was Board vote 1-5.

MSBFWC softly supported Proposal 210 requiring the Northern District commercial fishery be managed partially based on the abundance of king salmon, coho salmon, and sockeye salmon counted through Little Susitna River Weir — with stipulations concerning when the commercial fishery could fish within one state mile of the Little Susitna River channel and terminus with saltwater. This proposal was amended to remove management based on sockeye salmon and also to remove king and coho salmon abundance stipulations as to when the commercial fishery could fish within one mile of Little Susitna River. After amendment the proposal was adopted unanimously 5-0-0.

Although the MSBFWC proposed closure of Drift Area 1 and Drift Area 2 did not pass, the Commissioner committed to not fishing in the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof areas for the next two or more years. Additionally, the MSBFWC effectively argued against any increases in commercial fishing time that would have impacted Northern bound salmon.

**5) Adjust existing king salmon management plan and strategies to more adequately address conservation concerns for king salmon returning to Northern Cook Inlet drainages.**

**Little Significant Progress.** MSBFWC softly supported Northern District King Salmon Management Plan Proposal 205 (closed waters from the Wood Chip Dock to Susitna River), 206 (Reduce king salmon cap to 2,000 fish), 208 (Adjusted paired harvest closures of sport / commercial fisheries), and supported-in-concept 207 (% harvest cap and adjusted paired sport / commercial restrictions).

The Board passed proposal 206 with a 4,500 fish cap (John Wood Amendment) rather than the 2,000 fish cap called for in the proposal or the 1,500 fish cap suggested by MSBFWC (substitute language RC 151 —procedurally not allowed). Wood Amendment passed 5-0.

The only proposals addressing the Northern District Salmon Management plan, that would have affected king salmon were ones to remove/repeal management plan language that affirms the need to provide for sport and guided sport uses and allow additional fishing time in the Northern District setnet fishery. The MSBFWC found

these proposals to be in contradiction with sound management practices and opposed them. Ultimately the Board voted each of them down and in doing so acknowledged the depressed condition of Northern District king salmon stocks.

**6) Maintain or extend Personal Use fishing opportunity for Alaskan residents fishing Northern Cook Inlet drainages.**

**This Goal was Met.** There was no loss in personal use opportunity. MSBFWC had submitted proposal 231 would have shifted dates of the Susitna PU fishery and afforded additional PU opportunity. This proposal failed 0-6 and given the conservative posture the Mat Su had taken on other proposals we did not press this issue.

A full summary of Board of Fish action can be found at:  
[https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2023-2024/uci/soa\\_uci-2024.pdf](https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2023-2024/uci/soa_uci-2024.pdf)

## IX. Summary and Recommendations

### Summary

The Mat Su was well represented by the members of the MSBFWC and others who made the time to attend. On numerous occasions, Alaska Board of Fisheries members and ADFG staff, commented positively on the informed quality of your collective involvement. You maintained open and honest communications with Board members, staff, stakeholders and members of the public.

This was a particularly difficult meeting given the challenges of sick or absent Board of Fisheries members. An erratic agenda that presented small items first and addressing the larger issues (EEZ) and Central District Drift Gillnet Plans later, made for a challenging and dynamic schedule. Additionally, the public involvement process involving the submission of Record Copies (RC) was new and turned out to be untimely and cumbersome for the public and Board members alike.

The lack of detailed discussion and strategic planning for the issue of Federal management within the EEZ was surprising. The Board adopted a wait and see attitude that was not shared by the MSBFWC. The uncertainty that combined management (Federal and State) presents was central to the Mat Su message.

A positive outcome of this meeting was the Commissioner's pledge that the commercial drift gillnet fishery will be confined to the terminal harvest areas is very significant. This means that the Conservation Corridor will remain an open pipeline for Northern bound salmon, which was a top tier priority for the MSBFWC.



Maintaining the orderly termination of the sockeye fishery driven by the one-percent rule in the drift fisheries along with the use of the Conservation corridor will permit more coho salmon to reach the Northern district waters.

### Recommendations

There are three principal areas of execution that make for successful Board of Fisheries outcomes. These are:

Policy – you must have a solid statement of the problem and the policy outcomes to attain them. The MSBFWC is very good at developing policy that is both necessary and sufficient to attain their stated goals and based on decades of fisheries experience.

Politics – it is essential that the “right” Board members are appointed to the Board. These would be people who are interested in addressing the Borough residents’ concerns and willing to work with the MSBFWC to attain stated policy goals. Oddly we did not see this in action at this meeting, there was no clear champion among Board members, for the policy the MSBFWC was advocating. This area also includes political leaders that represent the Borough and fully embrace the policy positions being advocated.

Public Relations (PR) – it is essential that a consistent drip of information be released in a well-planned and executed PR program. This effort generally begins long before the meeting and continues throughout the meeting. Establishing support for the desired policy outcomes and being recognized as the subject matter experts helps drive the media narrative and gain support. This is an essential part of a successful campaign.

#### 1) Policy

- a. Begin preparations for the next Board meeting now. The focus must be to advance conservation and management efforts that lead to viable and robust fisheries in the Northern District waters, sufficient that all users may enjoy historical levels of participation.
- b. Seek stock of concern status for king and coho salmon status for the Northern District where appropriate. This action is governed by the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Fisheries (5 AAC 39.222) and requires the Department to provide the status of salmon stocks and identify any salmon stock that present a concern. Currently there are four king salmon stocks listed as stocks of management concern and no coho stocks listed. It can be argued that while they are not stocks of management concern, multiple coho stocks in the Northern District would qualify as stocks of yield concern. Gaining designations for stock of concern status will require a focused effort with the Department and getting them to advance a recommendation to the Board. If this can be done off-cycle (Statewide

finfish meeting) that would open the door to address the Stock of Concern Action Plan (this is where the gains can be made) at the next UCI Board meeting.

- c. Prepare Action Plan Recommendations. The MSBFWC is experienced in this area having successfully navigated the sockeye stock of concern in the past. The Action Plan is the vehicle to institutionalize the conservative measures in fisheries directly impacting Northern bound stocks and to identify key assessment tools that need to be developed or better supported.
- d. Remain focused and involved in the Federal Management program of the EEZ. It cannot be overstated how dangerous this new element can be to the sustainability of Northern district stocks. Maintaining involvement and seeking to influence policy decisions by the Feds and the State remains vitally important.
- e. Develop proposals that advance the Northern District interests in getting fish into the watershed with the overarching goal of rebuilding sustainable fisheries at historical levels and accompanying opportunity for personal use and sport fisheries.

## 2) Politics

- a. Actively work for Board of Fisheries appointments that will be sensitive and supportive of the Borough policy positions. This requires engagement in the process early and working with policy makers and people of influence to accomplish the task. Success at the Board of Fisheries requires four votes and it is important to actively cultivate that level of support.
- b. Engage with local leaders and legislators to make them aware of and supportive of the policy positions of the MSBFWC. Developing the fairness and economic arguments would be logical topics to build from.
- c. Seek out partnerships with others to grow the political support needed to advance policy. For example, maintain/increase the frequency of communications with KRSA and the Mat Su AC over the interim to ensure that policies and proposals are in sync with each other. A mutually supportive coalition is critical to maintaining the gains in salmon conservation and advancing new policy.

## 3) Public Relations

- a. Continue to budget for and commit resources to a “right-sized” Public Relations (PR) effort. This effort continues to address the lead up to the meeting, coverage during the meeting, and the follow up to the meeting.

This effort would logically start six to nine months in advance and be used to garner support for the policy direction the MSBFWC seeks to advance.

- b. A strategic PR campaign that positions MSBFWC as the subject matter and policy experts will allow you to manage the messaging and gain public support. This campaign should cover all outlets of media coverage.
- c. Cultivate relations with leaders of the business community. Businesses within the Borough will benefit from the goals of the Commission and would logically support the Mat Su positions relative to the fisheries. Having representatives of the business community as part of the team going forward will demonstrate the broad positive impacts that additional fish in the Northern district provide.
- d. Develop stories of locals satisfying their food budgets without having to travel long distances. These are powerful and links the importance of the MSBFWC efforts to real outcomes and people. An example is the coverage that was given to the Susitna dipnet fishery last summer. Positive examples linked back to the MSBFWC successful efforts before the Board of Fisheries.
- e. Continue to report out Borough efforts to protect, enhance and improve habitat. Habitat preservation and restoration is a hallmark of the Mat Su Borough. It is powerful testimony to a long-term commitment to healthy fisheries and sets the MSBFWC apart from other advocacy groups in a very positive manner.
- f. Consider another field trip to the Susitna hosted by the Borough. This can be incredibly important in laying a foundation for Board members to understand the area the issues and the people and to develop personal relationships with MSBFWC members. I believe this was done prior to the 2020 meeting and paid dividends. Perhaps a forum with affected business owners (guides, hotels, restaurants, sporting goods) could be worked in to such a trip.

## Appendix A

### RCs Submitted on Behalf of Mat Su Fish and Wildlife Commission

RC Number	Submitted By	Subject
PC 138	Mat Su	It Takes Fish to Make Fish
<a href="#">RC 25 &amp; 26</a>	Mat Su	Proposal Comments
<a href="#">RC065</a>	Andy Couch	Public Testimony
<a href="#">RC046</a>	Gabe Kitter	Public Testimony
<a href="#">RC047</a>	Howard Delo	Public Testimony
<a href="#">RC048</a>	Jim Sykes	Public Testimony
<a href="#">RC055</a>	Kendra Zamzow	Public Testimony
<a href="#">RC056</a>	Larry Engle	Public Testimony
<a href="#">RC054</a>	Maija DiSalvo	Public Testimony
<a href="#">RC049</a>	Pete Probasco	Public Testimony
<a href="#">RC 144</a>		Cook Inlet North District June King
<a href="#">RC200</a>	Andy Couch	Fishery Policy
<a href="#">RC228</a>	Mat Su	Mat Su Borough Proposed Amendment to Central District Drift Gillnet Management Plan
	Mat Su	Mat Su Borough Amendment to Proposal 127

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH**

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**CHAIRPERSON**

Andy Couch

**VICE CHAIR**

Pete Probasco

**MSB STAFF**

Maija DiSalvo

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Howard Delo

Larry Engel

Tim Hale

Gabe Kitter

Bill Gamble

Kendra Zamzow

*Ex officio:* Jim Sykes**MSB FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION****Memorandum - April 12, 2024**

**RE: Questions for discussion at the June 6, 2024 FWC/ADF&G Game Season Summary meeting**

The MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) has a long history of engaging with Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) to better understand management of fish and game resources. This set of questions were discussed and approved by the FWC for submission to ADF&G. Below are key dates we'd like to observe:

- April 11 FWC meeting: Approve questions for June 6 meeting.
- April 12: Submit approved questions to ADF&G.
- **May 23: Deadline for game harvest summary (requested 2/13/24) and written responses to submitted questions from ADF&G back to FWC.**

Return to: [maija.disalvo@matsugov.us](mailto:maija.disalvo@matsugov.us)

- May 30: Meeting packet for special FWC/ADF&G Game Season Summary posted.
- June 6, 5:00 – 7:00 PM, DSJ Building Assembly Chambers: Special game season summary meeting with ADF&G.

**MSB FWC Questions Regarding 2023 Game Season Summary Meeting**

1. How has the number of registered bear baits changed over the past five years in GMU's 14A, 14B, 16A, 16B and 13? – GK
2. What is the main means of transport to registered bear baits in GMU's 14A, 14B, 16A, 16B and 13? – GK
3. How many bear baits are registered by guides or outfitters in GMU's 14A, 14B, 16A, 16B and 13 compared to resident registered bait stations in the last 5 years. – GK
4. What is the harvest data for sheep in the GMU's 14A, 14B, 16A, 16B and 13 when comparing resident vs nonresidents? – GK
5. Are there any hunter education programs that have been created or are being implemented within the mat su school district? If not, is this a program that the department feels would be possible to utilize working collaboratively with our Mat Su School District? – GK
6. How many brown bears were harvested from 13A and how does that harvest amount compare to the estimated population of brown bear in 13A? (Last five years) – GK
7. How has draw tag participation trended over the past five year? If possible, break down the number of draw tags purchased comparing resident vs non resident over the past five years? (Statewide) – GK
8. What is the latest harvest data for wolves in unit 16 under the recent implementation of predator control? – GK
9. Does the department feel that the moose population in GMU 16B could sustain a general season (Harvest Ticket) hunting opportunity if the access to the area was increased by the proposed West Susitna Access Road? If not, what management steps would the department likely need to take to ensue a healthy moose population was sustained? – GK
10. Given the heavy snowfalls for the past two consecutive years, how well have the moose populations fared going into the spring/summer of 2024? – HD
11. What is the status of the Unit 13 Caribou population? – HD
12. Where are we in the snowshoe hare population cycle? – HD

13. How are the grouse and ptarmigan populations faring? – HD
14. How are the Dall sheep populations doing? – HD
15. Did this winter's heavy snow fall have a significant impact on the survival of MSB moose? If so, please explain. – LE
16. Is ADFG considering any significant changes to the MSB Moose hunting regulations for 2024? – LE
17. How did this winter's MSB moose road/train kill numbers compare to those of the past decade? – LE
18. Dall Sheep Population Surveys - Talkeetna and Chugach Mtns – PP
  - How frequent
  - Population status
  - Trends
  - Harvest history by drawing area
19. Moose population surveys – Units 13, 14, 16 – PP
  - Overall population seems to be very low - please comment
  - Current survey results
  - Methods of surveying, when conducted, etc. compared to prior methodology
20. Unit 13 Nelchina caribou – PP
  - Status
  - Population trend
  - Is this herd following the same track as the decline in the Mulchatna herd?
21. Predator Control - Units 16 and 13 (wolves and bears) – PP
  - Status
  - overall impact on predator population
  - future plans

DRAFT



**Questions by Topic****MOOSE**

- A. Does the department feel that the moose population in GMU 16B could sustain a general season (Harvest Ticket) hunting opportunity if the access to the area was increased by the proposed West Susitna Access Road? If not, what management steps would the department likely need to take to ensue a healthy moose population was sustained? – GK
- B. Given the heavy snowfalls for the past two consecutive years, how well have the moose populations fared going into the spring/summer of 2024? – HD
- C. Did this winter's heavy snow fall have a significant impact on the survival of MSB moose? If so, please explain. – LE
- D. Is ADFG considering any significant changes to the MSB Moose hunting regulations for 2024? – LE
- E. How did this winter's MSB moose road/train kill numbers compare to those of the past decade? – LE
- F. Moose population surveys – Units 13, 14, 16 – PP
  - a. Overall population seems to be very low - please comment
  - b. Current survey results
  - c. Methods of surveying, when conducted, etc. compared to prior methodology

**SHEEP**

- G. What is the harvest data for sheep in the GMU's 14A, 14B, 16A, 16B and 13 when comparing resident vs nonresidents? – GK
- H. How are the Dall sheep populations doing? – HD
- I. Dall Sheep Population Surveys - Talkeetna and Chugach Mtns – PP
  - a. How frequent
  - b. Population status
  - c. Trends
  - d. Harvest history by drawing area

**CARIBOU**

- J. What is the status of the Unit 13 Caribou population? – HD
- K. Unit 13 Nelchina caribou – PP
  - a. Status
  - b. Population trend
  - c. Is this herd following the same track as the decline in the Mulchatna herd?

**BEAR**

- L. How has the number of registered bear baits changed over the past five years in GMU's 14A, 14B, 16A, 16B and 13? – GK
- M. What is the main means of transport to registered bear baits in GMU's 14A, 14B, 16A, 16B and 13? – GK
- N. How many bear baits are registered by guides or outfitters in GMU's 14A, 14B, 16A, 16B and 13 compared to resident registered bait stations in the last 5 years. – GK
- O. How many brown bears were harvested from 13A and how does that harvest amount compare to the estimated population of brown bear in 13A? (Last five years) – GK

**PREDATOR CONTROL**

- P. What is the latest harvest data for wolves in unit 16 under the recent implementation of predator control? – GK
- Q. Predator Control - Units 16 and 13 (wolves and bears) – PP
  - a. Status
  - b. overall impact on predator population
  - c. future plans

**SMALL GAME**

- R. Where are we in the snowshoe hare population cycle? – HD
- S. How are the grouse and ptarmigan populations faring? – HD

**OTHER**

- T. Are there any hunter education programs that have been created or are being implemented within the Mat Su School District? If not, is this a program that the department feels would be possible to utilize working collaboratively with our Mat Su School District? – GK
- U. How has draw tag participation trended over the past five years? If possible, break down the number of draw tags purchased comparing resident vs non resident over the past five years? (Statewide) – GK

DRAFT