

Bristol Bay Advisory Group Information Meeting

Meeting Structure

Welcome and Introductions

Introductory Remarks by Lt. Governor Byron Mallott

Presentation by ADF&G Commissioner Sam Cotten

Presentation by ADEC Commissioner Larry Hartig

Presentation by DNR Commissioner Andrew T. Mack

State Representatives are here to listen to community input and questions regarding the Bristol Bay Advisory Group. Some information we are interested in hearing includes:

- **Are there interests that should be represented on the Advisory Group that we have not identified in this presentation?**
- **What are the regional priorities or issues that should be reviewed by the Advisory Group?**
- **How to improve upon DNR's proposed structure/framework of the Advisory Group?**
- **How often should the Advisory Group meet? By teleconference or rotation among hub communities? Ideas on subcommittee structure?**

- **How should the Advisory Group members share information back to the people or interests in the region?**
- **What are some issues affecting life and work in the region that are related to management of the natural resources that we should know?**
- **Any other information you would like us to know?**

Bristol Bay Advisory Group
May 29, 2018
Dillingham

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Commissioner Sam Cotten

Overview of work:Bristol Bay region

- Five divisions:
 - Commercial Fisheries
 - Sport Fisheries
 - Subsistence
 - Wildlife conservation
 - habitat
- Department has:
 - staff,
 - management responsibilities,
 - research efforts, and
 - permitting authority

Staff in the region

- Year round staff that focus on Bristol Bay region are in:
 - Anchorage
 - Dillingham, and
 - King Salmon
- King Salmon office staff:
 - 3 Division of wildlife conservation
- Dillingham office staff:
 - 2 Division of Wildlife,
 - 3 Division of Sport fish,
 - 2 Division Commercial fisheries,
 - 1 Division of Subsistence
- Seasonal staff grows to about 70 more mainly from commercial fisheries division to work on sonar, tower, inriver test fisheries, etc

Division of Commercial Fisheries

- Day to day management of salmon and herring
- Second year of the Bristol Bay Fisheries Collaborative (BBFC) with the Bristol Bay Science and Research Institute (BBSRI)
- Funds made available to the department as a result of collaboration in the region with the department – *thank you*

2018 Commercial Fisheries Projects

- Counting Towers - sockeye
 - Kvichak River
 - Naknek River
 - Egegik River
 - Ugashik, River
 - Wood River
 - Igushik River
 - Togiak River
- Test Fishing – ASL
- Sonar – Nushagak escapement
 - Sockeye
 - Chinook
 - Coho
 - Chum
 - Pink
- Port Moller Test fishery
 - sockeye
- Aerial surveys

Division of Sport Fisheries

- Day to day management of all sport fisheries species
 - Pacific salmon
 - Rainbow trout
 - Dolly Varden/Arctic Char
 - Arctic grayling
 - Northern pike
 - Lake trout

2018 Sport Fisheries Projects

- Final year of a two-year king salmon catch-and-release mortality project on the Nushagak River.
- Freshwater Guide logbook collection and summary in season.
- Aerial king salmon surveys in the Nushagak and Alagnak drainages.
- Genetic sample collection for king salmon Bristol Bay drainage wide.
- Rainbow trout studies Bristol Bay drainages wide (weir, genetics, population dynamics, catch statistics tracking).
- The Division's Instream Flow program is collecting hydrologic data to file Reservation of Water (Instream Flow) applications and thereby protect and conserve waters important to fish and the fisheries they support.

Division of Wildlife Conservation

King Salmon

- Brown Bear hunt one of the largest in the state of Alaska
- Caribou-South Peninsula herd, Unimak and North Peninsula herd
- Lower Peninsula Moose working group
- Moose population dynamics project

Dillingham

- Moose harvest research
- Unit 17A Moose Management Group
- Mulchatna Caribou Working Group
- Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Planning Committee
- Wolf management predator control for Mulchatna herd

Marine Mammals in Bristol Bay

- Beluga whales – movement, habitat, abundance, health, hearing studies
- Ice Seal harvest data and marine mammal boat surveys on presence of ice seals in Togiak and Twin Hills
- Stellar Sea Lion counts at Cape Newenham and Round Island
- Round Island, Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary – ADFG seasonal camp with staff

Division of Subsistence

- Conducts research to gather, quantify, evaluation and report about customary and traditional uses of fish and wildlife resources.
- Examples:
 - Annual subsistence salmon harvest amounts
 - Community hunt area maps
 - Marine mammal harvest
 - Traditional knowledge of fish and wildlife resources
 - Community participation in harvest and sharing of wild food harvests

2018 Subsistence Projects

- Partnered with BBNA on three different projects:
 - king salmon harvest in Togiak/Twin Hills,
 - subsistence sharing networks in Alaska Peninsula communities,
 - seal harvest in 10 region communities, and
 - Interviewed elders and map traditional knowledge of the Mulchatna caribou herd.
- Research traditional knowledge and harvest of Dolly Varden in Togiak/Twin Hills.
- The Division is currently working to review and comment on subsistence fishing proposals scheduled for the upcoming Bristol Bay Finfish meeting in Dillingham in December 2018.

Division of Habitat

- The Anchorage Habitat office covers activities in the Bristol Bay region
 - We have two Habitat Biologists that review/permit activities in the region – no local presence
 - We issue both Title 16 and Special Area Permits
 - We typically issue 20-30 permits in the region annually

Habitat Permits

Title 16 Permits

- Fishway Act permits (AS 16.05.841) to ensure fish passage is maintained; and
- Anadromous Fish Act permits (AS 16.05.871) for activities occurring below Ordinary High Water on anadromous streams.
- Typical Projects include:
 - Docks/boat ramps/barge landings;
 - Culverts and bridges;
 - Water withdrawals for road construction, seafood processing, and mineral exploration;
 - Hydropower projects

Special Area Permits

- There are numerous Special Areas in the Bristol Bay area including:
 - Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary;
 - Izembek State Game Refuge;
 - Cape Newenham State Game Refuge;
 - Port Moller Critical Habitat Area (CHA);
 - Port Heiden CHA;
 - Cinder River CHA;
 - Pilot Point CHA; and
 - Egegik CHA.
- Developing and updating (revising) Special Area Management Plans in the region.

Dillingham Office

Sport Fishing Staff:

- Jason Dye – Area Management Biologist,
jason.dye@alaska.gov
- Lee Borden – Assistant Area Management Biologist;
lee.borden@alaska.gov
- Lola Carpenter – Program Technician,
lola.carpenter@alaska.gov

Commercial Fisheries Staff

- Tim Sands
- Karen Brito
- **Wildlife Conservation Staff:**
 - Neil Barton
 - Christine Peterson
 - Eunice Dyasuk

Dillingham Office Contacts

- Commercial Fisheries and Sport Fish
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 230
Dillingham, AK 99576-0230
- Commercial Fisheries Information
Phone (907) 842-5227
FAX (907) 842-5937
- Commercial Fisheries 24-hour Recording
Phone (907) 842-5226
- Sport Fishing Information
Phone (907) 842-2427
FAX (907) 842-5809
- Boards, Subsistence, and Wildlife
546 Kenny Wren Road
PO Box 1030
Dillingham, AK 99576-1030
- Hunting, Trapping, and Wildlife-related Information
Phone (907) 842-2334
FAX (907) 842-5514
- Board of Fisheries and Board of Game Information
Phone (907) 842-5142
FAX (907) 842-5514
- Subsistence Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Information
Phone (907) 842-5925
FAX (907) 842-5514

Thank you

- The work the department does could not be possible without the support of local people in the Bristol Bay region.
- We would like to thank the Tribes, the Tribal organizations, corporations and state and federal advisory committee members and other state, federal, private and other partners.



ADF&G Division of Habitat

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

- **FISHWAY ACT**
 - **AS 16.05.841** - requires that any obstruction built across fish-bearing waters will provide for fish passage.
 - Jurisdiction:
 - Applies to all fish bearing streams (resident and anadromous) and all fish species;
 - Requires long-term commitment to operation & maintenance; and
 - Applies only to fish passage.
- **ANADROMOUS FISH ACT**
 - **AS 16.05.871** – broad in scope and applies to most in-water activities
 - Jurisdiction:
 - Applies to any activity;
 - Applies to all fish and age classes (fry to adult);
 - Applies to activity occurring below the ordinary high water mark (OHW);
 - Waterbody must be in the ADF&G Anadromous Waters Catalogue (AWC); and
 - Applies only to freshwater
- **SPECIAL AREA PERMITTING**
 - **5 AAC 95.700** – Many activities conducted in Special Areas (State Game Refuges, Critical Habitat Areas, and Sanctuaries) require Special Area Permits
 - Examples include: boat storage, group assembly, off road vehicle use, temporary tree stands/blinds, pipelines, material removal, stream crossings, and camping
 - Special Areas in the Bristol Bay Region include: Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary, Izembek State Game Refuge, Cape Newenham State Game Refuge, Port Moller Critical Habitat Area (CHA), Port Heiden CHA, Cinder River CHA, Pilot Point CHA, and Egegik CHA.

FISH HABITAT APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applicant submits plans and specifications to ADF&G Division of Habitat.
- Habitat Biologist reviews and consults, if needed, with area staff from other divisions.
- The proposed project may be permitted as proposed or modified during review process.
- Timeline for review typically 2-6 weeks.
- Emergency exemptions - AS 16.05.891
 - Verbal/email approval
 - Follow up with formal permit
- Typical Stipulations:
 - Timing Windows to avoid sensitive life stages of fish (spawning/migration).
 - Diversion/Bypass Pumping for construction projects
 - Instream Sediment mitigation
 - Revegetation/Stabilization of disturbed stream banks/bed.
 - Fish Passage required for the life of the project.
 - Notification prior to commencement of construction.

ADF&G' S ROLE IN LARGE PROJECT EVALUATION

- Most large projects are coordinated through the ADNR Office of Project Management and Permitting (OPMP)
- Large projects have the potential to result in long-term or permanent change to fish and wildlife habitat.
- ADF&G staff work with the applicant and other agencies to ensure the project is designed to avoid or minimize impacts to resources of the state.
- This requires evaluation of all information available and identification of additional information needs to conduct a thorough analysis of the proposed project and project alternatives.
- There are five phases to large projects:
 - Pre-project scoping and baseline fish and wildlife studies and subsistence uses;
 - Permitting;
 - Project construction monitoring;
 - Project operation monitoring; and

- Post-project site reclamation or restoration.
- Activities associated with large project development that would typically require permits from the ADF&G include:
 - Fish Habitat Permits from the Division of Habitat addressing:
 - Construction of fish barriers (i.e., dams);
 - Changes in stream flow;
 - Material removal;
 - Freshwater dam construction;
 - Stream crossings associated with roads and pipelines (bridges, culverts, buried pipelines, etc.);
 - Water withdrawal and intake structures;
 - Stream re-alignment; and
 - Instream mitigation projects.

EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS RECENTLY AUTHORIZED IN THE BRISTOL BAY AREA

- **Lodges**
 - Iliamna River Lodge - Floating Dock - Unnamed Lake (Char Lake - Lower Talarik Creek drainage)
 - Iliamna River Lodge - ATV Bridge - Unnamed Stream
 - Iliamna River Lodge - ATV Bridge - Unnamed Stream (841)
 - Katmailand, Inc. - Bank Stabilization (sand bags) - Nonvianuk (Kulik) River
 - Bristol Bay Sportfishing Lodge - Dock Construction - Iliamna Lake
 - Rapids Camp Lodge - Dock and Anchors - Naknek River
 - Bristol Bay Sportfishing Lodge - Retaining Wall - Iliamna Lake
- **Construction/Transportation**
 - NPS Katmai National Park and Preserve - Bridge Construction (pile supported) - Brooks River
 - NPS Katmai National Park and Preserve - Equipment Crossing - Brooks River/Naknek Lake
 - NPS Katmai National Park and Preserve - Beach Grading - Naknek Lake
 - NPS Katmai National Park and Preserve - Floating Dock and Pilings - Naknek River
 - Knik Construction Inc. - Water Withdrawal - Naknek River
 - Iliamna Development Corporation - Barge Landings/Equipment Travel - Iliamna Lake
 - Port Alsworth Improvement Corporation - Culvert Replacement - Unnamed Stream (841)
 - Ray Williams - Vehicle/Equipment Crossing - Iliamna Lake

- ADOT&PF - Bridge Replacement - Iliamna River
- TerraSond-Geotechnical Sampling-Nushagak and Kvichak Rivers
- ADOT&PF – Bank Stabilization – Kun River (Scammon Bay Airport)
- ADOT&PF – Water Withdrawal (Dust Control/Revegetation) – Unnamed Ponds (841)
- City of Dillingham – Dock Repair – Nushagak River
- Knik Construction - Water Withdrawal (Dust Control) – Smalls River
- Wilson’s General Contractor – Debris Removal (Excavator thru Ice) – Kinak River
- USACE – Dredging (Small Boat Harbor) – Nushagak River
- Quality Asphalt and Paving – Water Withdrawal (Dust Control/Revegetation) – Lake Orbin (841)
- Ugashik Village – Dock Construction – Ugashik River
- Ron Smith – Debris Removal (Abandoned Barge) – Wood River
- City of Dillingham – Dock Repair – Nushagak River
- Village of Napaimut – Boat Launch – Kuskokwim River
- ADOT&PF – Bank Stabilization – Wood River
- **Utilities/Villages/Borough**
 - Iliamna Newhalen Nondalton Electric Coop. - Repair and Modify Hydroelectric Project - Tazimina River
 - Pedro Bay Village Council- Hydropower- Knutson Creek
 - Chignik Lake Village Council – Utility Line Placement – Unnamed Stream (841)
- **Mining/Exploration**
 - Chuchuna Minerals Co. - Water Withdrawal - Multiple Streams
 - Bristol Bay Housing Authority – Gravel Extraction – Nushagak River
 - Willow Creek Placer Mine – Cross Country Travel/Equipment Transport – Yukon River/Poltes Slough
- **Fisheries/Seafood**
 - AK General Seafoods - Dock Expansion/Pile Driving - Naknek River
 - ADF&G Commercial Fisheries Division – Fish Weir Installation/Operation – McLees River
- **Agriculture**
 - Meyers Farm – Water Withdrawal – Browns Slough

For questions regarding Fish Habitat Permits or for assistance with permitting your project please contact us at:

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Habitat
333 Raspberry Rd, Suite 2068
Anchorage, AK 99518
(907) 267-2342
dfg.hab.infoanc@alaska.gov**



Overview of Planning

- Land management for DNR is guided by area plans.
- Plans identify the primary uses of the lands, provide management intent for those lands, and classify based on classifications contained in current regulations.
- Under current regulations, up to three classifications can be used for a single piece of land. Applying more than one classification to an area of land ensures that the importance of both classifications is addressed in land management decisions.
- Plans include a Land Classification Order signed by the Commissioner of DNR and may include Mineral Orders which close or open lands to new mineral entry or Leasehold Location Orders that require a claim holder to obtain a lease prior to development of the mineral estate.
- Plans are not regulations and do not by themselves limit or prohibit uses – this can only be done through statutes or regulations. As such, they do not address Generally Allowed Uses.
- Plans do not apply to private, Alaska Native, Mental Health Trust, University or federal lands.
- Plans do not make decisions on projects or address oil and gas leasing.
- Plans do not affect method, means and allocation of fish and wildlife harvest.

Why have a plan:

Article VIII, Section 1 of the Alaska State Constitution states:

“It is the policy of the State to encourage the settlement of its land and the development of its resources by making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest.”

Alaska Statute 38.04.005 (a) states:

“In order to provide for maximum use of state land consistent with the public interest, it is the policy of the State of Alaska to plan and manage state-owned land to establish a balanced combination of land available for both public and private purposes. The choice of land best suited for public and private use shall be determined through the inventory, planning, and classification processes...”

Alaska Statute 38.04.065(a) states:

“...the commissioner shall, with local governmental and public involvement under AS 38.05.945, adopt, maintain, and, when appropriate, revise regional land use plans that provide for the use and management of state-owned land.”