

**Yakutat Advisory Committee  
Location: Yakutat, Alaska**

**Yakutat Fish and Game Advisory Committee Meeting**

**January 30, 2026 @ 7pm  
Yakutat School Auditorium**

The Yakutat Fish and Game Advisory Committee held a public meeting and elections on Friday, January 30th at 7:00 pm in the Yakutat High School Auditorium.

Attendance

John Vale JV

Matt Anderstrom MA

Melenda Lekanof ML

Doug Ross DR

Jonathan Pavlik JPav

Travis Ross TR

Jessie Pavlik JessieP

Jim Woodberry JW

Larry Bemis LB

Via Zoom: Jeremiah Pavlik JerP

Absent

Casey Mapes CM

Sam Demmert Sr. SD

JV: Makes a request to move R. Proposal 187: Close the Tsiu River and all waters within one quarter mile of the Tsiu River and Kaliakh River confluence to commercial fishing for salmon. To first of the Agenda under New Business: Board of Fisheries Proposals.

M. LB 2nd. JessieP.

Votes Aye 10 Nay

**R. Proposal 187**

Discussion

JV- Tribe/CBY has done resolutions opposing Proposal 187 and they are in the packet along with a letter from Native Allotment Owner Donald Bremner. If the board can take a look at the Advisory Board Comment Letter drafted by Jonathan Pavlik. This proposal was taken out of cycle and the Advisory Board opposes this proposal.

- Taking a few minutes to review the letter
- JV gave the this history of the Tsiu Rlver fishing area
- Would like to see tenders to buy fish in the Tsiu so more Yaktuat fishermen can fish in the Tsiu/Kaliakh river again.

Opened up for comment

Regina Rioux, Native Allotment owner- As a native allotment owner and fisherman of the Tsiu/Kaliakh River, she opposes the proposal and has concerns about the lodges continuous attack on the commercial fishing.

- Gave history of how they got the allotment under her grandfather Kenny Hansen
- Asked who was proposing this proposal

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JV: There are issues with the Alaska Wilderness Adventures Lodge who would put their sportsfisherman in harm's way when the skiff is on the river setting their nets and the sportsfisherman would set up there casting. They have been known to pull setnet anchors, making it unsafe situations for the commercial fisherman working their net. This is a long history of this certain lodge harassing commercial fisherman and is the only lodge in the Tsiu who does this. The other lodges have been very respectful and not harassed the commercial fisherman.

Call to Request to Adopt the Advisory Board Proposal 187 Opposing Draft Letter

JV: Adopt the letter

-With the backing of the Tribes Resolution and Comment Letter and CBY Resolution would like to adopt the Advisory Committee Draft letter.

-This proposal was taken out of cycle and opposes the Proposal 187

MOTION: LB

- Does not want to change the letter and everyone agrees to the draft letter

2nd DR

Comment

JV- Important issue and economics to preserve history that estimated %40 coho came from the Tsiu when there was a local presence in that area.

LB- Encourages all the communities to show up and agencies to the March meeting and represent with their resolutions and comments. Testifying for the fisheries as associations would be a huge importance to have support in comment and letters.

Greg Inderland, Yakutat Seafoods- The reason YS has not been up in the Tsiu buying fish is because due to the changing of the area the runway where the planes use to land is been filled with standing water making it dangerous to land. He hopes in the future to bring planes to the Tsiu to purchase and fly fish out. Back when this was up as a proposal in 2012 was up to close the commercial fishing in the Tsiu YTT President Demmert sent in a strong proposal opposing the closure to commercial fishing and helped change the vote keeping commercial fishing open. It was Bob Smith who sat on the BOF supporting this proposal to close the commercial fishing in 2012 and later lost his seat.

Accounted 40-60% of Coho was fished out of the Tsiu and years past (and referenced a typical opener.)

JV- Suggested to the Yakutat Seafoods to write a letter Opposing Proposal 187.

Greg Inderland: I will be at the meeting to testify and will be writing a comment also.

Q. ML 2nd JW

In support of the Opposing the Proposal 187

Vote: 10

**New Business: Board of Fisheries Proposals**

a. Proposal 162: Prohibit commercial transport services in subsistence fisheries

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Motion: JerP                      2nd JW

Comment

- This affects us because we all use aircrafts to hire to fly us to commercial fish and later subsistence. How will this affect our harvesting?

Audience:

- Josh Peppenrock- Oppose
- James Ross- Oppose
- Sheri Nelson- Oppose

Q. JessieP            2nd. DR                      Vote 9 (Matt lost connection)

b. Proposal 163: Define all trawl gear operated inside state waters as non-pelagic and develop new performance and monitoring standards to allow state-waters pelagic trawling to occur on a case-by-case basis  
NO VOTE

c. Proposal 164: Establish bottom contact monitoring requirements for pelagic trawl gear operated inside state waters  
NO VOTE

d. Proposal 165: Establish salmon excluder requirements for all pelagic trawl gear operated inside state waters  
NO VOTE

e. Proposal 166: Amend statewide definition of a mechanical jigging machine  
NO VOTE

f. Proposal 167: Prohibit vessels from having other groundfish gear or equipment onboard while participating in a groundfish fishery using mechanical jigging machines or hand troll gear  
NO VOTE

g. Proposal 168: Prohibit vessels from having more than one groundfish gear type onboard when participating in a state-managed groundfish fishery  
NO VOTE

h. Proposal 169: Create a definition of groundfish coil spring or ‘slinky pot’

M. JessieP            2nd JPAV

Comment

Opposes Proposal 169

- Starts with Black Cod fisheries
- Its limiting factors

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- Coil Slots Restrictions
- Gets tore up by the whales

Q. JessieP           Vote 10 (Matt lost connection)

i. Proposal 173: Provide emergency order authority to define fishing boundaries when regulatory markers are lost, destroyed or otherwise absent  
NO VOTE

j. Proposal 176: Allow anglers fishing from the same vessel to pool bag and possession limits  
M. JessieP        2nd DR

Comment  
LB- They should catch their own fish and opposes this proposal  
Audiance

Patrick Robbins- Opposes because every fisherman should catch their own fish  
Q. JessieP           Vote 10 (Matt lost connection)

k. Proposal 177: Allow anglers fishing from the same vessel to pool bag and possession limits  
M. LB                2nd JessieP

Comment  
LB- Asks Jason AKF&G to clarify the proposal

Q. \_\_\_\_               Vote 10

l. Proposal 178: Modify the definition of bag limit  
M. LB                2nd Jessie

Comment  
This is the same as 176 & 177 and board opposes this also

Q. \_\_\_\_\_       Vote 10

m. Proposal 179: Establish a statewide annual limit for king salmon of 10 fish  
M. LB                2nd JW

Comment  
LB- Both 179 & 180 can oppose because we are effected, asking Jason AKF&G to clarify  
Jason AKF&G- Clarified this is a household item and only for sportsfishing  
JV- Noted this is household item for AKF&G  
JW- Opposes  
James Ross- Opposes  
JPav-Opposes

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JV-is concerned this puts restrictions on residents

Q. DR           Vote 10

n. Proposal 180: Establish a statewide annual limit for king salmon of five fish

M. \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd \_\_\_\_\_

Comment

This is the same as the last proposal

Q. \_\_\_\_\_ Vote 10

o. Proposal 181: Align regulatory and statutory language for sport fishing gear

NO VOTE

p. Proposal 183: Amend regulations requiring conditions of fish available to inspection while in possession

NO VOTE

q. Proposal 184: Align the sport fish definition of rockfish with the statewide definition

NO VOTE

r. Proposal 187: Close the Tsiu River and all waters within one quarter mile of the Tsiu River and Kaliakh River confluence to commercial fishing for salmon

*\*\*ITEM WAS MOVED TO TOP OF AGENDA*

Emailed to

[annie.bartholomew@alaska.gov](mailto:annie.bartholomew@alaska.gov)

Attendance

Daryl James  
Josh Papenbrock  
Richard Hoffman  
Pat Robbins  
Jessie Pavlik-AC

Douglas Ross-AC  
James Ross  
Travis Ross-AC  
Chris Stewart  
Sheri Nelson  
Greg Indreland  
James Woodbury-AC

Krista Mehan  
Markliam Sappington  
Johnathan Pavlik-AC  
Larry Bemis-AC  
Melenda Lekanof-AC  
John Vale-AC  
Matt Anderstrom (Zoom)  
-AC  
Jeremiah Pavlik (Zoom)  
-AC  
JasonAKF&G (Zoom)

**Yakutat Advisory Committee**  
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Emily (Zoom)  
Regina Rioux (Zoom)

Minutes Recorded By: Melenda Lekanof  
Approved: John Vale, AC Chair