

Ice Seal Committee
Co-Management Meeting
May 22, 2018 Minutes

1. Call To Order: by Billy Adams at 9:01 am
2. Invocation: Sam Gosuk

Introductions: Billy Adams NSB, Sam Gosuk, Brandon Ahmasuk, Chuck, Albert Simon, Jenifer Hooper, Joe Leavitt, Peter Boveng, Jen, Barbara Mohoney, Mike Pederson, Emerson Moto, Helen Aderman, Shawn , Jon, Andy VonDuyke, and Raphaela Stimmelmayer.

3. Roll Call : established

Discussed number of committee members and decided that both regional and hunter rep should attend the meetings. Billy says all reps attend both meetings.
Billy asked to be excused until after lunch for his other whale meeting.

4. Dispensed with "Roberts Rules of Order"

5. Select a Chairman from Ice Seal Committee: Selected Brandan
Barbara Mahoney gave a brief update overview between the Ice Seal Committee and the Co-Management. The board is made up of hunters and Co-management Sub-committee is made up of the ISC members and NMFS so they can work together and bring concerns up in a mutual place for discussions.

Mike Pederson: the hunter Rep is selected by the regional organization or the tribe, most recently it has been done by a resolution.

What is a quorum: with Robert Rules being dispensed it is 75% + 1.

The bylaws and Co-Management will need to be changed if Ice Seal stays at 10 members. Co-management Ice Seal and NMFS: 5 Ice Seal Regional Reps and 3 NMFS Reps. If we include all ten ISC members would have to reopen the co-management. Peter says the lawyers may not be so open to this and recommends we leave it as it is 5/3 with invites to the rest of the members.

6. Adoption of Agenda

Moved #9 the discussion of ESA to May 23rd for the Ice Seal Board Meeting.

7. June 7, 2017 ISC Committee Co-management Committee meeting minutes not ready.

8. Joh Kurland:

NMF 2008 2012 Finalized Ring & Bearded Seals listed as endangered: lots of litigations fighting this

- Slide handout ESA Status Update NOAA:
- Barbara: within the next few months will see more info

9. Ice Seal Committee Topics

- a. Bill Adams is the NSB Regional Rep, Carla SimsKayotuk is the new ISC executive manager, and Joe Leavitt is the new NSB Hunter Rep
- b. Website: Stand Alone "Ice Seal" Mike recommends to keep it where it is at under the NSB web page- maintained by Leslie. Shawn's concern coming from the gov't's angle is the image of NDB being in charge of the ISC (which it is not) as you look at it when it is pulled up on the web page. Will work with Leslie to keep appearances of the web page not under the NSB and looking like a separate as ISC. A board member suggested getting funds for separate web page. Sam saw a link for the teachers and students to use for teaching and liked this process.
- c. Mike will do a topic on Critical Habitat

Half time or full time? 6 weeks of work on Ice Seals under the grant, level of support time for the board

Things sent to the Executive Manager should be also sent on to the board members.

Helen: would like members from the smaller communities to be brought in to testify at public hearings.

Barb: preparing for annual meeting- considers a more active and involved board, it is up to them if they want more meetings. For the next grant the board needs to decide how much more they want to meet and be involved.

Mike: we use to have monthly meetings but it was hard to do, teleconferences

Jennifer: clarity of executive – be given a list of issues to be able to think about what is coming/ be open.

Shawn: Grant – making sure we are in compliance

10. ISC Funding

Shawn said it got through final approval for the annual meeting and function. Couple cuts will be made; because it is late, paper work needs to get back quick. He was surprised we didn't ask for support for the executive member and thinks we need to consider how to increase ISC roles and involvement. In his opinion as a grantor the executive manager should be funded by ISC.

Chuck believes that it should be a full time position funded by ISC. Mike said NSB as the manager of the funding used the Beluga Committee as an example for the ISC. Sam thinks 6 weeks is not enough and that the work could be more than 6 weeks. He thinks Mike's work for ISC coincides under other jobs. Shawn suggest to communicate to the board how much time is dedicated to the ISC in case it is more than 6 weeks and have the board reevaluate the time needed to do the job. Chuck still thinks it should be a full time position funded by ISC. Barb said Mike followed other set ups, need to be able to justify the amount of funds / support NMFS feels the ISC will need more support and spend more time to get the work done; will need to request for more support and funds. More work is coming and in the past more than 6 weeks was funded.

Skipped to item # 14 for time constraints

14. NMFS Marine Mammal Lab research on ice seals Peter Boveng

Field work: NOAA Ship studied seals spotted and ribbon every other year since 2007 with some missed years. April and May in the Bering Sea at the edge of the ice so that there would be no conflict with hunters. 2014 and 2016 saw similar ice conditions; the ice was not developed like this year in January, but ice growth in March. It is not good for seal habitat that ice growth is so late in the season.... It ended up that the ice didn't grow. They had to go further north to study seals making them closer to communities. For food security: good faith: and following the standards of care.

Kawerak hunter had concerns about the amount of vessels around and would like to revisit the buffer zones.

Billy: the Standard of Care is similar to the Whalers' conflict of Avoidance with oil industry.

Peter: studies have the potential to help conservation/co-management. The goal is not to disturb the animals they approach moving slow like the hunters. How can we make this better; getting studies done as well as not impacting hunts?

Sam: timing 1st walrus 10 thousand of them, not seeing walrus at Master Walrus Island, Elders believe it's from trollers in the waters and lack of ice. Need better communication between the researchers and hunters, maybe smaller boats.

11. Executive Session

12. Draft ISC and NMFS Co-Management Committee Action Plan Barbara Mahoney
Action Plan was discussed

Stranded Ice Seals: storms wash up seals at home and some belugas

Mike: what parts of the action plan we can do this year? What is NMFS's envision in this harvest management plan?

Billy : concerns in the communities is will there be a quota be put on seals with the words "harvest management plans" maybe change "management" to "monitoring program"

Jennifer: making the reason very clear to the regional people

Sam: the commercial fishers of herring is having an impact on the seals- having hard time to find herring eggs and number of herring which is the food for the seals. Seals at this time should be fat and they are not.

Andy: NPRA funding discussed

Peter: lets' schedule time for putting the Action Plan together; work with Barb to put the edited Plan together, plan to review the progress on the Action Plan. Use this Action Plan to set goals and follow through with updates before the next annual meeting. Come to the annual meeting with the results of the Action Plan.

Get Suggestions from the Board on edits to the Action Plan in 2 weeks' time and have the final to everyone by July.

Jennifer: where are all the old posters/messages from when the ISC first got started. Suggest they be made into different languages.

Fact Sheets Soon will be final.

15. Closing Comments

Joe: Education to the younger generation; when to catch and to not waste.

Jenifer: Looking forward to helping the new executive manager.

Sam: Seals with no hair, we need "action on that", who to contact.

Helen: Education Older ones teaching younger ones.

Emmerson: North West Passage Open: more traffic, ships dumping trash in the ocean, drums washed ashore with walrus going to the same place. Request from the Coast Guard what the results are of those drums that washed up.

Brandon: Coast Guard is not sure where they came from. Walrus washed up (not cause) shell fish poison maybe could be factor.

Walrus – testing; PSB way too high for human consumption: acting drunk, Nero toxin

Mike: thanks everyone for their openness and frankness.

Billy: thanks to the Federal Partners for openness and more projects for ISC to work on.

16. Date for Next Meeting; Decide this at tomorrow's meeting

17. Adjournment 4:45 pm