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ICE SEAL COMMITTEE CO-MANAGEMENT MEETING
MINUTES

May 22, 2018

Dimond Center Hotel – 700 E Dimond Blvd, Anchorage, AK 99515

1. Call To Order:

by Billy Adams at 9:01 am

2. Invocation:

Invocation given by 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 Stimmelmayr.

3. Roll Call: quorum 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.

41 **6. Adoption of Agenda**

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

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

45
46 **8. Joh Kurland:**

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

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

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52 **9. Ice Seal Committee Topics**

53 a. Bill Adams is the NSB Regional Rep, Carla SimsKayotuk is the new ISC executive
54 manager, and Joe Leavitt is the new NSB Hunter Rep

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56 b. Website: Stand Alone “Ice Seal” Mike recommends to keep it where it is at under the
57 NSB web page- maintained by Leslie. Shawn’s concern coming from the gov’t’s angle is
58 the image of NDB being in charge of the ISC (which it is not) as you look at it when it is
59 pulled up on the web page. Will work with Leslie to keep appearances of the web page
60 not under the NSB and looking like a separate as ISC. A board member suggested getting
61 funds for separate web page. Sam saw a link for the teachers and students to use for
62 teaching and liked this process.

63
64 c. Mike will do a topic on Critical Habitat

65
66 Half-time or full-time? 6 weeks of work on Ice Seals under the grant, level of support time
67 for the board

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

70
71 Helen: would like members from the smaller communities to be brought in to testify at public
72 hearings.

73
74 Barara: preparing for annual meeting- considers a more active and involved board, it is up to
75 them if they want more meetings. For the next grant the board needs to decide how much
76 more they want to meet and be involved.

77
78 Mike: we use to have monthly meetings but it was hard to do, teleconferences

79
80 Jennifer: clarity of executive – be given a list of issues to be able to think about what is
81 coming/ be open.

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83 Shawn: Grant – making sure we are in compliance

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87 10. ISC Funding

88 Shawn said it got through final approval for the annual meeting and function. Couple cuts
89 will be made; because it is late, paper work needs to get back quick. He was surprised we
90 didn't ask for support for the executive member and thinks we need to consider how to
91 increase ISC roles and involvement. In his opinion as a grantor the executive manager should
92 be funded by ISC. Chuck believes that it should be a full time position funded by ISC. Mike
93 said NSB as the manager of the funding used the Beluga Committee as an example for the
94 ISC. Sam thinks 6 weeks is not enough and that the work could be more that 6 weeks. He
95 thinks Mike's work for ISC coincides under other jobs. Shawn suggest to communicate to the
96 board how much time is dedicated to the ISC in case it is more than 6 weeks and have the
97 board reevaluate the time needed to do the job. Chuck still thinks it should be a full time
98 position funded by ISC. Barb said Mike followed other set ups, need to be able to justify the
99 amount of funds / support NMFS feels the ISC will need more support and spend more time
100 to get the work done; will need to request for more support and funds. More work is coming
101 and in the past more than 6 weeks was funded.

102

103 **Skipped to item # 14 for time constraints**

104

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

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

113

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

116

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

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

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

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126 11. Executive Session

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

129 Action Plan was discussed

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

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

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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