



## Indigenous People's Council for Marine Mammals (IPCoMM)

### Annual (Fall) Board of Directors Meeting

William A. Egan Civic & Convention Center, Anchorage, Alaska

October 13-14, 2016

#### MINUTES

The Annual (Fall) Board of Directors Meeting was called to order on October 13, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in Space 2 of the William A. Egan Civic & Convention Center at 555 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska by Chairman Mike Miller. Invocation was offered by Willie Goodwin. The roll call established a quorum was present. Attending the meeting were:

<u>Organization represented</u>	<u>Representative</u>
Alaska Beluga Whale Committee.....	Willie Goodwin
Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (Observer) .....	Arnold Brower, Jr.
Alaska Nanuuq Commission .....	Charles Brower
Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission .....	Speridon Simeonoff
Alaska Sea Otter and Steller Sea Lion Commission .....	Lianna Peterson
Aleut Community of St. Paul Island .....	Pamela Lestenkof
Assn. of Village Council Presidents—IUM.....	Jennifer Hooper
Bristol Bay Marine Mammal Council .....	Helen Aderman
Chugach Regional Resources Commission.....	Robert Henrichs
Eskimo Walrus Commission .....	Vera Metcalf
Ice Seal Committee .....	John Goodwin
Inuit Circumpolar Council—Alaska .....	Kelly Eningowuk
Native Village of Tyonek.....	Arthur Standifer
North Slope Borough, Dept. of Wildlife Management .....	Taqulik Hepa
Sitka Marine Mammal Commission .....	Mike Miller
Traditional Council of St. George Island.....	Dennis Lekanof

#### Organization not represented

Aleut Marine Mammal Commission  
Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska  
Maniilaq Association

#### Visitors/Others Present

USMMC: Daryl Boness; Jenna Malek  
USFWS: Mary Colligan; Patrick Lemons; Brad Benter  
NOAA/NMFS: Pete Jones; Jon Kurland; Mike Williams; Kristie Balovich; John Bengtson  
NPRB: Danielle Dickson  
AFN/SHI: Rosita Worl  
RDI: Matt Johnson  
UAF: Seth Danielson  
Senator Sullivan: Mike Fleagle  
CRRC: Patricia Schwalenberg  
EWC: Benjamin Payenna  
ABWC: Molly Chythlook

IPCoMM: Carol Torsen

**MOTION:** Charlie Brower moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Willie Goodwin. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Taqulik Hepa moved to approve IPCoMM Executive Teleconference minutes of 09/20/16; 7/14/16; 05/19/16; IPCoMM late winter BOD meeting minutes of Feb. 11-12, 2016 and IPCoMM Annual (fall) BOD meeting minutes of Dec. 3-4, 2015. Seconded by Charlie Brower. Motion carried.

Brief staff and financial reports were given by Chair Mike and Carol Torsen.

**MOTION:** Taqulik Hepa moved to approve Staff Financial Report. Seconded by Molly Chythlook. Motion carried.

### **MMC REPORT IN RESPONSE TO IPCoMM RECOMMENDATIONS TO MMC**

Daryl J. Boness, Chairman, USMMC, requested that IPCoMM's budget summary add more information. MMC is willing to help facilitate a more effective co-management relationship between agencies and ANOs. A co-management review will help, involving agencies and ANOs, and perhaps other options.

### **NPRB PROGRAM UPDATE**

Danielle Dickson of NPRB Arctic Programs reported that North Pacific Research Board has funded a new Arctic marine ecosystem research program with a few partners, which will focus on how changes in sea ice and associated environmental changes affect the food web and food security for Arctic residents. Research cruises will be conducted in June 2017 and 2018 and in August-September 2017 & 2019. .

### **IPCoMM COMMISSION/COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### Alaska Sea Otter & Steller Sea Lion Commission

Lianna Jack reported TASSC has had a busy time. Sea Lion hunters continued with education efforts. Completed two publications past summer on Steller sea lion hunting laws and regulations. Mentoring sea lion hunters. Good training in Nanwalek. Good positive experience.

#### Chugach Regional Resources Commission

Robert Henrichs and Patty Schwalenberg reported that CRRC relies on the Harbor Seal Commission and TASSC. Will conduct Emperor geese harvest next spring.

#### Alaska Beluga Whale Committee

Willie Goodwin said the ABWC will hold its annual meeting December 1-2. They are concerned with climate change. They don't harvest as much mammals as fish. Concerned with preservation of their resources. As parents we should be the ones to teach our children to do traditional fishing, hunting and gathering so that as they grow up they may eat healthier.

#### Sitka Marine Mammal Commission

Mike Miller spoke about tribal water program focusing on harmful algae blooms. Eighteen tribes now sending in samples weekly to be tested for ocean acidification in Sitka Tribe's new lab. People are not digging clams now due to toxicity. Not fully utilizing meat.

Native Village of Tyonek

Art Standifer reported that they had a pod of 500 belugas go by Tyonek, which is unusual for that time of year. Humpback whale was sighted swimming in front of Tyonek. Seals plentiful.

Association of Village Council Presidents - IUM

Jennifer Hooper reported that she works for the AVCP Natural Resources Dept. Their regional marine mammal committee is back. Harvest of a humpback whale happened by their region.

Eskimo Walrus Commission

Vera Metcalf reported that FWS and Kawerak try to stabilize EWC's funding since their budget is so tight right now. Have been seeking funding from other sources. For the Island they have been seeking funding for advisory councils and local monitors. Following up on ESA listing. Finalizing web site and newsletter. AFN will have resolution on the ivory issue on its agenda.

North Slope Borough, Dept. Wildlife Management

Taqulik Hepa talked about the Inuvialuit Agreement that they use to work with Canadian Advisories to get a good estimate on the Polar Bear population. No ice. Pt. Lay was not successful with Beluga hunt. Pt. Wainwright was able to harvest a few.

Ice Seal Committee

John Goodwin reported a high number of young bearded seals. Haven't heard any incidents on ice seals. The seals will congregate but don't necessarily share their fish with the other seals.

Aleut Community of St. Paul Island

Pamela Lestenkof said they are in the process for changing regulations for fur seals. NMFS is going to put out a 30-day comment period on 4 or 5 alternatives. One option will highlight co-management. Subsisting on 309 fur seals – 90 of the fur seal pelts were used.

Bristol Bay Native Association

Helen Aderman reported that QWC Executive Director attended a walrus research meeting at UAF Water and Environmental Research Center. Helen attended ANHSC annual meeting and reported on yellowfin sole trawl fishery dumping bycatch in Togiak Bay. Bristol Bay Marine Mammal Council held meeting in Dillingham. Helen is co-author of a Technical Paper on Iliamna Lake seals.

**USFWS MARINE MAMMAL SPECIES UPDATE**

Patrick Lemons of FWS Marine Mammals reported the SW stock of northern sea otter is listed as threatened under the ESA. Plans developing to attend Polar Bear bilateral meeting in Anchorage. FWS looks forward to connection to Polar Bear hunters. Re Walrus ESA listing, first round of government-to-government consultations have been completed.

**CO-MANAGEMENT UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON FUNDING PRIORITIES**

Jon Kurland of NOAA Protected Resources led discussion on proposed revisions to co-management funding priorities. He focused on harvest monitoring; Alaska Native traditional knowledge; research projects; food security; harvest management; education and outreach; international obligations; threats to subsistence resources; and cooperative management. The revisions were simplified, and made more general and flexible.

**REPORT ON IPCoMM NEW WEB SITE**

Matt Johnson of RDI reported on the new IPCoMM web site that he has been working on. He showed the new photos and talked about new narratives and links. His goal is to transfer maintenance of the web site to IPCoMM staff. Ben Payenna offered his photos online for IPCoMM's new web site.

#### **REVIEW OF DESCENDANTS REPORT**

Rosita Worl of Sealaska Heritage Institute reported on the final Determination of Alaska Native Status under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, written by Steve J. Langdon, Ph.D. This report touches on Tribes, Tribal Enrollment, Alaska Tribes, and Blood Quantum; Alaska Natives and Marine Mammals; and Blood Quantum Eligibility Trends. MMPA eligibility is discussed in the report.

#### **IPCoMM MEMBERSHIP BUDGET**

Sky Starkey said we should be thinking about budget. In lame duck session, is not funding possibility.

**MOTION:** Lianna Jack moved to accept NMFS proposal. Seconded by Taqulik Hepa. Motion carried.

John Bengtson mentioned that co-management is not just a definition, but what does it mean? After 20 years, what's working?

**MOTION:** Helen Aderman moved that IPCoMM write a resolution in support of the Kawerak and Eskimo Walrus Commission resolution, emphasizing the importance of the economic impacts that this could have if it continues on Alaska Natives. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **VOTE ON RESOLUTION PER STATE FORM "STATEMENT OF CHANGE"**

State recommending six members on Executive Committee.

**MOTION:** Charlie Brower moved to amend Article 8 of the Bylaws to include six members on the Executive Committee. Seconded by Willie Goodwin. Motion unanimously carried.

Charlie Brower nominated Lianna Jack to be the sixth Executive Committee member. Seconded by Helen Aderman. Approved unanimously.

Target having spring meeting late March.

**Adjournment.**