



RC 020

October 20, 2015

Chairman Tom Kluberton
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Re: Work Session discussion on potential meeting cycle changes

Chairman Kluberton,

It comes to our attention that the Board of Fisheries will be considering changes to the Board's meeting cycle under the Work Session agenda item 8) Budget Update, and agenda item 13) Miscellaneous Business. We understand that this discussion is driven by cost cutting efforts. Please also consider the following request that is cost-neutral, but would improve public participation in the Board process.

The fishermen of the Aleutians East Borough participate in many state fisheries throughout the year, including salmon fishing in the summer and Pacific cod in the winter & spring. The timing of the Board of Fisheries finfish meeting for the Alaska Peninsula occurs in February and March, which falls during the main Pacific cod fishing season. This year and for the previous cycle, the Board moved consideration of Pacific cod proposals only to a fall/winter timeframe. But since nearly all of our cod fishermen also fish salmon, having the regular finfish meeting in February/March results in fishermen having to choose: between participation in an important cod fishery or contributing as public at a Board of Fish meeting for salmon issues.

Please consider holding future Alaska Peninsula finfish meetings, including salmon and Cod, in November or December, to allow fishermen from the Aleutians East to fully participate in the process.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue.

Sincerely,

Ernest Weiss

Aleutians East Borough
Natural Resources Director