

The budget situation potentially changes how the board may wish to proceed. If the board determines it will attempt to seek additional funding from the Legislature and keep its May 10 call for proposal in place, Boards Support recommends the board approve the meeting schedule provided in Table 1 for its 2021/2022 meeting season. Meetings with a double border indicate rescheduled meetings from 2020/2021. Meetings with a dotted border indicate changes in current dates for meetings in 2021/2022.

Table 1. Recommended 2021/2022 Meeting Schedule

Meeting Dates	Topics	Locations	Comment Deadline
October 20-21, 2021 [2 days]	Work Session	Anchorage Egan Center	Oct. 6, 2021
October 22-23, 2021 [2 days]	Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, Bering Sea, and Chignik Pacific Cod Meeting	Anchorage Egan Center	Oct. 6, 2021
November 13-17, 2021 [5 days]	Bristol Bay Finfish	Anchorage	Oct 29, 2021
Nov. 30-Dec. 6, 2021 [7 days]	Prince William Sound/Upper Copper and Upper Susitna Rivers Finfish and Shellfish (Except shrimp)	Cordova The Cordova Center	Nov. 15, 2021
January 4-15, 2022 [12 days]	Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish	Ketchikan Ted Ferry Civic Center	Dec. 22, 2021
February 12-16, 2022 [5 days]	Arctic / Yukon / Kuskokwim Finfish	Anchorage Egan Center	Jan. 27, 2021
February 18-23, 2022 [6 days]	Alaska Peninsula / Aleutian Island / Chignik Finfish	Anchorage Egan Center	Feb. 4, 2022
March 10, 2022 [1 day]	Hatchery Committee	Anchorage TBD	Feb 23, 2022
March 11-14, 2022 [4 days]	Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues	Anchorage TBD	Feb. 24, 2022
March 15-20, 2022 [6 days]	Statewide All Shellfish (Except Prince William Sound, Southeast and Yakutat) and Prince William Sound Shrimp only	Anchorage TBD	Mar. 1, 2022

This recommended schedule incorporates a myriad of considerations including advisory committee lead time, staffing, data availability, freight logistics, facility availability, and conflicts with other meetings and fisheries. These factors, their impact on the recommendations, and other potential options for the board to consider are reviewed further in this memo.

If the board limits its meeting schedule based on the current FY22 budget before the Legislature, Boards Support recommends the board schedules the 2020/2021 meeting and postpone the May 10 Call for Proposals to Monday, April 11, 2022.

A Review

In arriving at this schedule recommendation, Boards Support considered a number of factors. These recommendations were reviewed by department divisions and the board chair. This is a general description of the factors and impacts on the meetings.

Flexibility in the current 2021/2022 schedule. At its January 25, 2021 meeting the board discussed maintaining the current 2021/2022 meetings as planned. It is assumed that discussion was centered on completing both the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 meetings next year. The board is under no legal obligation to maintain the specific dates for 2021/2022 schedule as currently planned and with a doubling of meeting days, flexibility is needed.

Facility availability. The most difficult facility to secure is Ketchikan's Ted Ferry Civic Center. The facility is needed for over two weeks and is the only reasonable venue to hold the meeting in the community. There is availability in November and January. For a host of reasons to be covered, conducting the Southeast & Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish (Southeast) meeting in November is not advisable. January is the optimal time for the Southeast meeting.

The other location that is problematic is Anchorage in December. Weekend holiday parties fill hotels and convention centers. The current scheduling for the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting, November 28-December 2 at the Egan Center, is under the condition that Board equipment is completely packed and gone by noon on Friday, December 3. This eliminates any buffer the board might enjoy if the meeting extended beyond 5 days and requires Boards Support to start packing up equipment well before 6am on the 3rd. The recommended schedule change avoids that condition.

Advisory committee's ability to meet. Holding fall meetings is difficult for advisory committees. Boards Support's regional coordinators rejoin us generally by mid-September and start facilitating committee meetings by early- to mid-October. Regardless of the region, a November meeting is difficult for committees who are finishing fall fisheries and engaging in September and October hunts. For a November meeting, the board may expect to receive some committee recommendations which exceed the 10-page limit after the two-week comment deadline.

Aside from engaging in hunts and fisheries and other important activities, advisory committees have a variety of timelines that impact their ability to provide timely recommendations. As mentioned, our facilitating staff does not start until mid-September. Most committees conduct elections at their first fall meetings and those elections require 14-day public notice per regulations. For non-election committee meetings, we recommend 7-days public notice if possible. Finally, there is the two-week comment deadline before the board meeting which committees prefer to meet.

The number of meetings an advisory committee needs to hold for a board meeting varies. Table 2 provides a glimpse at the number of meeting minutes submitted by advisory committees for each of the last board meetings slated for the 2021/2022 meeting cycle. The number of meetings required has much to do with the number of proposals under consideration. Most committees participating in the Bristol Bay meeting require one lengthy meeting. Prince William Sound (PWS) advisory committees need between one and three meetings to prepare. With a significantly larger number of proposals, the Southeast meeting generally requires more than one meeting. Most of the advisory committees participating in the Arctic, Yukon & Kuskokwim (AYK) meeting travel to meet and generally just have one multi-day meeting which covers all their subjects for that year.

Freight logistics. Boards Support moves 3 pallets and other assorted gear to meeting locations. Moving gear from the ADF&G warehouse in Anchorage to local meeting venues is simple and handled by Boards Support staff in about 3 hours. Moving gear to out-of-Anchorage locations requires the service of freighters. Cost, timing between meetings, and the risk of equipment damage from multiple shipments are all considerations. This impacted the recommendation to move Bristol Bay Finfish to November and have PWS in December. With the recommended schedule, the equipment now needs only to go from Anchorage to Cordova to Ketchikan and back to Anchorage with adequate time between meetings to effect the transfer. If the PWS meeting was in November, there would be an additional leg for transfer and a tighter timeframe to move the freight around the otherwise busy Thanksgiving holiday.

Ongoing fisheries and hunts. Most fisheries are concluded by the fall. The one exception for Southeast is the dive fishery which starts in October and continues throughout the winter. Having the Southeast meeting in January is preferred for this fishery group. Pacific cod is harvested in the westward regions throughout the winter and a fall meeting time is more conducive to the fishery.

Staff reports and comments: Staff reports and comments for the 2020/2021 proposals should be reasonably complete except for the inclusion of 2021 season data. All work flows through the division deputies. To the extent they are working at board meetings and on reports/comments at the same time, it puts a crunch on output. The Subsistence Section is also obligated to attend Board of Game meetings at the end of January and beginning of March. To the extent some of the 2021/2022 meetings may occur later than currently listed it may help. Staging the AYK meeting a month later should help staff and advisory committees alike.

Table 2: Advisory Committee Minutes Submitted for 2021/2022 Board Meetings in The Last Cycle

Advisory Committee	2018 Pacific Cod	2018 Bristol Bay	2017 Prince William Sound	2018 Southeast & Yakutat	2019 AUK Finfish	2019 Alaska Pen, Chignik et al	2019 Statewide Finfish	2020 Statewide King and Tanner	2018 Statewide Dungeness
Anchorage	1	2				1	0	1	
Bethel				1		1	1		
Central Bering Sea				1		1			
Central Kuskokwim				1		1	1		
Central Peninsula						1		1	
Chignik	2				2		1	1	
Coastal Lower Yukon				1		1		1	
Cooper Landing						1			
Copper Basin		2				1			
Copper River/PWS		2				1	1		
Craig			2	1		2			
Delta			1	1					
East Prince of Wales						1			
Edna Bay			1						
Fairbanks		1		2	1	2		1	
False Pass					2				
GASH				1		1			
Homer		1			1	1	1	1	
Juneau-Douglas			2			1	1		
Kenai/Soldotna			1			1		1	
Ketchikan				2		2			
King Cove	1				1				
Kodiak					1	2	1	1	
Koyukuk River				1		1			
Lake Iliamna		1			1				
Lower Bristol Bay		1			2	1			
Lower Kuskokwim				1		1	1		
Matanuska Valley		1				1		1	
McGrath				1			1		
Middle Yukon				1				1	
Mid-Lower Yukon				1		1		1	
Minto Nenana				1		1		1	
Naknek/Kvichak		1					1	1	
Northern Norton Sound				1			1		
Nushagak		2			1	1	1	1	
Paxson			1						
Petersburg				2	1	1		1	
Port Alexander				2					
Ruby				2					
Sand Point					2	1		1	
Seward			1			1		1	
Sitka				8	2	1	1	1	
Southern Norton Sound							2		
Stony/Holitna				1		1	1		
Tanana Rampart Manley				1		1		1	
Togiak		1			1			1	
Unalaska/Dutch Harbor	1				1	2	1	1	
Upper Lynn Canal				1	2	2			
Valdez						1		1	
Whittier			1			1		1	
Wrangell				3	1	1	1		
Yakutat				1					
Yukon Flats					1			1	
Total AC Minutes per Meeting	4	8	13	22	29	16	43	18	24

The data in Table 2 indicate the number of meeting minutes submitted by the AC for the board meeting. Certain ACs manage proposals for several meetings at a single meeting.

Regulation writing. Once a board meeting is over, the regulation specialist works with staff and the Department of Law to draft carried proposals into regulation. Once complete this product goes to

the Regulations Section at Law where it is finalized and sent to the Lt. Governor's Office. All regulations sent to the Lt. Governor's Office are required in statute to hold for 30-days before they become official. While this process can be expedited for one-off issues, it generally takes 60-90 days for a board action to become a regulation. With the increase in meetings that timeline will get stretched. That becomes important for spring fisheries like Copper River (mid-May). Depending on the subjects at hand for this busy meeting season, it is doubtful regulations established from the statewide meetings in March will be finalized and effective until late summer.

Agenda change request (ACR) impacts. When the board schedules accepted ACRs at its work session, it typically tries to schedule those at meetings that may attract the most relevant audience or accommodate quick timelines. Given PWS and Southeast proposals are over a year old, it is anticipated the board will see a number of ACRs for these regions. Assuming ACRs from PWS and Southeast are accepted, when scheduling accepted ACRs, the board will likely schedule those for the applicable regional meeting. In order to take action on a regulation, an agency must provide a 30-day legal notice. In the event the work session remains as scheduled for October 20-21, and assuming a PWS ACR is accepted and scheduled for the PWS meeting, that meeting needs to occur at least 30-days after the work session. This is a key reason to shift the PWS meeting to December.

Legal notice for the Pacific cod and November meeting. When the board has early fall meetings, such as the planned Pacific cod meeting (October 22-23) and an assumed November meeting, it will issue an advanced legal notice covering the subject matters for those two meetings. No other regulatory action could be taken up at those meetings.

Other Options

In arriving at the recommended schedule, Boards Support considered a number of other options. Input from the divisions and board chair impacted these options.

Shift some of the late season statewide work to October. As meeting burnout sets in and spring weather starts to emerge, Boards Support is concerned that the board, staff, and participating public will have more difficulty managing complex subjects at the statewide meetings. Moving some of the statewide work to October would help alleviate that concern. This would necessitate shifting the work session a week earlier, shifting the Pacific cod meeting to occur October 20-21, and scheduling a few additional days for a portion of the regulatory proposals currently within the Statewide Shellfish meeting (namely PWS shrimp and Cook Inlet shellfish).

Shifting the work session to October 13-14 forces a tight fit between the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (council) and the annual Alaska Federation of Natives convention, usually held in mid-October. It also fractures the Statewide Shellfish meeting which may cause some redundancy in travel requirements for staff and advisory committees. It would require a few more advisory committees to meet in September to provide comments for October.

Conduct PWS in November and Bristol Bay in December. It is possible to conduct the PWS meeting in November and leave the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting as planned for December. For a number of reasons elucidated earlier (legal notice timeline, freight, facility conflicts) this is not the preferred option. Another consideration is timing related to the November holidays. The shorter 5-day Bristol Bay meeting is easier to fit between the Veterans and Thanksgiving days window than the 7-day PWS meeting. Flights in and out of Anchorage are more certain than Cordova as well.

Conduct PWS in mid-December. If avoiding the council's December meeting is a priority for the board, it ends December 14. This would allow a board meeting to occur December 16-22. This is close to the Christmas holiday when board, staff, and participants alike could use a break and prepare for the Southeast meeting.

Conduct Southeast in November and maintain AYK in January. For a number of reasons discussed earlier (ongoing fishery, AC time needed to meet, legal notice timing), conducting Southeast in November is ill-advised. Previously not mentioned is the question of when to have the PWS meeting if not November or December. Also the Southeast meeting in November would cut into Veteran's Day and very close to the Thanksgiving holiday – leaving little room for flight delays due to inclement weather. The AYK meeting is relatively short (5-days) and moving the meeting to February does not appear to present large conflicts. Moving AYK back a month allows more time for staff and advisory committees to prepare and will occur after the late-January Yukon River Panel winter meeting which should help inform the board on king salmon issues.

Table 3 provides a graphic look at board meetings between October 2021-March 2022 with other meetings, events, and deadlines

Table 3: October 2021 - March 2022 Board Meetings and Other Events

October 2021			1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Event/Meeting/Holiday	Location	Date(s)	F Sa Su M T W Th F Sa Su M T W Th F Sa Su M T W Th F Sa Su M T W Th F Sa Su
North Pacific Fishery Management Council	Anchorage	October 4-12, 2021	North Pacific Fishery Management
BOF Comment Deadline for Work Session & P. Cod	n/a	October 6, 2021	
Alaska Federation of Natives Convention	Unk	October 15-17, 2021	AFN
Alaska Day (state holiday)	n/a	October 18, 2021	
Pacific Salmon Commission Fall meeting	Sitka	October 18-22, 2021	PSC Meeting
BOF Work session	Anchorage	October 20-21, 2021	BOF
BOF Pacific Cod Meeting	Anchorage	October 22-23, 2021	BOF
BOF Legal Notice	n/a	Oct. 25-Nov. 24, 2021	
BOF Comment Deadline for Bristol Bay Finfish	n/a	October 29, 2021	
November 2021			1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
Event/Meeting/Holiday	Location	Date(s)	M T W Th F Sa Su M T W Th F Sa Su M T W Th F Sa Su M T
BOF Legal Notice	n/a	Oct. 25-Nov. 24, 2021	
Veteran's Day	n/a	November 11, 2021	
BOF Bristol Bay Finfish	Anchorage	November 13-17, 2021	BOF: Bristol Bay
BOF Comment Deadline for Prince William Sound	n/a	November 15, 2021	
Pacific Marine Expo	Seattle	Not scheduled	PME
Thanksgiving Day	n/a	November 25, 2021	
Hanukkah	n/a	Nov 28-Dec 6, 2021	
BOF Prince William Sound F&S	Cordova	Nov. 30-Dec 6, 2021	
International Pacific Halibut Commission	Seattle	Nov. 30-Dec 1, 2021	
December 2021			1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Event/Meeting/Holiday	Location	Date(s)	W Th F Sa Su M T W Th F Sa Su M T W Th F Sa Su M T W Th F
Hanukkah	n/a	Nov 28-Dec 6, 2021	
BOF Prince William Sound Finfish & Shellfish Meeting	Cordova	Nov. 30-Dec 6, 2021	BOF: PWS
International Pacific Halibut Commission	Seattle	Nov. 30-Dec 1, 2021	
North Pacific Fishery Management Council	Anchorage	December 6-14, 2021	North Pacific Fishery Management Council
BOF Comment Deadline for Southeast	n/a	December 22, 2021	
Christmas Day (holiday Dec 24)	n/a	December 25, 2021	

Memo re: 2021/2022 Boards of Fisheries Rescheduling Recommendations and Options
 February 24, 2021

Table 3: Continued

January 2022			1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Event/Meeting/Holiday	Location	Date(s)	Sa Su M T W Th F Sa Su M T W Th F Sa Su M T W Th F Sa Su M T W Th F Sa Su M
New Years Day (holiday Dec 31)	n/a	January 1, 2022	
Southeast/Yakutat Finfish & Shellfish Meeting	Ketchikan	January 4-15, 2022	BOF: Southeast
Russian Orthodox Christmas	n/a	January 7, 2022	★
Pacific Salmon Commission Post Season meeting	Portland	January 10-14, 2022	PSC Meeting
Russian Orthodox New Years	n/a	January 14, 2022	★
Martin Luther King Day	n/a	January 17, 2022	★
Board of Game, Central/Southwest regions	Wasilla	January 21-28, 2022	Board of Game Central/Southwest
International Pacific Halibut Commission	Seattle	January 24-28, 2022	IPHC
Yukon River Panel – winter meeting	TBD	End of January 2022	YRP
BOF Comment deadline for AYK Finfish	n/a	January 27, 2022	●
North Pacific Fishery Management Council	Seattle	Jan 31-Feb 7, 2022	

February 2022			1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
Event/Meeting/Holiday	Location	Date(s)	T W Th F Sa Su M T W Th F Sa Su M T W Th F Sa Su M
North Pacific Fishery Management Council	Seattle	Jan 31-Feb 7, 2022	NPFMC
BOF Comment deadline for Alaska Peninsula, etc	N/a	February 4, 2022	●
Super Bowl	n/a	February 6, 2022	★
Arctic, Yukon, Kuskokwim Finfish	Anchorage	February 11-16, 2022	BOF: AYK Finfish
Pacific Salmon Commission Annual meeting	Vancouver	February 14-18, 2022	PSC Meeting
Alaska Pen., Chignik, Aleutian Isl, Bering Sea Finfish	Anchorage	February 18-23, 2022	BOF: Alaska Peninsula, et al
Presidents Day	n/a	February 21, 2022	★
Hatchery Committee Comment deadline	n/a	February 23, 2022	●
Statewide Finfish Comment deadline	n/a	February 24, 2022	●

March 2022			1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Event/Meeting/Holiday	Location	Date(s)	T W Th F Sa Su M T W Th F Sa Su M T W Th F Sa Su M T W Th
BOF Statewide Shellfish Comment deadline	n/a	March 1, 2022	●
Board of Game Statewide Regulations	Fairbanks	March 4-11, 2022	BOG Statewide Regulations
Iditarod start	Anchorage	March 5, 2022	★
Anchorage School District spring break	n/a	March 7-11, 2022	ASD Spring Break
BOF Hatchery Committee	Anchorage	March 10, 2022	●
BOF Statewide Finfish	Anchorage	March 11-14, 2022	BOF: SW Finfish
BOF Statewide Shellfish Meeting	Anchorage	March 15-20, 2022	BOF: Statewide Shellfish