

# MEMORANDUM


# STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME Boards Support Section

TO: Boards of Game and Fisheries Joint  
Committee


DATE: December 19, 2017

THRU:

PHONE: 907-465-4110

FROM: Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director   
Alaska Board of Game

SUBJECT: Information for consideration  
of a Joint Board meeting

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Alaska Board of Fisheries

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This memo briefs the Boards of Game and Fisheries Joint Committee (committee) on Joint Board authorities, recently received proposals that fall under the Joint Board's purview, a list of past board meetings, projected costs to hold a meeting, past methods of establishing a call, and other meeting considerations.

### **Joint Board Authorities**

Joint Board authorities in statute are outlined as follows:

- AS 16.05.258. Subsistence use and allocation of fish and game. This statute calls for both boards to identify subsistence and nonsubsistence areas.
- AS 16.05.260. Advisory committees. Both boards are called on to establish advisory committees and determine emergency closure authorities.
- AS 16.05.315. Joint Board meetings. This statute defines how and why Joint Board meetings are called.
- AS 44.39.030. Appointment of commissioner. Both boards "in a joint session" will provide the Governor with a list of qualified persons to serve as Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Joint Board regulations govern the following aspects of fish and game regulations and management.

- Advisory committees including establishment of, purpose, membership qualifications, rules of operation, management of, attendance at meetings, areas of jurisdiction, and emergency closure process.
- The boards' regulatory processes including procedures for conducting the regulatory process, subsistence proposal policy, joint board emergency policy, and meetings.
- Subsistence uses including establishing subsistence and non-subsistence areas, permitted activities in nonsubsistence areas, and process for identifying subsistence uses.

The complete statutes and regulations are listed in the meeting material.

**Recently Received Proposals**

In the last few years, Boards Support received a few proposals in the proposal submission process for the Boards of Game and Fisheries which are actually under the Joint Board authority. These proposals are in their complete form in the additional meeting material. These include:

- Modify the emergency petition policy – Paul Shadura, 2015
- Regulate board generated proposal process – Representative Tammy Wilson, 2015
- Establish board generated proposal criteria – Fairbanks Advisory Committee, 2015
- Modify Iliamna membership – Lake Iliamna Advisory Committee, 2017
- Require Board of Fisheries to take up shellfish fisheries out of cycle if closed for two years – Homer Advisory Committee, 2017

**Joint Board Regulatory Meetings, 1985 to Present**

The pace and frequency of Joint Board meetings slowed considerably in the last 20 years. At one time an almost annual occurrence, these meetings are now much more infrequent.

Date	Location	Topics
March 1985	Anchorage	Twenty-three proposals for changes to AC regulations.
November 12–14, 1985	Anchorage	Subsistence procedures and habitat protection; proposals unknown
March 14-15, 1988	Anchorage	Six proposals to change rural and nonrural classifications and one to establish an AC for Whittier
April 24-26, 1989	Anchorage	Changes to AC regulations; proposals unknown.
March 12–14, 1990	Anchorage	Thirty-nine proposals to change AC regulations
February 23–25, 1991	Juneau	Twenty-six proposals to change AC and subsistence regulations
October 27–28, 1992	Anchorage	Four proposals to change AC regulations
November 1–7, 1992	Anchorage	Nonsubsistence area determinations, eight criteria; proposals unknown
March 6–7, 1993	Juneau	Nonsubsistence area revisions, Kachemak Bay Management Plan; proposals unknown
April 3–5, 1997	Anchorage	Initial action on 19 proposals to change ACs regulations and additional proposals including Bristol Bay Reserve
Feb. 27–March 1, 1998	Anchorage	Final action on 19 AC related proposals, plus others
March 21, 2006	Anchorage	One proposal to change regulations for AC member qualifications
October 5–8, 2007	Anchorage	Thirty-six proposals to change AC regulations and two to change nonsubsistence areas
October 12-16, 2013	Anchorage	Forty-one proposals to change AC regulations, process for adopting regulations, and subsistence regulations including nonsubsistence areas.

**Budget**

The 2013 Joint Board meeting expense was approximately \$105,000. This figure was lowered by an effort to combine travel with other meetings (Board of Game’s work session and the Board of Fisheries work session and Statewide Pacific cod meeting). Records indicate 19 advisory committee members joined. This was less than expected and significantly lowered actual costs over initial projections.

Projections for a 2018/2019 Joint Board meeting based on the number of days and number of attending advisory committees is provided in the following matrix. Boards Support's budget for FY19 is unknown at this time, but if funding levels remain consistent it appears a Joint Board meeting can be supported at a modest level.

**Joint Board Meeting Cost Matrix**

# of Advisory Committees	Number of Meeting Days				
	1	2	3	4	5
20	\$61,425	\$73,300	\$85,175	\$97,050	\$108,925
30	\$72,975	\$86,700	\$100,425	\$114,150	\$127,875
40	\$ 84,525	\$100,100	\$115,675	\$131,250	\$146,825

**Scope of the Meeting and Call for Proposal**

In 2007 the call was limited to AC regulations and nonsubsistence areas. In this call nonsubsistence area proposals were vetted by the Joint Board during the October 2007 meeting with the intent to schedule them to a future meeting. In 2013, the call was opened to all Joint Board regulations including AC regulations, emergency closures, regional fish and game councils, adoption of fish and game regulations, and subsistence uses including nonsubsistence areas.

**Meeting Considerations**

There are additional factors to consider regarding a Joint Board meeting.

Division workload: Due to the broad application of the regulations under the Joint Boards' authority, proposals addressing subsistence issues often require in-depth socioeconomic and ethnographic analysis.

Areas for review: Boards Support might consider proposing changes regarding advisory committee administration. Areas for improvement include conducting elections, managing inactive advisory committees, and membership nomination. While these subjects can prove vexing for staff when administering advisory committee activities, we are not recommending a Joint Board meeting for the purpose of addressing these issues.

Specific advisory committee potential changes includes reducing some committee memberships to reduce complexity and cost of running the committee, certain area of jurisdiction questions for the Mid Lower, and Coastal Yukon ACs, region location for the Stony-Holitna AC, and undesignated seat additions for the Central Kuskokwim advisory committee.

Please note Boards Support received a request by an advisory committee member to delay holding this meeting to allow the advisory committee to meet and submit comments. This demonstrates additional interest in a Joint Board meeting.

Timing: Costs may be lowered significantly if a meeting is tied to other board meetings. There is a small two-day window in Anchorage, March 12-13, 2019 that coincides with a Board of Fisheries meeting in Anchorage (March 8-11) and a Board of Game meeting in Kodiak (March 15-19). Outside of this small window, scheduling a Joint Board meeting around one of the existing board meetings would still be a measure to reduce costs. The 2018/20189 board schedules are included in the meeting material.