

Boards Support Newsletter

Summer 2019

BOARDS SUPPORT

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The Upper Tanana/Fortymile AC meets.

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Dear Advisory Committee Members

The 2018/2019 meeting cycle is past us. The Board of Fisheries met to review proposals for its Western Alaska regions including Chignik, Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, Bristol Bay, the Kuskokwim and Yukon Rivers, and the Arctic. It also tacked on a Statewide Finfish meeting and a hatchery committee meeting for good measure. The Board of Game met for Southeast and Southcentral, including Kodiak, Prince William Sound, the Kenai Peninsula and the Anchorage area.

Both boards closed the meeting season with a Joint Board meeting. Unlike most meetings where Boards Support facilitates the meeting by supporting board and AC members, the staff, and public, for the joint board meeting we were in the hotseat presenting proposals and answering questions for the board. We left the event with a profound respect for our colleagues in the department and all the effort AC members put forward. Sitting before the boards or an AC is daunting, and you have our sincere thanks for helping to advance Alaska's fish and game management.

Along the way this year, Boards Support received a great deal of help. Special thanks to the Sons of Norway in Petersburg and the Dillingham School District for letting the boards invade their meeting areas. We enjoyed an interesting presentation from Meagan Krupa, who, along with her colleague Molly McCarthy, researched all Board of Fisheries proposals since statehood, documenting proposers and proposal success. You can see more of their research at <http://alaskasalmonandpeople.org>. We also want to acknowledge our 2019 Excellence in Service award winners (see next page). Thanks for all that you do.

You might take notice there are a few vacant positions on the Boards Support staff list. This summer Boards Support will be busy recruiting for regional positions to serve the ACs in the Western, Southcentral, and Southeast Regions. Our goal is to fill these positions by early fall so they can be ready to assist the ACs for these regions come September.

With that, please take a moment to peruse our summer newsletter. We hope you all have a prosperous and safe summer. Take care until next time!

Glenn Haight, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Game

Board of Fisheries News

During the 2018-2019 Meeting cycle, the Board of Fisheries (BOF) met first on Pacific cod for Chignik, Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and the Bering Sea, later in Dillingham to address Bristol Bay Finfish, and then three more meetings in Anchorage to address Arctic, Yukon, Kuskokwim Finfish, Alaska Peninsula, Chignik, Aleutian Islands Finfish, and Statewide Finfish issues. For all of these meetings, the BOF enjoyed the participation of 49 AC members.



Board Appointments Announced

Governor Dunleavy announced appointments for new board members that were later approved by both the House and the Senate.

New to the Board of Game is **Jerry Burnett** (below) of Juneau, **Al Barrette** of Fairbanks who has served on the Fairbanks AC since 2005, and **Orville Huntington** of Fairbanks who is originally from Huslia, served two terms on the Board of Fisheries, and the Koyukuk River AC prior to that. For more information on members, please visit the Board of Game Member website at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.bogmembers>.



The appointments for the Board of Fisheries include a reappointment of **Israel Payton** of Wasilla for his 2nd term, **Marit Carlson-Van Dort** (right) of Anchorage, **Gerald Godfrey** of Eagle River, and **John Wood** of Willow. For more information on members, please visit the Board of Fisheries Member website at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.bofmembers>.



Ketchikan, East Prince of Wales Advisory Committees Revitalized

The Ketchikan AC and East Prince of Wales AC have both had a productive year of meetings after reactivating last fall.

The Ketchikan AC had been dormant for several years but starting last fall, the AC sought out community-wide participation as part of their revitalized efforts. They've taken on issues around king salmon, herring, deer hunting, and more, providing valuable input to both Boards, and facilitating participation in resource management for Ketchikan residents.



The Ketchikan AC meets in June.

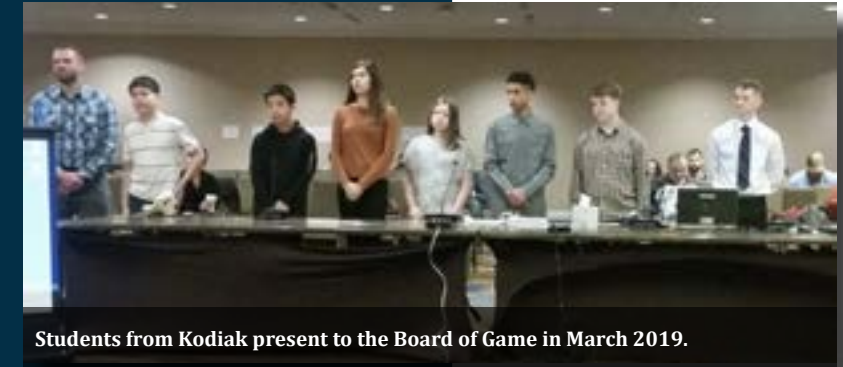
The East Prince of Wales (EPOW) AC had been inactive for nearly a decade when community efforts brought the AC together in December. The EPOW AC has tackled some thorny hunting and trapping issues, sharing local expertise via comments and proposals in this area of mixed state/federal jurisdiction.

Board of Game News

The Board of Game (BOG) acted on 152 proposal this cycle for the Southeast and Southcentral Regions, adopting a total of 78 including reauthorization proposals for antlerless moose hunts and brown tag fee exemptions.

AC proposals adopted by the BOG include the topics of: increasing moose hunting

opportunity on the Kenai Peninsula in Units 7 and 15; creating black bear drawing hunts near Anchorage in Unit 14C; adjusting the fall season dates for hunting brown bear in Units 9A and 9B, extending the moose season in Unit 5C near Yakutat; extending the wolf trapping season in Unit 2; expanding the boundary of the youth hunt within the Skilak Loop Management Area on the Kenai Peninsula, and changing the season dates and bag limit for goat in Unit 8.



Students from Kodiak present to the Board of Game in March 2019.



Dave Brown testifies for the BOG in Petersburg in January.

Thanks to Sherry Wright for Dedicated Service

Longtime regional coordinator Sherry Wright retired from ADF&G in April. Sherry served the 18 Southcentral Region ACs for nearly 20 years, also assisting other ACs such as Kodiak and Lower Yukon.

We wish Sherry all the best in her retirement and thank her for her long service to the AC process.



Sherry's retirement party, March 2019.



Board of Game Chair Ted Spraker with Dave Brown, Wrangell AC, and Jon Martin, Sitka AC, receiving awards on behalf of Dave Rak and Moses Johnson, Petersburg, January 2019.

Alaska's fish and game resources. We are happy to recognize the outstanding contributions made by this year's Excellence in Service Award winners.

Charlie Lean, Northern Norton Sound AC. Mr. Lean has served on the committee for over 17 years, currently

2019 Excellence in Service Award Winners

The Excellence in Service award recognizes the critical work done by AC members. Every year AC members demonstrate exemplary service in helping to manage

as chair. A former ADF&G Area Manager, Charlie now works for the NSEDC as the Hatchery & Norton Sound Fisheries Research & Development Coordinator. Charlie is a responsible chair who devotes considerable time bringing in the interests of the nearby surrounding villages into the committee. Charlie and his fellow AC members were very busy crafting fisheries proposals and he also represents the AC on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group.

Mike Crawford, Kenai/Soldotna AC. Mr. Crawford is a 13-year member of the Kenai/Soldotna AC, serving as chair for the past several years. Mike successfully manages the AC in arguably the most contentious area of the state – Upper Cook Inlet. With many meetings

a year (8 to 9), Mike is organized and productive, and approaches each meeting and interactions with members in a balanced and fair manner.

Dave Rak, Wrangell AC. Mr. Rak is the Wrangell AC's secretary, keeping excellent minutes during his some 24+ years on the committee. Not only does Dave maintain records on file, but serves as an informal outreach provider, forwarding news releases to the full committee and interested parties.

Moses Johnson, Sitka AC. Mr. Johnson was nominated by two long-serving AC members. They both tout his wealth of experience as a highliner in both the salmon troll and seine fisheries as invaluable to the AC. Quiet, soft-spoken,

respectful – Moses carries great weight and perspective with the AC. Given his background and thoughtful demeanor, Mr. Johnson is very influential on the committee and serves as a great example of AC service.

Richard Burnham, Middle Yukon AC. Mr. Burnham has served on the Middle Yukon AC since 1989. He is known for his wealth of knowledge and dedication to the Yukon resources and peoples. With difficult conservation and allocation issues going on up- and down-river, Richard is known for his wise and fair demeanor as he works to find common ground. Mr. Burnham also provides fish and game services in his area, both as a license vendor and a hide sealer.

Joint Board Meeting Wrap-Up

The Joint Board of Fisheries and Game met for the first time since October of 2013 this spring from March 21-23, 2019 in Anchorage. Ten AC members attended and provided public testimony. Many thanks to all of the ACs for helping to guide the Joint Board through the Uniform Rules of Operation regulations and other topics.

There were 40 proposals submitted, of which the board acted on 35, with 22 being adopted. A few highlights include some process changes, and there were also several proposals passed that changed AC memberships. Finally, some proposals passed to simplify, clarify, or better organize existing regulations. There's more info on changes of note on the reverse side of this sheet.

A number of strongly supported proposals failed, such as AC members sitting at the board table during deliberations. We encourage you to listen to the audio from the meeting to listen to the board members' concerns and reasons why they failed. Boards Support staff are always available to assist you with pinpointing the audio for proposals, which is available online at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.jbmeetinginfo&date=03-21-2019&meeting=anchorage.

Changes to Advisory Committee Membership

The Joint Board made adjustments to membership for six ACs:

- Central Kuskokwim AC gained two undesignated seats for a total of 12
- Lake Minchumina AC membership was reduced from 15 to nine
- Lake Iliamna AC reduced membership from Iliamna and Nondalton to one seat, added a designated seat from Port Alsworth, and gained an undesignated seat for a total of ten seats.
- Northern Seward Peninsula membership was reduced from 15 members to nine.
- Lower Kobuk AC was reduced from 15 members to 11.
- Noatak/Kivalina AC was reduced from 15 members to nine.



Boards support staff answering questions for the Joint Board.

Other Changes of Interest

The Joint Board also adopted the following proposals:

- Proposal 11 consolidates the regulations addressing the creation of ACs.
- Proposal 15 changes the emergency closure process to exclude ACs that haven't met in the past 3 years... and allows notification to the commissioner by email instead of telegram.
- Proposal 16 expands AC functions to encourage involvement of youth and elders.
- Proposals 24 clarifies that AC meetings are subject to the Open Meetings Act.
- Proposal 27 removes the concept of "active" and "inactive" committees.
- Proposal 34 updates the joint board's petition policy to eliminate a contradiction with the subsistence proposal policy.



Boards Support staff answering questions for the Joint Board.

Joint Board Meeting Wrap-Up

Abstentions Clarified to Count as Neutral Votes

Will of the majority of non-abstaining members to be the action of the committee

Proposal 23 was submitted by ADF&G to seek clarification for recording abstentions as part of the total vote count either as "no votes" or as neutral votes so as not to fall out of compliance with the quorum requirement.

The Joint Board amended Proposal 23 to clarify that abstentions shall only count as neutral votes. For example, an AC action having a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries 7-6 with two abstentions. Otherwise, abstentions could also be counted as "no votes" and the outcome of that same vote tally would fail by 7-8. When abstentions occur, ACs should be clear about the outcome of the vote. Further, ACs must state the reason for the abstention.

Joint Board Sets Five-Year Schedule

Next meeting tentatively planned for 2024

The Joint Board agreed regulatory meetings should occur approximately every five years to consider regulations dealing with ACs and the process for adopting regulations (5 AAC Chapters 96 and 97). Subsistence use regulations (5 AAC Chapter 99) will be scheduled every ten years starting with the next Joint Board meeting, approximately 2024.

Clarification for Removing Members for Absences

AC chairs able to announce vacancy after three consecutive unexcused absences

Removal for Cause due to absences was a subject addressed by Proposals 19 & 20, submitted by the Kenai Soldotna AC and ADF&G respectively. Current regulations gave authority to both the Joint Board and the AC chairperson which led to confusion. The Joint Board adopted Proposal 20 which repealed the Joint Board authority, confirming it is the duty of the chairperson when announcing a vacancy.

Election Procedures Updated

The regulations describing AC election procedures will be reorganized as the result of the Joint Board adopting Proposal 17. ADF&G put forth this proposal to reorder and combine provisions related to the election process and to remove redundant and vague regulations.

Adoption of Proposal 18 clarifies that the provision where ACs may not refuse membership to a nominee if there are vacancies applies only to "undesignated" seats.

Proposal 21 clarifies that the chairperson has the option to declare a vacancy for a seat for a member who has not been duly elected. Other regulations allow a member to remain in an expired seat until a successor has been elected. However, this has led to a number of members returning to a seat for years without an election occurring.



BOARD MEETINGS & DEADLINES

BOARD OF FISHERIES

**AGENDA CHANGE REQUEST
DEADLINE: AUGUST 26, 2019**

October 23-24, 2019 | Anchorage
Work Session
Comment deadline: October 8, 2019

December 10-13, 2019 | Seward
Lower Cook Inlet Finfish
Comment deadline: Nov. 25, 2019

January 11-14, 2020 | Kodiak
Kodiak Finfish
Comment deadline: Dec. 27, 2019

February 7-20, 2020 | Anchorage
Upper Cook Inlet Finfish
Comment deadline: January 23, 2020

March 7-11, 2020 | Anchorage
Statewide King & Tanner Crab &
Supplemental Issues
Comment deadline: Feb. 21, 2020

BOARD OF GAME

**AGENDA CHANGE REQUEST
DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 1, 2019**

January 16, 2020 | Nome
Work Session
Comment deadline: TBA

January 17-20, 2020 | Nome
Arctic/Western Region
Comment deadline: Jan. 3, 2020

March 6-14, 2020 | Fairbanks
Interior/Northeast Arctic Region
Comment deadline: Feb. 21, 2020



ADVISORY COMMITTEE DATES OF INTEREST

Excellence in Service Award
nomination period opens: **October 1, 2019**

Excellence in Service Award
nomination deadline: **October 31, 2019**

Initial travel requests due to attend
Board meetings: **November 15, 2019**

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