

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE
REGULATIONS OF THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

The Alaska Board of Fisheries proposes to adopt regulation changes contained in Title 5 of the Alaska Administrative Code, dealing with fishery and aquatic plant resources in the areas designated below, including the following:

IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA, YAKUTAT, UPPER COPPER RIVER, UPPER SUSITNA RIVER, AND PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND FINFISH AND GROUND FISH AREAS REGULATIONS; AND STATEWIDE DUNGENESS CRAB, SHRIMP, AND MISCELLANEOUS SHELLFISH REGULATIONS:

- A. In the **commercial, sport, and guided sport fisheries**: fishing seasons, periods, opening and closing times; bag, possession, size, sex, and harvest limits, harvest levels or quotas; districts, subdistricts, sections, subsections, areas, and other management boundaries; locations open and closed to fishing; methods and means; gear and vessel restrictions, marking, definitions, operational requirements, registration and permit requirements; registration areas (including exclusive and super exclusive registration areas), permits, harvest record, harvest marking requirements; management plans for conservation, development and allocation among beneficial uses; require, restrict or prohibit the retention, sale, or purchase of fish; registration and reporting requirements for fish guides, guided anglers, catchers, processors, buyers and transporters; onboard observer requirements.
- B. In the **subsistence, and personal use fisheries (finfish and shellfish)**: identify subsistence uses and users; fishing seasons, periods, opening and closing times, harvest levels; methods and means; size, age, and sex limitations; districts, subdistricts, sections, subsections, areas, and other management boundaries; locations open and closed to fishing; gear and vessel restrictions and operational requirements; harvest limits, registration and permit requirements, requirements for marking and possession of fish; management plans for conservation, development and allocation among beneficial uses, and users; identify customary and traditional uses of fish stocks, and establish, change or adjust subsistence and personal use fisheries.
- C. In the harvest of aquatic plants: seasons, areas, quotas, and methods of harvest.

In addition to the above topics the following supplementary items will be considered:

D. Scheduled for March 17, 2006 meeting – Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp, Miscellaneous Shellfish (except SE and Yakutat), and Supplemental Issues – Anchorage, AK:

1) IN THE COOK INLET AREA:

In the **commercial salmon fishery(s)**: describe closed waters at the terminus of Packers Creek.

2) IN THE BRISTOL BAY AREA:

In the **commercial salmon fisheries** in the Naknek River and Alagnak River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Areas: districts, subdistricts, sections, subsections, areas, and other management boundaries; locations open and closed to fishing; methods and means; gear and vessel restrictions, marking, definitions, operational requirements, registration and permit requirements; management plans for conservation, development and allocation among beneficial uses;

3) IN BERING SEA-ALEUTIAN ISLANDS KING AND TANNER CRAB FISHERIES:

(a) In the **C. Bairdi Tanner crab commercial fishery** in the Eastern Subdistrict of Area J: harvest levels, harvest limits or quotas, and related management measures.

(b) In the **CDQ fisheries**: harvest levels, harvest limits or quotas; restrict, prohibit, or require the retention, sale, or purchase of fish; harvest overage requirements.

4) IN THE STATEWIDE FISHERY PROVISIONS:

(a) In the **subsistence fisheries**: use and sale of handicrafts made of nonedible byproducts of subsistence-taken finfish and shellfish; definitions.

(b) In the **subsistence, personal use, and sport fisheries**: proxy fishing for halibut.

You may comment on the proposed regulation changes, including the potential costs to the private persons of complying with the proposed changes, by submitting written comments to the Board of Fisheries at Boards Support Section, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802-5526, or by fax at 907-465-6094. Written should be submitted to the above address at least two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting to insure inclusion in the board workbooks. Oral or written comments also may be submitted at a hearing to be held at the time and place noted in the meeting schedule below. Written comments will be accepted on any subject in this notice and may be submitted to the Board of Fisheries any time before the proposal is voted on by the board in deliberations at the scheduled meeting, but as a practical matter, comments submitted after the board begins deliberations on relevant proposals are likely to receive less consideration than comments submitted earlier.

For a copy of the proposed regulation changes contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Boards Support Section, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802-5526, phone 907-465-4110, or access the internet at: <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/fishinfo/index.php>.

There will be four separate meetings. Each meeting will start at 8:30 A.M. of the dates noted. The public hearing portions for each meeting will begin immediately after staff reports and continue until everyone who has signed up has been given the opportunity to be heard. Additional public hearings may be held throughout the meeting just before the consideration and adoption of proposed changes in the regulations for the various areas. An agenda will be posted daily during the meeting. The board will take oral testimony only from those who register before the cut-off time announced by the board chair at each meeting. The length of oral statements may be limited to five minutes or less. Anyone interested in, or affected by, the subject matter contained in this legal notice should make written or oral comments if they wish to have their views considered by the board.

TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE

Prince William Sound Finfish and Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area

December 1, 2005

Valdez Civic Center, 110 Clifton Dr., Valdez, AK

Southeast Alaska/Yakutat Finfish (except Groundfish)

January 22, 2006

Ted Ferry Civic Center, 888 Venetia Ave., Ketchikan, AK

**Southeast Alaska/Yakutat Groundfish,
Dungeness Crab, Shrimp, and Miscellaneous Shellfish**

February 20, 2006

Ted Ferry Civic Center, 888 Venetia Ave., Ketchikan, AK

**Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp, and Miscellaneous Shellfish (except SE & Yakutat); and
Supplemental Issues**

March 17, 2006

Millennium Hotel, 4800 Spenard Rd., Anchorage, AK

The Board of Fisheries may consider any or all of the subject areas covered by this notice. In addition, the board may adopt other regulations necessary to implement, administer, or enforce the regulations adopted. On its own motion, at the scheduled meeting and after public hearing, the board will either adopt these or other provisions dealing with the same subject, without further notice, or decide to take no action on them. The language of the final regulations may be different from that of the proposed regulations. **THE BOARD IS NOT LIMITED BY THE SPECIFIC LANGUAGE OR CONFINES OF THE ACTUAL PROPOSALS THAT HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED BY THE PUBLIC OR STAFF.** Pursuant to AS 44.62.200(b), the board may review the full range of activities appropriate to any of the subjects listed in this notice. The board may make changes to the personal use, sport, guided sport or commercial fishing regulations as may be required to ensure the subsistence priority in AS 16.05.258.

Any changes to meeting locations, dates or times, or rescheduling of topics or subject matter will be announced by news release. Please watch for these announcements in the news media or call (907) 465-4110.

If you are a person with a disability who may need a special accommodation in order to participate in the process on the proposed regulations, please contact Lori VanSteenwyk at (907) 465-4110 (to correspond by text telephone (TDD), call 1-800-478-3648) no later than two weeks prior to the beginning of each meeting to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

Statutory Authority: AS 16.05 - AS 16.20, AS 16.40

Statutes being implemented, interpreted, or made specific: AS 16.05 - AS 16.20, AS 16.40

Fiscal Information: The proposed regulatory actions are not expected to require an increased appropriation.

Date: October 27, 2005



Diana Cote
Diana Cote, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries