



**Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Board of Fisheries**

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Public comment website: <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/>

***REVIEWER LETTER***  
**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

Dear Reviewer:

August 2014

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) will consider this book of regulatory proposals at its **October 2014 through March 2015** meetings. The proposals concern changes to the state's fishing regulations submitted timely by members of the public, organizations, advisory committees, and ADF&G staff. With the exception of minor edits, the proposals are published essentially as they were received. If you submitted a proposal and believe the published version does not reflect your intent, please contact Boards Support as soon as possible.

**Proposal Information.** Proposals are often presented as brief statements summarizing the intended regulatory changes. In cases where confusion might arise or where the regulation is complex, proposed changes are also indicated in legal format. In this format, bolded and underlined words are **additions** to the regulation text, and capitalized words or letters in square brackets are [DELETIONS] from the regulation text.

Reading all proposals presented in this book is encouraged. Some proposals have statewide application, while others affect regions or fisheries of the state. Other proposals recommend changes to multiple fisheries within an area or region.

The proposals are first grouped by relevant meeting (see *Index of Proposals, page xiii*) for each meeting). Within each meeting the proposals are organized by region, fishery, or species. Prior to each meeting, the board revises the order proposals are reviewed and deliberated in a "roadmap". Agendas are developed for each meeting to coordinate with the roadmap.

**Public Comment Requested.** The board relies heavily on written comments and/or oral testimony on the effect proposed changes have on individuals. Public comment, in combination with advisory committee comments and ADF&G staff presentations, provide the board with useful biological and socioeconomic information. Written comments become public documents.

**On-time public comment.** The board accepts on-time public comment which must be received no later than the listed deadline (typically two weeks prior to a meeting — see *Tentative Meeting Schedule* on page vi). On-time comments are added to board member workbooks prior to the meeting, included in the Proposal Index of Comments, and posted on the Boards Support website well in advance of the meeting. Comment requirements include:

- Limited to the equivalent of 100 single-sided pages from any one individual or group per proposal.

- Received by mail, fax, in office, or through the Boards Support website. Submission information is at the top of this letter.
- Submitted to fit on 8½” x 11” paper with adequate margins for three-hole punching.
- If submitted through the email address, must be in Adobe PDF or a readable word processing format. Web links to YouTube or other video formats, spreadsheets, and PowerPoint presentations are not accepted.

Record copies. After the on-time public comment period closes, the board continues to welcome written comments as “record copies”. Record copies are accepted prior to and during the board meetings. Board staff attempts to cross reference record copies with relevant proposals. Requirements include –

- Limited to an equivalent of 10 single-sided pages in length from any one individual or group per proposal until the board begins deliberations on the proposal. Subsequent to deliberations, record copies are limited to an equivalent of five single-sided pages in length.
- Submitted by mail, fax, in office, or hand delivered at the meeting. Submission information is at the top of this letter.
- If submitted at a meeting, must provide 27 copies.
- Submitted to fit on 8½” x 11” paper with adequate margins for three-hole punching.

Public testimony. The board welcomes public testimony at each regularly scheduled regulatory meeting. Public testimony generally begins the first day of the meeting, extending as long as necessary to accommodate those in attendance. There is a sign-up cut-off time set for each meeting. The public is generally allotted 3 minutes for testimony. Advisory committee representatives are allotted 10 minutes.

Tips for Providing Comments. Please consider the following advice when providing input to the board.

1. Clearly state proposal number(s) and your position(s). Written comments should indicate the proposal number to which the comments apply and should clearly indicate “support” for or “opposition” to the proposal. If the comments support a modification in the proposal, indicate “support as amended” with the preferred amendment in writing. Listing the appropriate Alaska Administrative Code (AAC) number is not essential.
2. Explain why. Help the board understand the rationale for your recommendation by identifying factors to take into account when acting on a proposal. A brief description consisting of a couple of sentences on why you support or oppose the proposal is sufficient.
3. Keep comments brief. Board members are extremely busy. Clearly stating proposals and one’s position with supporting rationale will assist the board member’s understanding.
4. Follow the requirements. pages in excess of the page limit and comments not in the proper format will be discarded. Testimony greater than the allotted time will be cut short.
5. The sooner the better. As a practical matter comments submitted after the board begins deliberations are likely to receive less consideration than comments submitted earlier.

6. Write clearly. Whether typed or handwritten, use dark ink and write legibly. If making comments on more than one proposal, please do not use separate pages for each proposal - simply begin the next set of written comments by listing the next proposal number.

**Advisory Committees.** Advisory committee members should refer to the Advisory Committee Manual for additional information on providing public comment to the board. Most importantly, the recommendations submitted must be in the format prescribed by the board. Check with board staff for the latest format. When providing public testimony be sure to hit the highlights. Expressing minority opinions is helpful to the board. Reading off proposal numbers and the committee's recommendation is not helpful to the board. Finally, minutes should note the number of committee members in attendance as well as other stakeholders or others in attendance during meetings.

**SPECIAL NOTES:** The board applies various statutes and policies when considering proposals. When addressing proposals affecting subsistence uses, the board provides for a reasonable opportunity for subsistence consistent with regulations found at Chapter 99 in the Alaska Administrative Code. When addressing allocations among commercial, sport, guided sport, and/or personal use fisheries, the board applies its *Allocation Criteria* (AS 16.05.251(e)). When addressing salmon fisheries it applies its *Mixed Stock Salmon Policy* (5 AAC 39.220) and its *Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy* (5 AAC 39.222). You may wish to review these statutes, regulations, and policies when preparing comments for the board. See the board's website for more information or call boards support staff listed on page ix to learn more about the board process.

Persons with a disability needing special accommodations in order to comment on the proposed regulations should contact the Boards Support Section at (907) 465-4110 no later than two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting to make any necessary arrangements.

Thank you for taking an active role in Alaska's fisheries management regulatory process.

Sincerely,

Glenn Haight  
Executive Director