Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Training

How to be Effective at the Board of Fisheries Meetings
Course Overview

• How the boards work.
• Public testifying.
• Board committees.
• Talking to board members.
Board Jargon

- RC = record copy or regional coordinator
- AC = advisory committee
- PC = public comment
- COTW = Committee of the Whole
- Roadmap
- Blue cards
- Recommendations v. minutes
- Index of comments
- PC #, AC#, RC #
- Lead-in language
- Proposal book
- Staff reports / comments
How the Boards Work

• Calls – requests for proposals.
• Proposals – recommendations for new regulations.
• Public/AC/staff input – information related to proposals.
• Board meetings – input and final board deliberations.
• Regulations – final product of approved proposals.
Before a Board Meeting

- Get AC / public comment in on time.
- Check the Index of Comments to be sure it is correct.
- Consider reading other information – staff reports, comments, other public comment.
A. Board table
B. Staff tables
C. Coordinator desk
D. Public testimony table
E. Audience seating
F. AC copy
G. Public copy
H. Public testimony list
I. Barrier tape
J. Projector screen
K. Committee room
How the Boards Work

- During a Meeting
  - Introductions/Ethics
  - Staff Reports
  - Testimony
  - Board Committees
  - Deliberations
Myths about Board Members

- They have every proposal and number memorized.
- They aren’t uneasy, frayed, or occasionally bewildered.
- They know everything already.
- They don’t want to hear from you.
- They have boundless energy and never get tired.
Public Testimony

- Nuts and Bolts Reminder
- Advisory Committee Role
- Improving Efficiency of Testimony
Nuts & Bolts of Testimony

- Signing up – blue cards.
- Pros and cons of what order to testify in.
- Know the time limit – chair discretion.
- Manners matter.
- First things first – Click the microphone and state your name.
Organizing Your Presentation

• Focus and preparation.

• Condense testimony to the most important issues.

• Practice, practice, practice.

• If an AC, keep personal testimony separate.

• Comments can mirror roadmap.

• Consider providing a map/visual

• Quality over quantity.
Improving Testimony Efficiency

- **Do –**
  - Introduce yourself.
  - When starting, cite supporting record copy, public comment, or advisory committee minutes number.
  - Provide proposal number, quick summary of proposal, AC vote, summarize the discussion behind the vote.
  - Speak to opposing views.
  - Delve further into background knowledge. Talk about solutions discussed by the AC and the preferred – why?

- **Don’t -**
  - Just rattle off proposal numbers and vote tallies.
  - Say the same point over and over.
Dealing with Nerves

- Everyone gets nervous.
- Understand your anxiety patterns.
- Your message is important.
- Boards needs to know what you have to say.
- Most of the time we really can’t tell.
- The truth is – it’s ok to be nervous.
When Your Time is Up

• Don’t run on.
• Wait a second – there may be questions.
• If you didn’t finish, submit remarks as record copy – (do that regardless).
• There is plenty of opportunity later.
Committees – How They Work

- Committees v Committees of the Whole.
- Sign up. Advisory committee members can move around.
- Provide new information.
- Committee notes part of formal record.
- Great opportunity to expand on points.
Talking with Board Members

- Focus and respect.
- Use the committee process time well.
- Speak to board members – you are a resource.
- Solutions by opposing groups are rarely turned down.
- After meeting hours – go meet.
In Summary

- Oodles of opportunities to inform the board.
- The board process is dynamic and needs your active engagement to be effective.
- Board members need your help.
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