

Board Meetings & Comment Deadlines 2015-2016

BOARD OF GAME	BOARD OF FISHERIES	
<i>Agenda Change Request (ACR) Deadline January 18, 2016</i>	<i>ACR Deadline August 21, 2015</i>	
March 17, 2016 Fairbanks Work Session Comment Deadline March 4, 2016	October 21 – 22, 2015 Anchorage Work Session, ACRs, Cycle Organization, and Stocks of Concern Comment Deadline Oct. 1, 2015	January 12 – 17, 2016 Fairbanks Finfish: Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Comment Deadline Dec. 28, 2015
March 18 – 28, 2016 Fairbanks Statewide Regulations (Cycles A & B) Comment Deadline March 4, 2016	November 30 – December 1, 2015 Anchorage Pacific Cod: Alaska Peninsula/Chignik/ Aleutian Islands - Bering Sea Comment Deadline Nov. 19, 2015	February 23 – March 1, 2016 Anchorage Finfish: Alaska Peninsula/Bering Sea- Aleutian Islands/Chignik Comment Deadline Feb. 8, 2016
	December 2 – 9, 2015 Anchorage Finfish: Bristol Bay Comment Deadline Nov. 19, 2015	March 8 – 12, 2016 Anchorage Statewide Finfish & Supplemental Issues Comment Deadline Feb. 18, 2016

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Department of Fish and Game Boards Support Newsletter

Summer 2015

BOARDS SUPPORT

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Dear Advisory Committee Members

Thank you for all your work for Alaska's fish and game resource. This last board meeting cycle and legislative session saw its share of interesting twists and turns. That aside, Alaska's fish and game resource remains the best in the world, something we can all focus on. The unique blend of public boards, community-led consultation, and management based first on science, continues to lead towards the sustainability of our resources.

In this newsletter, Boards Support shifts focus away from budgets and boards to highlight important contributions Advisory Committees (ACs) make to the system. ACs are a critical component of Alaska's fish and game management system and without your work, we believe the long-term health of the resource would suffer.

Thank you,
Glenn Haight, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Board of Game Moves to Three-Year Cycle

During the 2015 Work Session, the Board of Game changed its meeting schedule from a two-year cycle to a three-year cycle. Proposed regulations for the five regions of the state will be considered every three years along with all statewide regulations.

The change will begin in the 2015-2016 meeting cycle with a single meeting to consider all statewide regulations (both Cycle A and Cycle B regulations), scheduled for March 18-28, 2016 in Fairbanks, Alaska. This meeting will be preceded by a one day work session on March 17, 2016.

Board of Game 3-Year Meeting Cycle

- 2015-2016: Statewide Regulations (Cycles A & B)
- 2016-2017: Interior Region (Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25 26B, 26C)
Arctic/Western Region (Units 18, 22, 23, 26A)
- 2017-2018: Central/Southwest Region (Units 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16, 17)
Statewide Regulations (Cycles A & B)
- 2018-2019: Southcentral Region (Units 6, 7, 8, 14C, 15)
Southeast Region (Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)



Get to know COMMISSIONER SAM COTTEN

Many of you may have had the opportunity to meet Commissioner Sam Cotten over the course of his long involvement in Alaska fisheries. After his appointment by Governor Walker, we were pleased to have Commissioner Cotten at several Board meetings as well as a few AC meetings.

Sam is well-known in Alaska for his service with the State Legislature and experience with Alaska's fisheries.



His experience also includes service in the U.S. Navy; two tours of duty

in Vietnam; and serving as a member of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission, and the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute, among others. Sam is a former trapper, and has spent time hunting in both central and southeast Alaska over the years.

We hope you will have the opportunity to get to know Commissioner Cotten in his leadership of ADF&G. In addition to a passion for the conservation and development of Alaska's fish and wildlife resources, he shares a sincere appreciation for the participation by Alaskans, especially the advisory committees, in our state's resources management decisions.



Testimony from Atamuk Sheidt of the Kotzebue AC.

AC Input Key to Changes for Northern Caribou Regulations

At the Southcentral Region meeting in March 2015, the Board of Game saw an impressive turnout of Arctic Region Advisory Committee (AC) representatives. Eight of the ten Arctic Region ACs sent members to testify on Proposal 202, which modified the hunting regulations for the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou herds.

Proposal 202 was brought before the board by ADF&G due to concern over population declines of both herds. The proposal was based on recommendations by the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group's Cooperative Management Plan. During the meeting, these AC members worked together with staff and other participants to come up with an amended proposal that all members agreed on. The board appreciated the collaboration, which, along with written comments and oral testimony from the public and other ACs, helped the board make its final decision.

During the 2014-2015 Meeting Cycle...

The Boards considered:

- 1323 Comments
- 398 Testifiers
- 492 Proposals (159 were adopted)

Advisory Committees:

- Submitted 67 proposals, of which 19 were adopted by the Boards
- Provided 165 written comments
- Sent 61 representatives to testify at board meetings

The Board of Game:

- Considered 214 Proposals, including 36 from ACs
- Adopted 70 proposals, including 11 from ACs
- Heard 182 testifiers, of which 37 were AC representatives

The Board of Fisheries:

- Considered 278 proposals, including 31 from ACs
- Adopted 8 proposals submitted by ACs & 89 total
- Heard 216 testifiers, including 24 AC representatives



Wood Bison Wild Again with Help from ACs

On April 3, 2015, 100 wood bison were released into the Lower Innoko. This release is the first time in more than 100 years that Alaska--and the United States--has a population of wild wood bison. In late May, an additional 12 bulls were released, and an estimated 12 calves have been born in the wild.

The Grayling Anvik Shageluk Holy Cross Advisory Committee (GASH AC) contributed substantially in making this release a reality. The GASH AC was involved with unwavering dedication and conviction that was necessary to get the bison released into the wild ever since the Innoko area was chosen as the release site.

Many groups came together before the release to form the Alaska Wood Bison Management Planning Team. Instrumental in the success of this program were the GASH AC and the Central Kuskokwim, Fairbanks, and Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committees.

Matanuska Valley AC Adds to Outreach & Participation

Thanks to the members of the Matanuska Valley AC for taking time out of their schedules to run a booth at the Matanuska Valley Sportsmen's Range Gun Show, held in Palmer this spring. Organizers of the show donated a table, which was staffed by AC members during the show.

Jehnifer Ehmann, chair for the AC, explained at the Central/Southwest Board of Game Meeting that members wanted to do this because they believe while a lot of people in their area are interested in hunting and fishing, they might not be aware that reading the regulation booklets are not the extent of their ability to be involved. The AC members are passionate about the public process and engaging with fellow users.

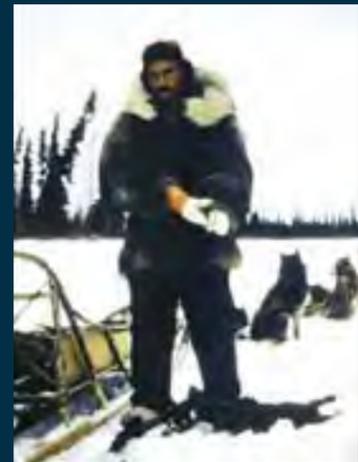
Booth materials, including handouts and the banner, were provided by Boards Support. The AC made contact with a range of people, including a former AC chair from Ketchikan and an individual who was interested in getting a regulation changed. The AC was able to add multiple contacts to their meeting distribution list as well as spread the word to others that are now interested in running for a seat at the next election meeting.

Thanks to the Matanuska Valley AC for making the most of this opportunity to spread the word about the AC process and encourage participation. If your AC has a similar opportunity, contact Boards Support for materials or assistance.



Happy 100th, SIDNEY HUNTINGTON

In honor of his 100th birthday, Boards Support would like to recognize Sidney Huntington's significant contributions to the State of Alaska. Mr. Huntington was appointed to the Board of Fisheries and Game in 1972 by Governor Jay Hammond and then served on the Board of Game when it was created in 1975. In total, he served

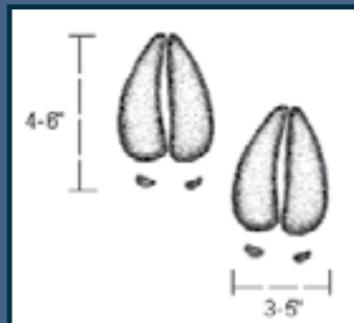


Sidney Huntington retrieving beaver in 1958, Huslia. Alaska State Library - Historical Collection

20 years on the boards under six Governors. In addition to his leadership in management of Alaska's fish and game resources, Mr. Huntington was dedicated to supporting rural education, serving 25 years on the Galena School Board. Among his many extraordinary accomplishments, he was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Public Service from the University of Alaska. We extend our deepest gratitude to Mr. Huntington for his leadership and dedication in resource management and rural education.

Legislation May Alter Process for Antlerless Moose Hunts

The process for ACs to reauthorize antlerless moose hunts may change if Senate Bill 68 is adopted by the legislature next session. Senator Cathy Giessel (R-Anchorage) sponsored the bill, which changes the required AC authorization of antlerless hunts from annually to every three years, in alignment with the Board of Game's regional meeting cycle. The bill neither removes the ACs' authority to veto an antlerless moose hunt nor change ADF&G's ability to issue emergency closures. Under the current system for antlerless moose hunt



reauthorizations, the timeframe in which ADF&G has to conduct the application process for these hunts and when the ACs can realistically meet to authorize them or not creates the potential for thousands of hunters who have applied for permits to lose the opportunity to hunt if a hunt is not authorized by an AC. Senate Bill 68 would eliminate that potential because the AC action would apply to the following year. The bill received one hearing and still must pass the Senate and House next session.