

Dates to Remember

Board of Fisheries

- October 18-20, 2016 - Work Session
Public hearing (October 18 only), ACRs, cycle organization, Stocks of Concern
Kenai/Soldotna
Comments due October 4, 2016
- Nov. 30-Dec. 3, 2016 - Lower Cook Inlet Finfish
Homer
Comments due November 15, 2016
- January 10-13, 2017 - Kodiak Finfish
Kodiak
Comments due December 27, 2016
- February 23-March 8, 2017 - Upper Cook Inlet Finfish
Anchorage
Comments due February 9, 2017
- March 20-24, 2017 - Statewide King and Tanner Crab and Supplemental Issues (Except Southeast and Yakutat)
Anchorage
Comments due February 27, 2017

Board of Game

- January 5, 2017 - Work session
Bethel
Comments due December 22, 2016
- January 6-9, 2017 - Arctic/Western Region
Bethel
Comments due December 22, 2016
- February 17-25, 2017 - Interior/Northeast Arctic Region
Fairbanks
Comments due February 3, 2017

Other fish & game

- October 28, 5pm - AC Excellence in Service Award applications due. Contact your regional coordinator, or apply online at www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.acrecognition.
- November 1, 8am - December 15, 5pm
Draw & subsistence permit hunt application period

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Department of Fish and Game Boards Support Newsletter

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Dear Advisory Committee Members

The time is quickly upon us for another fish and game regulatory season. This year the Board of Game will focus on hunting and trapping for the Interior, Western and Arctic regions of the state. The Board of Fisheries is addressing Cook Inlet and Kodiak finfish, and Statewide (excluding Southeast and Yakutat) king and Tanner crab and supplemental issues. As always, the boards appreciate and rely on the local knowledge and input by the advisory committees you represent. With four new board members this cycle, it's important they hear from you in their decision-making process.

In this newsletter we are again immersed in budget reduction efforts – for which we need your help. The Boards Support budget was not reduced during the Legislative session, but careful planning is still required to maximize funds. We also need nominations for this year's AC Recognition Program to honor those members who help bring about positive change for their local areas.

Thank you for your continued service,

Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Game

Glenn Haight, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Alaska's Hunters & Anglers Support Fish & Game Management

Governor Walker signed House Bill 137 into law, raising hunting, trapping, and sport fishing license fees for both residents and nonresidents. Beginning January 1, 2017, resident hunting licenses will increase from \$25 to \$45; sport fishing licenses from \$24 to \$29; and trapping from \$15 to \$25. Resident tag fees remain unchanged, and for young Alaskans, the age at which a license is required will be raised from 16 to 18. Most nonresident hunting, trapping and sport fishing license fees will increase, and all nonresident big game tags will double in price.

During the hearings on this bill, several hunting and fishing organizations voiced support for the increase, the first in more than 20 years; it is expected to generate \$9 million in new revenue for management, research, habitat, and sport fisheries enhancement efforts. It will also secure millions of federal dollars through the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Fund to benefit Alaska.

Licenses for 2017 are available online, at 2016 rates, now through the end of the year at www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=license.main.

Welcome! New Board of Fisheries Members

Al Cain

Al is a 46-year resident of Alaska. He served 25 years with the agency now known as the Alaska Wildlife Troopers, including 15 years as the enforcement consultant for the Board of Fisheries. After 10 years as the Criminal Justice Planner for ADF&G, Al now works for natural resource management agencies providing law enforcement training and services. He has 40 years protecting fish and game resources across Alaska,



and extensive experience with fishery harvest methods, gear, and resources utilized by subsistence, personal use, sport, and commercial interests.

Robert Ruffner

Since 1996, Robert has been a full-time resident in Soldotna. A graduate of the University of Minnesota, he studied geology and river mechanics. For nearly 20 years he was the Executive Director of the Kenai Watershed Forum. Public service includes serving as a director of the Soldotna Chamber of Commerce and on the Kenai Peninsula Borough's Planning Commission and Road Service Area Board. In 2014 he was appointed to the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission. Robert has always



been an avid river runner and now enjoys remote trips with friends and his wife and two daughters.

Israel Payton is a lifelong Alaskan recently appointed to the Board of Fisheries (BOF). We spoke with him via email about becoming a BOF member and the upcoming cycle. You can reach him at israelbof@gmail.com.



What's unique to your background that you bring to the BOF?

I was born and raised on a river in remote Alaska. Some of my earliest memories revolve around harvesting fish for the winter. I understand what it can mean if you don't have a good run and can't put up enough fish to last the winter. At an early age, I was taken to AC meetings and BOF meetings and was taught why it was important to be involved. I have seen first-hand how one person can make a difference. I have traveled and fished across Alaska and have a good working knowledge of many areas. Up until my appointment to the BOF, I was an active AC member for years. Fish are a huge reason why people live, work, and vacation in Alaska. I understand and can relate to why this resource is so important to many communities and users.

Are there any issues you're looking to address? I don't have any specific issues or agendas; I think being open-minded and listening to all sides of an issue and getting as much information as possible is key. A focus of mine will be to reach out to users and be open and accessible. I requested my email be put on the BOF members' public web page under my bio, which it has. I am an advocate of the process and am constantly encouraging people to participate in it.

As a former AC member, how do you see the role of ACs?

ACs are a very important part of the process. ACs spend a lot of time and energy submitting proposals and advising the board on the merits of proposals, all with volunteer time. In the future I would like to see the administration consider more AC members for BOF or BOG appointments. Having active AC participation is key to the fish and game regulatory process.

Anything else you'd like to share? I would encourage people to be active participants not only in your AC meetings but afterwards as well. Go to your local ADF&G office and introduce yourself to the staff and area managers, go to a board meeting even if you're not the AC representative, talk to board members, AC support staff, other users and AC members. There are usually experienced AC members that would be happy to show others how it all works. The board process may be intimidating at first but the board members and ADF&G staff are not. They are people like yourself that share a passion for fish and game resources.

John Jensen's Simply Marvelous! Salmon Chowder

3 tbsp butter or olive oil
 ¾ cup chopped onion
 ½ cup chopped celery
 ½ cup chopped red pepper
 1 – 2 cloves minced garlic
 2 cups cubed potatoes
 2 carrots, diced
 2 cups chicken broth
 1 tsp salt
 1 tsp pepper
 1 tsp dill weed
 2 - 2 1/2 cups cubed & boned fresh/frozen (thawed) salmon
 (#1 choice is king, but all works well)
 1 (12 oz) can evaporated milk
 1(15 oz) can corn, or fresh cooked corn

Directions:

1. Melt butter/oil in a large pot over medium heat. Saute onion, celery, garlic, until onions are tender. Stir in potatoes & carrots saute briefly; add spices & then the broth. Bring to a boil, reduce heat & simmer 20 minutes.
2. Stir in evaporated milk, & corn; heat slightly - five minutes or so, add the salmon last.



Simmer gently just until salmon is cooked through, about another five minutes.

What to Know About AC Travel

As state revenues decline, the Governor's Office has issued travel restrictions. Travel funds are provided for one face-to-face meeting for each AC this cycle. Additional meetings, for those requiring travel funds, will be held by teleconference.

Travel to AC meetings. While the Governor's Office waived some restrictions for AC travel, all travel to AC meetings must be approved by the Commissioner. This means planning is required to receive approval in advance of travel.

Nov. 15: preliminary travel notice deadline. AC chairs are asked to make an early (but not binding) assessment of which board meetings the AC will likely attend in light of this cycle's proposals. Regional coordinators will ask for this information by Nov. 15. For those ACs not heard from, the AC may miss the opportunity to attend board meetings if funding is unavailable.

Three-week travel planning horizon. We need your help reducing

costs with careful planning. Final confirmation of who is traveling and when should be provided three weeks before departure in order to book airfare. Airline savings can be upwards of 40% with a few weeks' notice.

Consolidated admin. In an effort to trim costs, Boards Support recently teamed with ADF&G's divisions of Administration Services, Habitat, and Subsistence to pool key administrative functions. This has meant a reduction in workforce from 22 to 12 individuals. In all likelihood, this will delay reimbursement to AC members. You can help decrease the time it takes to get reimbursed by turning in all travel information to your regional coordinator as soon as travel is completed.

We appreciate your help with these policies, and we will continue exploring options to reduce meeting costs while maximizing participation, including calling in to board meetings. Your input is welcome.

Open Meetings Act

The Open Meetings Act (Act) is an important part of the state's regulatory process. Government entities, including ACs, must abide by it, including the policy of **adequate public notice**:

- Any gathering of more than three members or a quorum, whichever is less, must provide notice of a meeting. This means if you and three other AC members meet for coffee to discuss fish and game issues, you must notice the meeting.
- Notices must appear on the State's online public notice system.
- Notices must be done in a reasonable time before a meeting. Reasonable time is left for some interpretation, but unless there is an emerging and critical issue to address, 10 to 14 days is a good rule of thumb.
- Notices must generally identify the subjects to be discussed.

Please keep the following in mind –

- If an AC wishes its recommendations to be acknowledged by the Boards of Game and Fisheries as done in compliance with the Act, those recommendations must be derived at an appropriately noticed meeting.
- If an AC wishes to submit a proposal for consideration by the Boards of Game or Fisheries in compliance with the Act, that proposal must be approved by the AC at an appropriately noticed meeting.

Boards Support and regional coordinators are here to assist the ACs in meeting the terms of the Act. And if you plan to meet your fellow AC members for a weekly cup of coffee – without posting a public notice – please keep the conversation to sports, weather, and other non-fish and game topics.



For more than ten years, ADF&G's online monthly magazine, Alaska Fish & Wildlife News, has covered the latest in the great outdoors. A behind-the-scenes peek into Alaska's biology, research, education, and management, the news covers everything from wolverine breeding to the history of salmon hatcheries. Sign up for monthly emails or catch it online at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifeneews.main>.

Is This Moose Legal?

ADF&G's online video library is rich in resources on hunting and fishing, biology, research, how tos, regulation information, and more. Some of the most popular resources include:

- **Is This Moose Legal?:** Judging the size and age of bull moose
- **How to Fish for Arctic Grayling**
- **Field Care of Big Game Meat:** a step-by step method to field dress a moose, no matter how or where the animal has fallen
- **A Bear's Eye View:** A collar-mounted camera shows a day in the life of a 10-year old, 700-pound male grizzly

Find all these resources and others at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=multimedia.main>.

Excellence Award Nominations Now Open

Nominate an AC, a group, or an individual by October 28. Up to five awards are given each year for demonstrated leadership; improving sustainability, economics, or community health; or especially commendable service. Last year's winners were:

- The GASH AC
- Dave Martin & Steve Vanek, Central Peninsula AC
- Frank Kelty, Unalaska/Dutch Harbor AC
- Pete Schaeffer, Kotzebue AC
- Jehnifer Ehmann, Matanuska Valley AC