

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

The Alaska Board of Fisheries proposes to adopt regulation changes in Title 5 of the Alaska Administrative Code, dealing with the fishery resources and in the areas designated below.

Regulations subject to board action concern commercial fishing.

The Board of Fisheries may adopt, amend, repeal, or take no action on the following subject matters.

IN THE PRIBILOF DISTRICT OF REGISTRATION AREA Q (BERING SEA) OF THE KING CRAB FISHERY:

In the **commercial fishery**: fishing seasons, periods, opening and closing times; harvest limits or quotas; gear and vessel restrictions and requirements; methods and means; districts, subdistricts, sections, subsections, areas, and other management boundaries; operating restrictions, requirements and definitions; locations open and closed to fishing; sea bird avoidance requirements; allocation among beneficial uses.

You may comment on the regulation changes, including the potential costs to the private persons of complying with the proposed changes, by submitting written comments. Written comments may be submitted to the Boards Support Section, at the above address, no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 26, 2003 to insure inclusion in the board workbooks. Comments may be submitted 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. Comments also may be faxed to (907) 465-6094. Oral comments may also be presented as explained below.

The Board will hold a public meeting, which will be separated into two sections:

1) A nonregulatory work session will be held at the Downtown Marriott Hotel, West Seventh Ave., Anchorage, Alaska beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 1, 2003. Among the items to be considered at the work session are:

Election of officers; board committee and task force reports (including Joint NPFMC/BOF, Marine Protected Areas, other); 2004/2005 future board meeting schedule and call for proposals; agenda change requests (ACRs); petitions; scheduling requests; meeting organization and establishment of committees for 2003/2004 cycle; and other informational report and/or administrative issues that may come before the board.

No oral comment will be taken at this work session meeting; however, written comment will be taken as described above. An agenda will be posted during the meeting and will be posted on the internet at: <http://www.state.ak.us/adfg/boards/fishinfo/bofhome.htm>.

2) The regulatory portion of the meeting will be held at the Downtown Marriott Hotel, West Seventh Ave., Anchorage, Alaska beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 4,

2003. The public hearing portion of this meeting will begin immediately after staff reports and continue until everyone has been given the opportunity to be heard. Additional public hearings may be held throughout this meeting just before the consideration and adoption of proposed changes in the regulations for the various areas. An agenda will be posted daily during this meeting. The board will take oral testimony only from those who register before the cut-off time announced by the board chair at the beginning of the meeting. The length of oral statements may be limited to three minutes or less. Written comment will be taken as described above.

If you are a person with a disability who needs a special accommodation in order to participate in the process on the proposed regulations, please contact Diana Cote at (907) 465-4110 (to correspond by text telephone (TDD), call 1-800-478-3648) no later than September 26, 2003 to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

Anyone interested in or affected by the commercial fishing regulations is hereby informed that, by publishing this legal notice, the Board of Fisheries may consider any or all of the subject areas covered by this notice. 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 fishing regulations as may be required to ensure the subsistence priority in AS 16.05.258.

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 or go to: [www.state.ak.us/adfg/boards/bofhome.htm](http://www.state.ak.us/adfg/boards/bofhome.htm).

After the public comment period ends, the board may adopt, amend, reject, supplement, or take no action on these or other provisions dealing with the same subject, without further notice. In addition, the board may adopt other regulations necessary to implement, administer, or enforce the regulations adopted. 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. **YOU SHOULD COMMENT DURING THE TIME ALLOWED IF YOUR INTERESTS COULD BE AFFECTED.**

Statutory Authority: AS 16.05.251; AS 16.05.258

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

Fiscal Information: The proposed regulation changes are not expected to require an increased appropriation.

Date: September 3, 2003



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Diana Cote, Executive Director  
Alaska Board of Fisheries