

DRAFT
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 fishery and aquatic plant resources in the areas designated below, including the following:

1. IN THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND (INCLUDING UPPER COPPER RIVER, UPPER SUSITNA RIVER, PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND SALTWATER, AND COPPER RIVER DISTRICT) FINFISH FISHERY REGULATIONS, SOUTHEAST AND YAKUTAT FINFISH FISHERIES REGULATIONS; SOUTHEAST AND YAKUTAT SHELLFISH FISHERIES REGULATIONS, AND STATEWIDE (except Southeast and Yakutat) DUNGENESS CRAB, SHRIMP AND MISCELLANEOUS SHELLFISH FISHERIES REGULATIONS:
 - A. In the **commercial, sport, guided sport, personal use, and aquatic plant fisheries:** fishing seasons, periods, opening and closing times; bag, possession, size, sex, and harvest limits, harvest levels, thresholds or quotas; bycatch provisions; districts, subdistricts, sections, subsections, areas, and other management boundaries; locations open and closed to fishing; methods and means; gear and vessel restrictions, marking, definitions, operational requirements and limitations, registration and permit requirements; registration areas (including exclusive and super exclusive registration areas), permits, harvest record, harvest marking requirements; management plans for conservation, development and allocation among beneficial uses; guiding principles; require, restrict or prohibit the retention, tendering, sale, release, or purchase of fish; methods of release; registration and reporting requirements for fish guides, guided anglers, catchers, processors, buyers and transporters; onboard observer requirements; fish storage and inspection requirements.
 - B. In the **subsistence fisheries (finfish):** identify subsistence uses and users; fishing seasons, periods, opening and closing times, harvest levels; methods and means; size, age, and sex limitations; districts, subdistricts, sections, subsections, areas, and other management boundaries; locations open and closed to fishing; gear and vessel restrictions and operational requirements; harvest limits, registration and permit requirements, requirements for marking and possession of fish; management plans for conservation, development and allocation among beneficial uses, and users; identify customary and traditional uses of fish stocks, determine amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence uses, and establish, change or adjust subsistence and personal use fisheries.

For a copy of the proposed regulation changes contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Boards Support Section, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526, (907) 465-4110 or <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.main>.

You may comment on the regulation changes, including the potential costs to the private persons of complying with the proposed changes, by submitting written public comments limited to no more than an equivalent of 100 single sided pages to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,

Boards Support Section, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526, or by fax to (907) 465-6094, so that the comments are received no later than two weeks prior to the meeting during which the topic will be considered. Unless otherwise specifically specified for a particular meeting in a published notice, written public comments over an equivalent of 100 single sided pages in length from any one individual or group relating to proposals at any one meeting will not be accepted. Written public comments limited to an equivalent of 10 single sided pages in length from any one individual or group will also be accepted after the two-week deadline, but will not be inserted in board member workbooks until the beginning of the meeting, and will only be accepted until the board begins deliberation of proposals.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT STANDARD: Once deliberation of proposals begin at a board meeting, the board will **ONLY** accept written public comments that are not more than an equivalent of five single-sided pages, unless specific information is requested by the board that requires more pages than allowed under this standard.

During the meeting written public comments from any one individual or group may be submitted by hand delivery at any time if 27 copies are provided; 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. Oral comments may also be presented as explained below.

Each meeting will generally start at 8:30 a.m. on the first day of the meeting dates noted below. The public hearing portions for each regulatory meeting will begin immediately after staff reports and continue until everyone who has signed up and is present has been given the opportunity to be heard. Additional public hearings with Board Committees may be held throughout the meeting before consideration and adoption of proposed changes in the regulations for the various areas. An agenda will be posted daily during the meeting. The board will take oral testimony only from those who register before the cut-off time announced by the board chair at each regulatory meeting. The length of oral statements may be limited to three minutes or less. Anyone interested in, or affected by, the subject matter contained in this legal notice should make written or oral comments if they wish to have their views considered by the board.

TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE

Work Session (non-regulatory: agenda change requests, cycle organization, and stocks of concern)

October 15–16, 2014
Centennial Hall, 101 Egan Drive, Juneau Alaska

Prince William Sound Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Finfish

December 3–8, 2014
Mt. Eccles Elementary School, 201 Adams Street, Cordova, Alaska

Southeast and Yakutat Shellfish

January 21–27, 2015
Nolan Center, 1096 Outer Drive, Wrangell, Alaska

Southeast and Yakutat Finfish
February 23–March 3, 2015
Harrigan Centennial Hall, 330 Harbor Drive, Sitka, Alaska

Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp, Miscellaneous Shellfish (except Southeast and Yakutat)
and Supplemental Issues

March 17–20, 2015
Sheraton Hotel, 401 East 6th Ave., Anchorage, AK

Any changes to meeting locations, dates or times, or rescheduling of topics or subject matter will be announced by news release. Please watch for these announcements in the news media or call (907) 465-4110. Please carefully review the **PROPOSAL INDEX** available for the meeting for specific proposal issues to be addressed by the board. Copies of the proposal indices are in the proposal book, available online at: <http://ww.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/>, and at the relevant meeting.

Anyone interested in or affected by subsistence, personal use, commercial fishing, sport, guided sport, or 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. Under 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 personal use, sport, guided sport or commercial fishing regulations as may be required to ensure the subsistence priority in AS 16.05.258. On its own motion, after public hearing, the board may adopt, amend, reject, supplement, or take no action on these subjects without further notice. In addition, the board may adopt other regulations necessary to implement, administer, or enforce the regulations adopted. **THE BOARD IS NOT LIMITED BY THE SPECIFIC LANGUAGE OR CONFINES OF THE ACTUAL PROPOSALS THAT HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED BY THE PUBLIC OR STAFF.** The language of the final regulations may be different from that of the proposed regulations. **YOU SHOULD COMMENT DURING THE TIME ALLOWED IF YOUR INTERESTS COULD BE AFFECTED.**

If you are a person with a disability who may need a special accommodation in order to participate in the process on the proposed regulations, please contact Glenn Haight at (907) 465-4110 no later than two weeks prior to the beginning of each meeting to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

Statutory Authority: AS 16.05 - AS 16.20, AS 16.40

Statutes Being Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: AS 16.05 - AS 16.20, AS 16.40

Fiscal Information: The proposed regulatory actions are not expected to require an increased appropriation.

Glenn Haight, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Date