

Boards Support Section
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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: January 26, 2016

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**Alaska Board of Fisheries to Meet in Anchorage, February 23-February 29, 2016
on Alaska Peninsula / Aleutian Islands / Chignik Finfish**

Public Comment Due Date – February 8, 2016

REVISED Meeting Dates – Revised end date of February 29

Addition to Miscellaneous Business – Proposal Review Process

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) will meet February 23-**February 29**, 2016, at the Sheraton Hotel, 401 E. 6th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska to consider regulatory action for the Alaska Peninsula / Aleutian Islands / Chignik finfish fisheries. During this seven day public meeting, the board will meet to consider 59 proposals submitted by the general public, fishing organizations, local Fish and Game Advisory Committees, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

All portions of the meeting are open to the public and a live audio stream is intended to be available on the board website at www.boardoffisheries.adfg.alaska.gov. Documents submitted to the board are intended to be posted online throughout the meeting. Copies of advanced meeting materials, including the agenda and roadmap, are available from Boards Support Section, 907-465-4110, or online at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.meetinginfo.

The board encourages the public to submit written comments on specific proposals and is accepting on-time public comment until February 8. After February 8, written public comments are limited to 10 single-sided or 5 double-sided pages in length from any one individual or group. These comments are recorded as record copies and inserted in board member workbooks at the beginning of the meeting, and accepted until the board begins deliberation of proposals.

In addition to submitting written public comments, the board invites the public to give oral public testimony during the meeting beginning February 23. Any person intending to testify must sign up at the meeting site at the Sheraton Hotel in Anchorage. The tentative deadline for signing up is 2:00pm on Tuesday, February 23. Public testimony will continue until members of the public who signed up before the deadline and are present have been given an opportunity to testify.

Once proposal deliberations begin, the board will **ONLY** accept written public comments not more than five single-sided pages, or the equivalent double-sided pages. The board may relax this requirement if specific information is requested by the board requiring more pages than allowed under this standard. See <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.comments> for details on public comment.

During the meeting, written public comments from any one individual or group may be submitted by hand delivery at any time if 21 copies are provided. As a practical matter, comments submitted after the board begins deliberations on relevant proposals are likely to receive less consideration than comments submitted earlier. Individuals not in attendance can submit written comments by fax to (907) 465-6094.

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Following the conclusion of the regulatory portion of the meeting the board intends to review a draft policy for establishing a proposal review process. The Joint Board Subcommittee has been reviewing potential budget savings to the board process and recommends both Boards of Game and Fisheries considering a proposal review process. A draft policy will be posted on the meeting info website when available and public comments are invited.