

Boards Support Section  
Board of Fisheries  
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Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Sam Cotten, Commissioner  
PO Box 115526  
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[www.adfg.alaska.gov](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov)

## MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

*For Immediate Release: December 13, 2017*

**CONTACT: Glenn Haight, 907-465-6095**

### **Alaska Board of Fisheries to Meet in Sitka, January 11-23, 2018 on Southeast and Yakutat Shellfish and Finfish**

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) will meet January 11-23, 2018, at the Harrigan Centennial Hall, 330 Harbor Drive, Sitka, Alaska. During this thirteen-day public meeting, the board will meet to consider 153 proposals regarding Southeast and Yakutat finfish and shellfish issues submitted by the general public, fishing organizations, local fish and game advisory committees, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

To minimize costs for the public and agencies, the board will take up the shellfish and finfish proposals in two consecutive sessions. Session 1 includes shellfish proposals and will run from January 11-14. Finfish proposals will be handled in Session 2 tentatively scheduled to run from January 15-23. For each session the board will cover separately ethics disclosures, staff reports, oral public testimony, committees, and deliberations.

In addition to submitting written public comments, the board invites the public to give oral public testimony during the meeting. For shellfish proposals this begins January 11. For finfish proposals this begins January 15. Any person intending to testify must sign up at the meeting site at the Harrigan Centennial Hall in Sitka. The tentative deadline for signing up for either session is 2:00pm on the starting day. 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.

All portions of the meeting are open to the public and a live audio stream is intended to be available on the Board of Fisheries website at [www.boardoffisheries.adfg.alaska.gov](http://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: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.meetinginfo>.

The board encourages the public to submit written comments on specific proposals. See <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.comments> for details on public comment. Public comments submitted by December 28 will be included in the board's workbook before the meeting. After December 28, 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 throughout the board meeting.

During the meeting, written public comments from any one individual or group may be submitted by hand delivery at any time if 22 copies are provided. 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.

Individuals not in attendance may submit written comments by fax to (907) 465-6094.

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Training opportunity: Boards Support Section is hosting a training course, *How to Navigate the Board Process*, during the noon break on the first day of both shellfish and finfish sessions, January 11 and January 15, in the main meeting area. The training will occur roughly ten minutes after the noon break and last approximately one hour. While the training is designed for individuals new to the board process, all are welcome to join. Call Boards Support, 907-465-4110, for more information.