

On-Time Advisory Committee Comment List

Alaska Board of Fisheries Work Session | Anchorage, October 17-19, 2017

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David Martin, Chair
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Clam Gulch, AK 99568
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October 3, 2017

ADF&G / Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Board of Fisheries

Chairman Jensen and Board members,

The Central Peninsula Fish and Game Advisory Committee, once again, request that the Board, at the Oct. 2017 work session, decide to hold the entire next regularly scheduled Upper Cook Inlet finfish meeting in the Kenai / Soldotna area. There has not been an Upper Cook Inlet BOF meeting on the Kenai Peninsula for 18 years. The issue of holding the Upper Cook Inlet BOF finfish meeting in the Kenai / Soldotna area has been the overwhelming request by local Peninsula governments, fishing groups and individuals for almost two decades. The BOF has received more request on this issue and for this venue than for any other BOF meeting or from any other area in the State, including Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley.

All past BOF meetings for Upper Cook Inlet finfish, that have been held in Anchorage, have had relatively small attendance from Anchorage and the Mat-Su residents compared to a vast and frankly overwhelming attendance from Kenai Peninsula residents. This has created an unfair burden of Peninsula residents.

Many Peninsula Advisory Committee members would like too, but have never been able to attend an Upper Cook Inlet BOF meeting because the meetings have been held in Anchorage for the last 18 years.

The City of Kenai had even generously offered the Board in kind services to the amount of \$60,000, if the BOF would meet in Kenai for the entire 2017 Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meeting. With the current budget deficient and dire financial situation of the State and Board Support, in combination with the overwhelming support from the Kenai Peninsula residents, it seems irrational that the Board did not accept the City of Kenai's offer and would be prudent to accept any future offers and the continuing request to hold the next regularly scheduled Upper Cook Inlet finfish meeting in Kenai / Soldotna area.

Thank You,

David Martin, Chairman



STATE OF ALASKA

Central Peninsula Fish & Game Advisory Committee

Bill Walker, Governor

David Martin, Chair
PO Box 468
Clam Gulch, AK 99568
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Oct. 3, 2017

ADF&G Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Board of Fisheries

Chairman Jensen and Board members,

Our AC fully supports and request that the BOF approve ACR 11 at the October 2017 work session. We would also request that the Board address and resolve this issue before the 2018 salmon season by applying State policies:

5AAC 39.222. Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries;

5AAC 39.200. Application of fishery management plans;

5AAC 39.220. Policy for the management of mixed stock salmon fisheries;

5AAC 39.223 Policy for statewide salmon escapement goals; and any other applicable policies and laws.

The GSI work is valuable new information that was released after the call for proposals for the last Kodiak regularly scheduled meeting. Therefor it meets the ACR criteria.

The GSI work is long past due and verifies large catches in numbers and percentages of nonlocal salmon. This now proven interception of non-local salmon stocks has and continues to put undo restrictions and financial hardship on the fisheries the nonlocal salmon are heading for. The GSI work now puts into play valuable scientific and biological data for making informed regulatory decisions and for management biologist to make informed in-season management decisions for regulating the fisheries to harvest the surplus and for meeting and setting escapement goals.

Thank you for considering our request,

Steve Vanek, AC Secretary

Serving the Alaska Board of Fisheries and Alaska Board of Game



September 27, 2017

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Board Support Section-Alaska Board of Fish
PO Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Re: Requesting the Board of Fisheries Reject Agenda Change Request 12

Chair Jensen and members of the Board,

The King Cove Advisory Committee unanimously urges the Board to reject ACR 12. Submitted by the Chignik Regional Aquaculture Association regarding the regulations imposed by the Board in 2016 for the Dolgoi Island area in Area M. The CRAA uses language in the ACR that over inflates the potential Chignik stock harvest in this area according to the WAASIP study. The ACR uses terms for a harvest cap when the actual language of the regulation involves a trigger number (191,000) that was expected to allow larger harvested numbers after a large portion of the Dolgoi Island area was closed. The ACR neglects the fact that record Bristol Bay returns the past two years have increased the sockeye harvest for all of Area M. The ACR uses conservation of Chignik stocks in the Dolgoi Island area as a conservation concern when the Chignik Area has no conservation issues.

The ACR describes the fishery as “unbridled”. The Dolgoi Island and all of South Peninsula fishing periods have been reduced to less than half the days in June and 11 days in July. June has 32 hour windows between 4 openings and after a one week compete closure July has 60 hour closures between 7 openings. The 191,000 trigger has closed the fishery in favored areas since it’s inception, the fishing time is even less than regulation. Considering seiners can’t fish at night and weather days reduction in harvest, actual fishing time is even less. If the Dolgoi Island area harvest is impacting Chignik stocks to the degree the ACR states, there should be a corresponding increase return to Chignik considering all the closed fishing time for passage of fish and the higher than average harvest in the area for recent years.



The King Cove Advisory Committee representing a community that has a long history, and economic dependance in the Dolgoi Island area recognize the ACR as an allocative issue. There is no new conservation concern for Chignik stocks at this time. There is no error in the prosecution or the intent of the regulations adopted by the Board in 2016. The effect of the regulation has undoubtedly reduced the harvest of fish in the Dolgoi Island area due to the complete closures of large portions of the area in the past two years which was the regulations intent.

The King Cove AC respectfully request the Alaska Board of Fisheries to reject ACR 12 at the October 17-19, 2017 meeting. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the process.

Sincerely,

King Cove Advisory Committee



PROPOSAL XXX – 5 AAC 96.021 (C) (3) (C)

Amend 5AAC 96.021 (C) (3) (C) to read

Lake Iliamna

Iliamna	1 representative
Nondalton	1 representative
Pedro Bay	1 representative
Kokhanok	1 representative
Igiugig	1 representative
Newhalen	1 representative
Port Alsworth	1 representative
Pope Vannoy Landing	1 representative
Undesignated	2 representatives

[LAKE ILIAMNA

ILIAMNA	3 REPRESENTATIVES
NONDALTON	2 REPRESENTATIVES
PEDRO BAY	1 REPRESENTATIVE
KOKHANOK	1 REPRESENTATIVE
IGIUGIG	1 REPRESENTATIVE
NEWHALEN	1 REPRESENTATIVE
UNDESIGNATED	6 REPRESENTATIVES]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why

The Lake Iliamna AC believes that with current population conditions it is adequate for each community represented by the committee to have one designated seat. The AC would also like to see Port Alsworth, and Pope Vannoy be included among the communities with designated seats. Having a ten member committee allows the AC to vary the location of their meetings without concern over sacrificing travel efficiency. To maintain a ten member committee the number of undesignated seats would be set at two.

If the AC had all 15 of its current seats filled it would take multiple aircraft or multiple trips with one aircraft to move the committee for a face to face meeting. This can cause both logistical issues, and budget issues.

There are a limited number of aircraft in the Lake Iliamna area that are available to the AC for Charter in accordance with the State Charter List. The most common aircraft types available to the committee are the Cessna 206, and Cessna 207 which can generally accommodate 5 passengers. With advanced planning there is also access to a Cessna 208 which can accommodate up to 9 passengers.



Many AC meetings take place during the winter when daylight hours are short. Being able to travel efficiently allows for single day meetings, which are preferable for budgetary reasons, but also because both commercial accommodations and the amount of time a member is able to commit to a meeting are often limited.

PROPOSED BY: Lake Iliamna Advisory Committee (Log No.)



Chairman Jensen, Alaska Board of Fisheries,

The Sand Point Fish & Game Advisory Committee members include salmon fishermen of the South Alaska Peninsula area that use set net and purse seine gear. We met on September 15th, 2017 to hold elections and to discuss Agenda Change Requests.

The Sand Point AC is unanimously opposed to ACR 12. We believe this ACR is unwarranted. We believe that it distorts facts in some parts and in other parts is just plain wrong. We look forward to having a debate in the next cycle when Alaska Peninsula and Chignik finfish issues are regularly scheduled.

At this time, the Board of Fish must decide whether this ACR meets the criteria to be accepted and for the issue to be taken up out of cycle. The Sand Point Advisory Committee maintains that ACR 12 does not meet the criteria as detailed in 5 AAC 39.999., for the following reasons:

This issue is clearly predominantly an allocative issue and absent any compelling new data, should be denied. In our opinion, there is no new information that warrants this issue be addressed out of cycle.

The new Dolgoi Island Area salmon fishery regulations were only just promulgated by the Board last year, at the February 2016 meeting. The original Proposal 186 was substituted with language in RC 192, as a compromise between Chignik & South Peninsula fishermen. When the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the season reached 191,000 based on fish ticket information, a portion of the area was to be closed. The regulations were in place for the 2016 & 2017 salmon seasons and carried out faithfully as written by ADFG salmon managers.

There is no fishery conservation issue to be resolved.
Chignik fishermen continue to be able to fish and Chignik escapement goals are being met.

There is no error in the regulation. The new Dolgoi regulations were based on an agreement between the two stakeholder groups, vetted by staff to be without error and carefully crafted by the Board.

There has been no unforeseen effect on the fishery. The Dolgoi regulations have limited the amount of sockeye salmon harvest in the Dolgoi Island Area as intended. The fishing areas were closed when the trigger was reached based on fish ticket information.

At the 2016 meeting, ADFG staff produced data that showed that if the new regs had been in place for the previous 10 year period, 2006 - 2015, the 191,000 trigger would have been reached 4 out of the 10 years. The trigger number of 191,000 was met and the area was closed to fishing in both 2016 & 2017. If the data from the previous 10 year period is any indication, the trigger will be met no more than 2 of the next 8 years. We believe at least one more year of experience under the current regs will help inform future Board decisions on this



issue.

We believe the Board should rarely accept agenda change requests, and only in circumstances detailed in 5 AAC 39.999. The bar should be high and we believe ACR 12 does not qualify under the Board policy. The Sand Point Advisory Committee respectfully requests the Alaska Board of Fisheries to reject ACR 12 because it does not meet the criteria under the Board's policy's for changing the agenda.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Patrick Brown, Chairman
Sand Point Advisory Committee



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Jim McCracken, Chair
PO Box 691
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Home: 907-224-3701
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October 3, 2017

Chairman John Jensen
Alaska Board of Fisheries
POB 115526
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Chair Jensen and Members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

The Seward Fish & Game Advisory Committee in conjunction with the City of Seward, the Seward Chamber of Commerce, and the University of Alaska Seward Marine Center would like to extend an invitation to the AK Board of Fisheries to consider Seward as a venue for the 2019 Lower Cook Inlet Finfish Meeting.

Seward has never had the opportunity to host a BOF meeting. The Seward AC and the local community believe that Seward has all of the amenities needed to be successful in this enterprise. We also feel it would be a great service to the citizens of Seward to have the opportunity to witness firsthand how the Board process is accomplished. The majority of our population has never attended a BOF or a BOG meeting.

Please find enclosed letters from both the Chamber of Commerce and the City of Seward outlining an official invitation by the City as well as a list of amenities offered at the local level provided by the Chamber.

We believe the University of Alaska's Rae Building would suit the needs of both the Board and Staff. It is a first class facility with ample space and has the conductivity needed to host such an event. There is ample lodging and dining venues available year round. Shuttle service can be provided between lodging and the meeting site if desired.

We hope the Board will take our recommendation under advisement and allow Seward to host the 2019 Lower Cook Inlet Finfish Meeting.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dianne M. Dubuc On behalf of the
Seward Fish & Game Advisory Committee.



**Seward Chamber of Commerce
Conference and Visitors Bureau**

October 2, 2017

Chairman John Jensen and Board Members
Alaska Board of Fisheries
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Chairman Jensen and Board Members,

The Seward Chamber of Commerce and Seward Visitors Center would like to invite the Alaska Board of Fisheries to hold the November 2019 Lower Cook Inlet Finfish Meeting in Seward.

Seward is a community of people with strong connections to the marine industry. Many of our residents support their families through employment in the commercial or sport fishing industry, and personal use fishing provides sustenance for many families during the year. Our deep stakes in the aquatic resources of Lower Cook Inlet and the marine industry make Seward the ideal place to host the November 2019 meeting.

Seward has all the amenities necessary to fit your meeting needs. We have a variety of hotels, motels and B&B's to meet your lodging needs. Our community also offers amenities such as meeting facilities, top notch restaurants, catering services, coffee shops, transportation, and Wi-Fi services. And as you know, Seward is also home to the Alaska SeaLife Center and the University of Alaska School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences.

The Seward Chamber staff would be delighted to offer you more information on any of our town's services. Please feel free to contact our office at (907)224-8051 or e-mail us at chamber@seward.com. Our winter hours are Monday thru Friday 10:00AM to 4:00PM. You can also visit our website www.seward.com.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Melissa R. Schutter
Board Secretary
Seward Chamber of Commerce

CITY OF SEWARD

P.O. Box 167
410 Adams Street
Seward, Alaska 99664-0167



- Main Office (907) 224-3130
- Police (907) 224-3130
- Harbor (907) 224-3130
- Fire (907) 224-3445
- City Clerk (907) 224-4046
- Community Development (907) 224-4049
- Utilities (907) 224-4050
- Fax (907) 224-4038



AC5
3 of 4

Alaska Board of Fisheries
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

29 September 2017

Honorable Chairman Jensen and Board members,

The City of Seward cordially invites the Board of Fisheries to hold the 2019 Lower Cook Inlet Finfish meetings in Seward.

Seward provides the ideal venue for Board, staff and stakeholders to convene and work through the agenda. Our accommodations and service providers can easily meet the needs of the anticipated attendance, and transportation between lodging and meeting locations can be arranged using existing systems and operators.

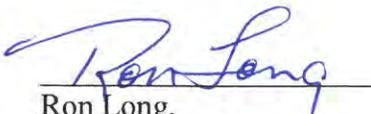
We know that bandwidth is important to attendees, and are fortunate to have top notch connectivity, including free wi-fi in most city facilities and public places.

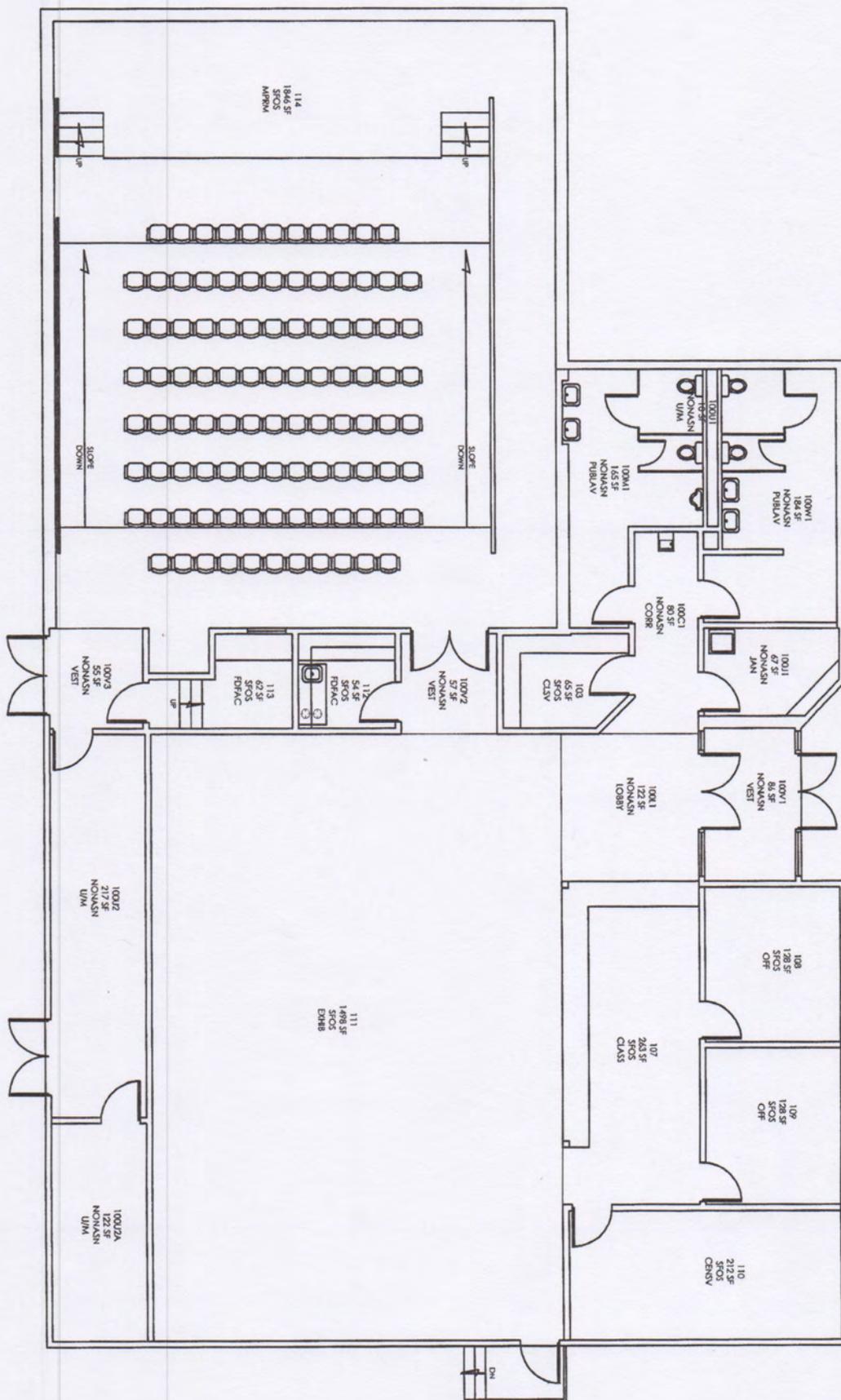
Some of our most recognized attractions are also resources for the Board and staff; the University of Alaska School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences and Alaska SeaLife Center's research facilities and science teams are leaders in their fields.

Our community is made up of people all connected in one way or another to the aquatic resources of Lower Cook Inlet, whether through direct participation in commercial, sport or personal use harvest, through work in shoreside plants, through family and through life as an Alaskan, Seward can provide a positive and productive setting for your 2019 meeting.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,


Ron Long,
Assistant City Manager



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