

**Boards Support Section
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**Alaska Department of Fish and Game
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MEETING UPDATE

For Immediate Release: December 7, 2021

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Update on Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Shellfish and Finfish Meeting Ketchikan, January 4-15, 2022

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) will meet January 4-15, 2022, at the Ted Ferry Civic Center, 888 Venetia Way, Ketchikan, Alaska. During this 12-day public meeting, the board will consider 157 proposals on Southeast and Yakutat finfish and shellfish issues submitted by the public, fishing organizations, local fish and game advisory committees, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G).

To minimize costs for the public and agencies, the board will take up the proposals in two separate sessions. Session 1 includes all salmon, herring, and non-groundfish finfish proposals, and will run from January 4-11. Groundfish and shellfish proposals will run in Session 2 tentatively scheduled from January 12-15. For each session, the board will conduct ethics disclosures, staff reports, oral public testimony, committees, and deliberations. Attendees interested only in groundfish and shellfish are strongly encouraged to join the meeting on January 12.

In an effort to fully conduct this meeting the department is enacting a number of temporary COVID-19 mitigation measures including requiring registration. Registration is taken mainly to ask for contact information which is used to communicate meeting updates to attendees and, in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak at the meeting, made available to contact tracers. The registration also allows attendees to indicate their intention to provide oral public testimony, selecting from multiple time slots on a first-come, first-serve basis. To register, go to the meeting website at <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.meetinginfo&date=01-04-2022&meeting=ketchikan>. Other mitigation measures will be enacted and provided in a meeting specific plan currently under development.

The board invites the public to give oral public testimony during the meeting. For Session 1 this begins January 4. For Session 2 this is tentatively scheduled to begin January 12. Persons intending to testify are strongly encouraged to use the registration platform prior to the meeting. Individuals who register at the meeting may sign up for public testimony at the Ted Ferry Center in Ketchikan. The tentative deadline for signing up for either session is 2:00pm on the starting day of each session. 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 and video stream is intended to be available on the Board of Fisheries 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: <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

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comments submitted by December 22, 2021, will be included in the board's workbook before the meeting. After December 22, 2021, 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 through email at dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov. 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.

Training opportunity: Boards Support Section is hosting a training course, *How to Navigate the Board Process*, during the noon break on the first meeting day, January 4, and the first day of the second session, tentatively scheduled for January 12, in the main meeting area at the Center. 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.