

On-Time Public Comments

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On-Time Public Comments

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Submitted By
Amy Daugherty
Submitted On
1/26/2022 11:18:17 AM
Affiliation
Alaska Trollers Association

Phone
907-723-2244
Email
alaskatrollers@gmail.com
Address
9760 Ninemile Creek Rd
Juneau, Alaska 99801-7620

January 26, 2022

Dear Chair Carlson Van-Dort and Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Alaska Trollers Association (ATA) is appreciative of the opportunity to respond to the latest possible changes of the Southeast in-cycle meeting. We have weighed in several times on this issue, so in order to be entirely clear, we are again writing to voice our outstanding concern.

We appreciate the possibility of the venue change back to Southeast Alaska. For many of our fishermen, travel to Anchorage takes more than a day due to flight schedules, and is certainly more expensive, as some will bring their vessels to Ketchikan. Rural Southeast troller input should be improved by moving the meeting back to Ketchikan. Thank you for this consideration.

We would also like to thank you for moving the salmon issues to the end of the meeting, although with a shorter meeting as proposed, timing of the meeting has returned as a concern. As pointed out earlier, an economically critical troll opening is underway through March 15th at midnight. On the 16th and 17th then, trollers will travel to offload and sell to processors. Presuming they can tie up and walk away directly after selling, they will then travel to Ketchikan for participation. But it is unclear if there will be an opportunity in those 2 or 3 remaining days of your suggested March 10th through March 20th meeting for their testimony and participation. Losing those last 2 days (March 21 & 22) as currently under consideration, pushes our salmon issues forward at a very important time and much troller participation will be lost.

The history of Southeast Board of Fisheries meetings in January was carefully chosen long ago to minimize fishing conflicts and maximize participation. ATA is unclear as to the individual proposals that would suffer as a consequence of a delay to January 2023 although we have heard a comment about the general disruption of the 3- year cycle. We believe this board can safely move back the subsequent SE In-cycle meeting 3 years after next January to alleviate this concern. If indeed there are critical proposals for this Board to attend to this spring, possibly those could be bifurcated out and addressed within the shorter timeframe you suggest. We have no urgency with our salmon proposals.

Thank you for your further consideration in this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Amy Daugherty

Executive Director

Alaska Trollers Association

Juneau, AK 99801

From: [Alice's Wonderland Nelson](#)
To: [DFG, BOF Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Southeast meeting
Date: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 1:07:14 PM

The southeast meeting should be held in one of the southeast communities as these communities are the ones that will be impacted by the action taken at this meeting not the Anchorage community.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S10, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [Allegra Machado](#)
To: [DFG, BOF Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Board of Fish Meetings
Date: Monday, January 24, 2022 6:33:18 PM

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you in the hopes that you will help honor the fishermen and the communities in Southeast Alaska.

I was very disappointed to hear that the Alaska Board of Fisheries meetings that were planned for this month in Ketchikan will now be held in Anchorage instead in March. These meetings are on a 3-year cycle and it was finally Ketchikan's turn to host this 2-week event, which has a huge positive financial impact on our community as well as giving our SE fishing fleet and all stakeholders the ability to have a voice at the podium.

Not only does the venue change to Anchorage hurt Southeast's ability to be at these meetings both physically and financially, the changing of the date is also not well thought out. March is traditionally the same month in which the herring fishery starts, the tail end of the winter troll fishery is happening as well as many other commercial fisheries. Fishermen will not be able to make the trek to Anchorage to be involved in an important process that directly effects their livelihood. Mid-March is also Spring Break for most Alaska school districts. This change forces many families to cancel much anticipated family vacation plans to accommodate this new meeting schedule.

Last but not least, March 9-12, 2022 is the Region 2A & 4A Basketball Tournaments hosted in Ketchikan. Many of these basketball families are also involved in the fishing industry; and were planning on attending the Board of Fisheries meetings as they were originally scheduled in January in Ketchikan. Now they have to choose. They could be involved in both the Board of Fish Meetings and the SE Region Tournament at the same time if they were in Ketchikan. Again, please get the meetings back where they belong in SE Alaska where the people and the fisheries that they represent live and work.

Sincerely,
Allegra Machado
Ketchikan, Alaska



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

January 26, 2022

State of Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Board of Fish

RE: Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish Meeting

On behalf of Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) I encourage the Board of Fish to move the Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish meeting back to Ketchikan.

The proposals and decisions before significantly impact the communities of Southeast, and therefore the meeting should be held in a location that would maximizing community participation.

Gunalchéesh/Háw'aa, Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Peterson,
President



January 24, 2022

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Attn: Glenn Haight
P.O. Box 115526
1255 W. 8th Street
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RE: Southeast Alaska Board of Fish Meeting

Dear Glenn,

As you know, moving the SE Board of Fish Meeting from Ketchikan to Anchorage and rescheduling it for March has raised some concerns with SE fishermen. Thank you for considering moving this meeting back to Ketchikan.

Several of the proposed board actions this year directly affect a number of commercial gear groups, subsistence users and sport fishermen. The location and timing of the proposed move to Anchorage in March would force a number of commercial fishermen to choose between attending this meeting and missing a critical portion of the winter fishery or fishing and not having their voices heard by the board.

The City of Craig strongly encourages you and the Board of Fisheries to move the SE Board meeting back to Ketchikan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Templin".

Brian Templin
Craig City Administrator



Craig Tribal Association
P.O. Box 828
Craig, Alaska 99921
Tel: 907-826-3996
Fax: 907-826-3997

January 26, 2022

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Attn: Glenn Haight
P.O. Box 115526
1255 West 8th Street
Juneau, AK 99811

Mr. Haight;

Moving the Southeast Board of fish meeting from Ketchikan to Anchorage was very concerning to me and the Craig Tribal Association Council. Rescheduling it for March was also concerning as it will impact fishermen on Prince of Wales Island who want to participate. March is a very important time as the fishermen are preparing for a fisheries.

Thank you for re-considering the decision to move the meeting and bringing it back to Ketchikan. As some of the proposed board actions will impact various user groups on Prince of Wales Island and the local area, I believe that you would receive more participation and show that you value what the fishermen have to say by returning to Ketchikan.

Háw'aa (Thank you),

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clinton E. Cook, Sr." in a cursive, slightly slanted script.

Clinton E. Cook, Sr.,
Tribal President

January 26th 2022

Chair Carson-Van Dort
Alaska Board of Fisheries
c/o Glenn Haight
Board Support Section
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Chair Carlson-Van Dort and Board members,

I want to first express my appreciation for the Board and Representative Ortiz's efforts to bring the Southeast Fin-fish meeting back to Ketchikan. This being said, the scramble around the Southeast BoF meeting has created great uncertainty and confusion, and if it is moved to Ketchikan on the proposed dates, it would still have implications on the tail end of the winter troll fishery, and any troller that had established haul-out and maintenance operations between the winter and spring chinook fisheries. Also, in the near-term a meeting anywhere in Alaska would disenfranchise us older at-risk stakeholders that choose not to travel when the infection rate of COVID is at record levels. (Virtual meetings are no substitute for in person).

In light of the above, I encourage the Board to consider postponing, this meeting until next January. This would be fair to all stakeholders and allow them to make long-range plans to attend and hopefully get us past the COVID issue. I do not know of any salmon issues in the proposal book that would prevent this year's salmon fishery from being prosecuted in a traditional manner if they were not enacted this spring. If there are, outstanding issues it is certainly the Board's prerogative to address them at an out of cycle meeting before the season gets underway. Conversely, there are proposals in the packet that open the door for significant reallocation of fish and some that would impact traditional users in certain areas. It is important to give all stakeholders maximum access when these proposals are in front of the Board. Please consider this request.

Respectfully, Dennis Watson

Commercial salmon fisherman (Power Troller) for 48 years
PO Box 134
Craig, Alaska 99921
907-617-2800
dwatson@aptalaska.net

From: [Chum Troller](#)
To: [DFG, BOF Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Rescheduling SE meeting to Ketchikan in March
Date: Monday, January 24, 2022 2:57:07 PM

Dear BOF members, Div of Boards staff, and Dept employees.

My name is Eric Jordan. I was born in Wrangell in 1949 and have been fishing in SE ever since. I have participated in BOF meetings since the early 70's, been on the Sitka F&G AC pretty much continuously since 1976, been on the BOF briefly about 20 years ago, and have attended SE meetings nearly continuously for decades.

First of all: Thank you so much for postponing the SE meeting from early January. As you know we have had a tremendous surge of cases in SE in January and your decision has undoubtedly saved lots of infections, hospitalizations, and possibly some lives. In Sitka alone we had 51 new cases last Thursday. As a long time sports broadcaster I would say "Good Call!"

But, I see you rushed to re-schedule the meeting first in Anchorage in March and now, due in part to the SE regional outcry, are considering it for Ketchikan in March.

"Bad call!"

Actually, multiple bad calls if you go through with planning to hold it in Ketchikan. From a health and safety perspective (and, in addition to being a fisherman, I have a degree in Health Education and have prepared, years ago, a health plan for SE Alaska as Executive Director of a group called South East Alaska Comprehensive Health Planning Incorporated, SEACHPI) I think the responsible thing to do now is to delay the SE meeting until at least next fall or winter.

From a fisherman and SE community and AC member I think holding it in SE, preferably Ketchikan, is a good idea. But, holding it in March, after our fishing and subsistence harvesting seasons have begun is a very bad idea which will disenfranchise me and many others. Decisions made in March won't be timely enough to effect subsistence herring, most groundfish, spring and early summer sportfish and commercial fish rules. So, I don't understand the rush.

I have been involved in BOF decisions since the early 70's. I know how important face to face discussions and negotiations with all the stakeholders, staff, and BOF members are. The Alaska BOF system and process is one of the greatest example of government processes working to hear people, conserve, share, and sustain our fisheries in the world. Don't compromise it in your rush to make decisions.

One of the most important lessons we learn as fishermen is "patience". Patience with the weather, patience with tides for the time when the fish will bite, move, come up and on and on. As a 72 year old elder I beg you to please show some wisdom and patience during this

time of a raging storm of a pandemic, by postponing the SE meeting till at least next fall in Ketchikan, when god willing, I and many others will be able to attend safely.

Don't jerk us around by hastily scheduling it for March when you may have to postpone it again due to the pandemic.

Eric Jordan

From: [Michelle O'Brien](#)
To: [DFG, BOF Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Board of Fisheries Meeting in Ketchikan
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 11:22:21 AM

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the over 270 members of the Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to urge you to hold the Board of Fisheries meeting in Ketchikan, as originally planned. In addition to the many issues that directly affect Southeast, the economic impact of moving this meeting elsewhere are extreme. Ketchikan, like most communities in Southeast Alaska, has been economically devastated by the lack of tourism during the past two years. This event would bring a much needed boost to our community.

Thank you for your valuable consideration of this matter.

Michelle O'Brien

Executive Director
Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce
907-225-3184
907-220-7989 cellular
2417 Tongass Ave.
Mailing: #111-275
Physical: #223A

Leasia, Henry N (DFG)

From: James Hughes <carterhughes@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 3:20 PM
To: DFG, BOF Comments (DFG sponsored)
Subject: SE BOF meeting

[You don't often get email from carterhughes@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important at <http://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>.]

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To the Honorable Governor and his staff:

My name is Carter Hughes and I am a Sitka based troller and i sit on the Seafood Producers Cooperative Board of Directors. I support postponing the SE AK Regional Board of Fish meeting until next fall or winter. Thank you very much.
Carter Hughes
Sitka

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jon Martin](#)
To: [DFG, BOF Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: SE BOF Ketchikan
Date: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 1:05:35 PM

Dear BOF & Board Support,

I strongly encourage the BOF to consider moving the SE finfish meeting back to Ketchikan. Not doing so would disadvantage gear groups, individual fishermen, subsistence harvesters, Alaska tribal citizens, and community members' ability to constructively participate in the process. Additionally, there would be a significant loss of revenue for the city of Ketchikan and the businesses that were anticipating folks traveling there to participate in the meetings.

Sincerely, Jon

--

Jon Martin
Captain/Owner: North Pacific Guides
<https://northpacificsaltwater.com/>
1.907.738.3017

From: [Haight, Glenn E \(DFG\)](#)
To: [DFG, BOF Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: FW: BOF meeting location comment

Wednesday, January 26, 2022 1:17:12 PM

To: Haight, Glenn E (DFG)

Subject: BOF meeting location comment

Board of Fish,

The location of the meeting is a moot point for many since online testimony is being allowed, good call.

I bet the number of folks that don't submit written comments and aren't willing to submit online testimony are very few.

It seems the state might save a fair bit of money by holding the meeting in ANC versus all the logistics of moving everything to KTN then a few days later moving everything back for the statewide meeting.

Also, what happens to the board members if they do get Covid? Quarantine in KTN?

I agree that the SE meeting should be held in SE during normal times but in this instance it doesn't make much sense since you are allowing online testimony and have extended the written comment deadline.

The board has already gone above and beyond and for your own well being and saving the state some funds, I support the ANC location.

I will be there in person wherever it is.

Thank you for serving!

Kurt Whitehead

Treasure Hunter Lodge LLC-Alaska

From: [Linda Danner](#)
To: [DFG, BOF Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: B of F poseponement till fall 2022
Date: Monday, January 24, 2022 12:47:25 PM

I am a veteran 45 year fisherman in S.E. Alaska. I live and work here.

The original and continued intent of BoF has always been to give VOICE to the utilizing groups in regards to changing rules and regulations that concern us. This is unique to the United states. What makes this important is community action and participation. Due to the ever present pandemic I urge you to postpone the SE BoF meeting until the fall, when we can actually utilize it as intended.

Linda Danner
F/V Amberjack

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From: [Lindsay J](#)
To: [DFG, BOF Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Time and location change for SE Finfish meeting
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 1:26:00 PM

January 21, 2022

An Open Letter to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

We the following listed fishermen and fishing related organizations represent a significant fraction of the fishing related entities in Southeast Alaska.

We are writing to strongly implore you to delay the Southeast Alaska Board meeting until it can again be held safely in Southeast Alaska, say between November 2022 and February 2023. We understand the Board's desire to not get too far behind on its schedule. However, we don't feel scheduling a meeting during a pandemic is wise, and we don't feel scheduling a large Southeast meeting in Anchorage is a wise course either. Very few members of the public and/or stakeholders will be able or willing to attend the Anchorage meeting. Making major changes to the King Salmon Management Plan, or complex herring regulations, or commercial bycatch rules without adequate public input is just not reasonable or desirable.

We understand the convenience to the Board to hold several back-to-back meetings in March in Anchorage in an effort to "catch up." However, it has been our experience that the reason the Board of Fisheries process works is because the process has always belonged to the fishing public, and not for the convenience of the members of the Board.

We understand the cost and the logistical nightmare that having a Southeast meeting here in Southeast in March before or after the regularly scheduled March meeting would entail. That, we believe, is too high a cost, both logistically for the Board and financially to Southeast fishermen who are already commercial fishing in March.

Additionally, the pandemic in Alaska is not expected to disappear in March. While the January 13th press release cited Anchorage's superior "hospital resources in the event of a large outbreak" in support of the Anchorage location, a more appropriate choice of action would be to not hold in person meetings at all when the likelihood of a major outbreak is significant enough to play a role in determining where the meeting is held.

Each of us has likely been a winner or a loser at Board of Fisheries decisions over the years. Win or lose, we support a Board of Fisheries process that is fair to all users and provides as many people as possible the opportunity to interact with Board members and staff in person within the region.

Moving the Southeast meeting to Anchorage is a slap in the face to Southeast fishermen. It is not likely a Board would move the Cook Inlet meeting to Fairbanks or Juneau. Why treat Southeast differently? Additionally, the board has delegated adequate authorities to the Commissioner to protect the users and the resource until a more reasonable meeting date can be set for Southeast.

Thank you.

Add to the list:

Lindsay Johnson
Graham Kraft
F/V Sika
P.O. Box 1032 Haines Ak 99827
907-617-6525
907-980-1745

From: [Marna Cessnun](#)
To: [DFG, BOF Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Meeting Location
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 5:58:22 AM

Dear Sirs,

Good morning. It seems reasonable to me that the location that would allow the most input by those affected by any changes would be Ketchikan. Please change the meeting location to Ketchikan from Anchorage. It just makes sense!

Sincerely,
Marna Cessnun
428 Gold Road
Ketchikan, AK 99901

From: [matthew donoeh](#)
To: [DFG, BOF Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: BOF 1-27-22 Work Session
Date: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 10:41:54 AM

Alaska Board of Fisheries

Chair Carlson-Van Dort

C/o Executive Director Glen Haight

Dear Chairperson Carlson-Van Dort

I want to thank the Board of Fisheries for postponing, because of Covid, the January BOF Meeting that had been scheduled in January. I hadn't realized how concerned I was about attending a large, long, indoor gathering until the relief washed over me when hearing about that postponement.

Even though, as a Southeast Alaska (SEAK) fisherman, I believe the SEAK BOF meeting should be held in SEAK the proposed rescheduling to Ketchikan (3/10/22 to 3/20/22) is fraught with problems. Here are four:

- 1) The New York Times reported this morning (1/26/22) that the total Covid cases in Ketchikan, *"...for the past week was the highest of the pandemic"* and *"the test positivity rate in Ketchikan is very high."*
- 2) The proposed rescheduled meeting is two days shorter. It is probable that the Board will not have time to get through the entire SEAK agenda. That agenda includes Stocks of Concern (SOC). It is reported that any agenda item not covered will be rescheduled for the next meeting in Anchorage. This means that SEAK salmon fisherman concerned about SOC (and we all are) and who want to participate in BOF SOC deliberations will probably have to attend two BOF meetings in a row. Attending two meetings in a row significantly increases the health threat and expense to the public.
- 3) At least two important SEAK fisheries occur or start during the proposed Ketchikan meeting schedule; the last and most lucrative

winter Troll trip and the start of the Sitka Sound commercial and subsistence sack roe fishery. Both of these fisheries are prominent on the BOF agenda.

4) In my 40 years of attending BOF meetings I have never before experienced as many venue changes or on such short notice. A less than three day notice on the proposed venue change makes it nearly impossible for organizations to inform their membership and disenfranchises the SEAK Advisory Committees.

I respectfully ask again that the Board of Fisheries postpone this meeting until next January.

Thank you for your Consideration.

Matthew Donohoe

President Alaska Trollers Association

Leasia, Henry N (DFG)

From: Scott Wagner <scott_wagner@nsraa.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 4:53 PM
To: DFG, BOF Comments (DFG sponsored)
Subject: Jan 27 BOF meeting comments

Alaska Board of Fisheries,
NSRAA supports moving the SE BOF meeting to Ketchikan for the dates of Mar 10-20, 2022. As the timeline for the meeting will be shortened it is imperative that oral public testimony occur in an orderly and timely manner. In addition as the meeting will be in the region the necessity to have remote oral public testimony due to travel distance to Anchorage will be removed. If the meeting is moved back to Ketchikan, remote oral public testimony should not be utilized. This will give the board the best opportunity to complete all proposals in a timely manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment prior to the board discussion on meeting location.

Sincerely,

Scott Wagner
NSRAA-General Manager
1308 Sawmill Creek Rd
Sitka, AK 99835

O: 907 747-6850
C: 907 738-2729

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From: [Dawn Jackson](#)
To: [DFG, BOF Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Location of the Board of Fish meeting
Date: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 5:00:41 PM

To whom it may concern,

The Organized Village of Kake (OVK), the local federally recognized Tribe for Kake, AK, is in full support of the Board of Fish to hold their meeting in Ketchikan, AK. With so many proposals from southeast Alaska, it naturally should be in southeast Alaska so affected parties can comment on them. Anchorage is too far removed from southeast, and should not have been an option. We appreciate the program taking comments on this and look forward to the meetings being in Ketchikan soon.

Gunalchéesh,

Dawn Jackson
Executive Director

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE FISHERIES MEETING TO BE HELD IN KETCHIKAN, VERY MUCH OPPOSED TO BEING HELD IN ANCHORAGE.

OUR S.E. VOICES ARE LOST IN THE NOISE AND THE ABILITY TO ATTEND. COSTS ARE HIGH FLYING TO ANC, NOT TO MENTION HOTELS AND MEALS. A LOT OF FOLKS HAVE FRIENDS OR REALTIVES THAT CAN HELP OUT HERE IN S.E

THERE ARE WAYS TO LOWER RISK FACTORS OF EXPOŞURE IF THAT IS THE MAIN CONCERN. MEGA AIR FILTERS/CLEANERS, ALL PARTICIPANTS MASKED. COPIOUS AMOUNTS OF SANITIZER AND COMMON SENSE. GROUP FOLKS FOR THEIR CONCERNS, HAVE THEM PRESENT AND THEN LEAVE THE ROOM AND THEN MOVE OTHER GROUPS INTO THE ROOM. LIMIT CAPACITY BUT DO NOT EXCLUDE. HAVE FOLKS SIGN SHEETS IN SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION TO THE ITEMS THAT ARE COMING UP FOR DISCUSSION. MAYBE WILL HELP TO SEE WHERE OPINIONS LEAN TOWARD, THEN BOF KNOWS WHERE THE CONCERNS ARE. MAYBE PUT OUT A QUESTIONAIRE AHEAD OF TIME TO HELP NARROW IT DOWN

HONESTLY THAT LAST MOVE OF MOVING THE HEARINGS TO ANC WAS LIKE THE OLD CAPITOL MOVE ANTICS...

PLEASE SCHEDULE THE MEETINGS HERE IN KTN AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND TAKE CARE

PAMELA LEASK

PO BOX 759

WARD COVE, AK 99928

From: [Pat Robbins](#)
To: [DFG, BOF Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: BOF meeting for southeast Alaska rescheduling 2022
Date: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 4:23:21 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from outside the State of Alaska mail system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

This letter is to make comment regarding the scheduling changes to the meeting for BOF.

I am a current subsistence user, commercial fisherman and sport fish guide operator out of Yakutat.

I understand the limitations and would like the BOF to please keep meetings of this kind close as possible to the users who are sometimes limited with funds, time and travel costs. I believe keeping meetings like this as close to home as possible helps out the users that are affected directly.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Patrick Robbins

Patrick Robbins
Italo River Adventures
P.O. 210
Yakutat, Ak. 99689
Cell#. 208-989-9625
Winter Ph# 907-784-3484

January 25, 2022

Glenn Haight
Executive Director, Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811
glenn.haight@alaska.gov

Dear Mr. Haight,

I understand that the Alaska Board of Fisheries is exploring the possibility of moving the Southeast meeting back to Ketchikan in March of this year. As the Chief Administrative Officer of PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center, the sole hospital in southern Southeast Alaska, I wish to express my support of hosting this meeting in Ketchikan.

I was recently informed that there was a plan to host the Southeast meeting in Anchorage due to COVID-19 concerns. COVID concerns remain in all communities, from Anchorage to Ketchikan.

PeaceHealth has completed several predictive modeling scenarios to help our local healthcare system determine how many cruise ships Ketchikan Medical Center would be able to handle with an influx of temporary visitors. The predictive modeling formula was based on several different assumptions. Based on this research, Ketchikan and the Medical Center can support 15,000 visitors per day. We are well-equipped to handle an influx of visitors, including those that would come for a Board of Fisheries meeting in March.

It is my hope that this information will support a decision to conduct your March board meeting in Ketchikan.

Best Regards,



Dori Stevens
Chief Administrative Officer

Alaska State Legislature

Leadership
Speaker of the House

Chair
Committee on Committees

Member
Rules Committee
Legislative Council



REPRESENTATIVE LOUISE STUTES
Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov

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Kodiak, AK 99615
Phone: (907) 486-8872

Date: January 26th, 2022

To: Märit Carlson-Van Dort
Chair, Alaska Board of Fisheries

Re: Opposition to Moving Southeast Meeting to Anchorage

Dear Chair Carlson-Van Dort and Members of the Board of Fisheries,

I am writing to express my strong concerns over the proposal to move the location of the upcoming Southeast and Yakutat fish and shellfish meeting to Anchorage instead of Ketchikan as originally noticed.

I understand that the board will be voting on the matter Thursday, January 27th during a virtual work session.

First of all, thank you for giving this issue a second look. The original decision to move the meeting outside of Ketchikan was made unilaterally with no public process, something that was not lost on our southeast constituents. I sincerely appreciate that this decision is being brought before the full board for a vote.

If behooves me to point out that not only has an appropriate venue been secured in Ketchikan from March 9th through March 21st, it is available as early as the 5th (precluding any necessity to hold any portion of the meeting in Anchorage).

Finally, as to my rationale: The guiding principles behind the board's local advisory committee structure and the public testimony process are to provide fishery stakeholders maximum access to the board and provide board members the opportunity to hear concerns from stakeholders.

Moreover, local input and maximum access to the resource are implicit to "common use" provisions in the Alaska Constitution. Moving meetings out of the area being impacted is contrary to these principles and undermines the board's ability to make sound decisions.

Whether the location is Kodiak, Southeast, Kenai, or Dillingham, the board should meet where the impacted fishery occurs.

I know each of you desires the best outcomes for Alaska's fisheries resources and the fairest allocation to its stakeholders. Those goals are accomplished through maximum stakeholder access at meetings so that the board has all of the relevant representation and information on hand with which to make these critical decisions.

Please honor the public process, make the correct decision for southeast stakeholders, and keep the meeting location in Ketchikan.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Louise". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Representative Louise Stutes
Speaker of the House

Submitted By
Roger Vallion
Submitted On
1/26/2022 9:11:15 AM
Affiliation
Harvest Diver

Phone
406-552-7418

Email
rvallion@gmail.com

Address
1721 Edgecumbe Dr
Sitka, Alaska 99835

Keep the BOF meeting in KTN as originally scheduled.

From: [Ron Richards](#)
To: [DFG, BOF Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: BOF Change of Schedule and Venue
Date: Monday, January 24, 2022 12:53:32 PM

January 21, 2022

An Open Letter to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

We the following listed fishermen and fishing related organizations represent a significant fraction of the fishing related entities in Southeast Alaska. We are writing to strongly implore you to delay the Southeast Alaska Board meeting until it can again be held safely in Southeast Alaska, say between November 2022 and February 2023.

We understand the Board's desire to not get too far behind on its schedule. However, we don't feel scheduling a meeting during a pandemic is wise, and we don't feel scheduling a large Southeast meeting in Anchorage is a wise course either. Very few members of the public and/or stakeholders will be able or willing to attend the Anchorage meeting. Making major changes to the King Salmon Management Plan, or complex herring regulations, or commercial bycatch rules without adequate public input is just not reasonable or desirable.

We understand the convenience to the Board to hold several back-to-back meetings in March in Anchorage in an effort to "catch up." However, it has been our experience that the reason the Board of Fisheries process works is because the process has always belonged to the fishing public, and not for the convenience of the members of the Board.

We understand the cost and the logistical nightmare that having a Southeast meeting here in Southeast in March before or after the regularly scheduled March meeting would entail. That, we believe, is too high a cost, both logistically for the Board and financially to Southeast fishermen who are already commercial fishing in March.

Additionally, the pandemic in Alaska is not expected to disappear in March. While the January 13th press release cited Anchorage's superior "hospital resources in the event of a large outbreak" in support of the Anchorage location, a more appropriate choice of action would be to not hold in person meetings at all when the likelihood of a major outbreak is significant enough to play a role in determining where the meeting is held.

Each of us has likely been a winner or a loser at Board of Fisheries decisions over the years. Win or lose, we support a Board of Fisheries process that is fair to all users and provides as many people as possible the opportunity to interact with Board members and staff in person within the region. Moving the Southeast meeting to Anchorage is a slap in the face to Southeast fishermen. It is not likely a Board would move the Cook Inlet meeting to Fairbanks or Juneau. Why treat Southeast differently? Additionally, the board has delegated adequate authorities to the Commissioner to protect the users and the resource until a more reasonable meeting date can be set for Southeast.

Thank you,

Ronald N. Richards
SE Troll Permit Holder
3A Halibut Quota Share Holder

From: [Sen. Jesse Kiehl](#)
To: [DFG, BOF Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: SE Finfish Meeting Location
Date: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 6:18:27 PM

Dear Members of the Board of Fish,

The Alaska Board of Fish has a long, proud tradition of meeting in each region of the state to work the issues that affect the fisheries there. This lets regional stakeholders and community members come together and put their proposals on the table. Not to put too fine a point on it: you shouldn't abandon this proud tradition by holding the Southeast Finfish meeting in Anchorage.

Southeast Alaskans have objected strongly to the notion. Many of my constituents were frankly angry at some of the statements in the department's e-mails trying to explain it. For instance, I can tell you unequivocally that Southeast Alaska leaders don't want ADF&G to move the meeting, as the department suggested. (I raised this and many other questions with the department about those public statements. They remain unanswered.)

But now, you have an excellent opportunity to restore Ketchikan as the location of the Southeast Finfish meeting. Thanks to some great work by Ketchikan folks, Southeast stakeholders can be heard at your decision making table. Please restore a Southeast location for your SE finfish meeting.

COVID made the world weird. We all understand that. But it doesn't have to make this inequitable. I stand ready to help the board continue the age-old Alaska practice of holding regionally-based Board of Fish meetings. After all, Southeast Alaskans deserve the same treatment as other Alaskans when it comes to talking with the Board of Fish.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of help. Thanks in advance for doing the right thing.

All my best,
Jesse Kiehl
State Senator
District Q



Sitka Tribe of Alaska

Tribal Government for Sitka, Alaska

Submitted via: dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov

January 25, 2022

Board of Fisheries
c/o Alaska Department of Fish and Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RE: Request to re-schedule the Southeast Board meeting to Fall 2022, in Southeast

Dear Board Members:

The Sitka Tribe of Alaska respectfully requests that you reschedule the Southeast Board meeting to Fall 2022 and plan to have that meeting in Southeast. Our request is based upon two practical considerations.

First, there are several Southeast fisheries that historically occur in March, including the Sitka herring fisheries (subsistence and commercial). The conflict of the Board meeting when there are several significant proposals on the Board's agenda relating to herring and the actual herring fishery should not have to be spelled out; it is impossible for resource users to effectively participate in both the fishery (including necessary prep work) and the regulatory process.

Second, the conflict of interest and time is triggering ADF&G to modify its regulation and communication practices with the resource users. In a typical season, ADF&G hosts a meeting where the Agency staff reviews forecast data and other relevant fishery information. However, due to this Board meeting, ADF&G has stated it will not have that meeting, instead forcing any interested party to potentially get the information from the Board meeting. This will result in information being less accessible to resource users who intend to participate in the harvest.

The Tribe recognized the complications caused by the pandemic surge and related public health considerations. We have had many of our government functions impaired

and have felt the need to “catch up,” but we respectfully request that the burden of the Board’s catching up not be carried by those of us in Southeast. The Tribe supports the sentiments of the letter submitted by the individual fishers and processors, asking for rescheduling of the March meeting.

Last, we request the meeting be held in Southeast, not Anchorage. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Lisa Gassman, STA General Manager at lisa.gassman@sitkatriben-sn.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lawrence A. Widmark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "L".

Lawrence A. Widmark
Chairman



Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

1008 Fish Creek Rd

Juneau, AK 99801

Email: kathy@seafa.org

Cell Phone: 907-465-7666

Fax: 907-917-5470

Website: <http://www.seafa.org>

January 26, 2022

Alaska Board of Fisheries

Board Support Section

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Re: Southeast Board of Fish Cycle Relocation

Dear Chair Carlson-Van Dort and Board of Fisheries members,

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFA) would like to take this opportunity to speak to the relocation of the Southeast Board of Fish meeting to Ketchikan in March. We very much appreciate the work to find a workable solution to having the meeting in the Southeast region and that the Board discussion will be a public process. This is very important in maintaining public trust. In addition, we hope that you expand virtual public testimony options at the Southeast meeting for those that due to age or health are still cautious about attending a large public meeting. Hopefully the virtual testimony option could be from anywhere and not just select ADF&G offices.

In regard to your comment in the announcement about the shortened meeting if held in Ketchikan that some proposals may not be able to be addressed and will be held over to the Statewide meeting. It's very important that time would be made to deal with critical issues such as the stocks of concern action plans, king salmon management plans and proposals dealing with a sunset date. These proposals should be considered first, and gear proposals such as mesh or depth size are the type of proposal scheduled last where a combination of stakeholders are much less important for a good decision-making process.

SEAFAs would also like to mention the need to be cognizant that with COVID and the volume of active fishing seasons occurring during the Southeast meeting, there will likely be less in-person participation regardless of where the meeting is held. It's very important that reduced participation is not perceived as lack of interest, and to not take this as an indication that proposals are not important to all the participants. This increases reliance on written comments.

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFAs) is a multi-gear, multi-species commercial fishing organization representing our 330+ members mainly involved in the salmon gillnetting, trolling and seining, all of the SE crab fisheries, pot shrimp and halibut and sablefish fisheries throughout the State of Alaska, SE region specific longline fisheries, as well as many other fisheries such as herring and dive fisheries and some Prince William Sound gillnet. In addition, the vast majority of SEAFAs members hold sport fish licenses and are involved in sport, personal use and (where eligible) subsistence fisheries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kathy Hansen", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Kathy Hansen
Executive Director

From: forrest@seagoalaska.org
To: [DFG, BOF Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Southeast finfish meeting venue
Date: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 11:57:17 AM

Madam Chair and members of the board,

We encourage you to switch the venue for the Southeast finfish meeting back to Ketchikan if not too impractical.

We appreciate the efforts and flexibility of the board in trying to keep this an in-person meeting which is important to public participation. Testimony can be taken virtually, but Committee of the Whole is a valuable part of the process, as are face to face opportunities to visit with board members. Both are less likely if the meeting is held in Anchorage.

Returning the meeting to Southeast would be consistent with board principle to maximize stakeholder involvement.

If the logistics of switching back to Ketchikan are too constraining, we'll do the best we can to make Anchorage work. This is a challenging time for all!

Respectfully,

Forrest Braden
Executive director, Southeast Alaska Guides Organization

January 17, 2022

Alaska Board of Fisheries
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Chair Carlson Van-Dort and Members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

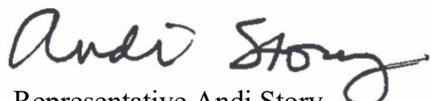
As legislators representing Southeast communities, we are extremely concerned with the recent decision by the Board of Fisheries to move the Board's Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish meeting to Anchorage.

Southeast stakeholders were looking forward to the Board holding a meeting in Southeast, which last occurred in January 2018. Moving this meeting from the region disenfranchises these communities and participants. Additionally, Board of Fisheries members miss the opportunity to be in this region and see firsthand the local area and hear local concerns. Holding this meeting in Anchorage in March also creates conflicts with Southeast fisheries occurring at that time, like herring.

We know the Board of Fisheries values the relationship between the Board and the communities, fishermen, and fishing families affected by their decisions. We saw the press release regarding the rationale for moving the meeting to Anchorage and believe a productive and safe meeting in Southeast is possible.

We urge the Board of Fisheries to reconsider moving this meeting from Southeast. If it is necessary, the Board could instead hold the meeting at a later date.

Sincerely,


Representative Andi Story


Representative Dan Ortiz


Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins


Representative Sara Hannan


Senator Jesse Kiehl

January 25, 2022

RE: Southeast and Yakutat Board of Fisheries Meeting

Dear Chair Carlson-Van Dort and Board of Fisheries Members,

I have sent testimony about the change of venue twice as the SEAS Executive Director. I am no longer working in that capacity, and my current Board will not meet until after you have convened on Jan 27th; so, I am writing to you on my personal behalf. First, thank you for being willing to reconsider your earlier decision to move the SE meeting to Anchorage. This is a case of “You can please some of the people some of the time, but you can not please all of the people all of the time.” That said, please consider the following options while developing your schedule of time frames for proposal groupings, and those you might have to move to State Wide due to time constraints if moved to SE, Ketchikan-

- Consider the herring fishery timing when scheduling those proposals, and also that those same seiners fish for salmon; and consider the winter troll closure date when scheduling the salmon proposals. Put housekeeping and terminal harvest areas last or separate them from other allocative salmon proposals. Those proposals would be more palatable to move out of region if needed.
- If held in Ketchikan, please DO NOT allow remote testimony.
- Another thought is to just say you are going to take up shellfish and groundfish at State Wide and your time allotment will work. Allow remote testimony for any proposals moved to State Wide.
- If you want to bite all the apple (or attempt to), if it is not in regulation or statute, I would suggest limiting the number of RC’s and pages for an RC, and strictly adhering to the 3-minute time limit for testimony.

Thank you for the opportunity to give input, and for your reconsideration of moving the meeting back to Ketchikan; which I am totally in support of.

Respectfully,

Susan Doherty
42- year resident
(907) 220-7630
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Submitted By
Tad Fujioka
Submitted On
1/24/2022 1:35:41 PM
Affiliation
FV Sakura

Chair Carlson-Van Dort and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries:

The board has established a firm track record of rescheduling meetings when the Covid case levels make holding in-person meetings irresponsible. This strong precedent was established prior to the January 2021 original date for the SE meeting, (when there were ~200-300 new cases per day in Alaska) and reaffirmed in spring of 2021 (when there were under 200 new cases/day) and most recently on January 1st of 2021 (when 500-800 new cases were occurring). At the current time, the situation is much worse, with over 2,000 Alaskans per day coming down with Covid. This is not the time for the BoF to reverse their prudent precedent by scheduling an in-person meeting. Please do the responsible thing and repeat your previous actions by postponing the SE meeting until such time as it can be held safely. Many of the fishermen in this region are older or have other conditions which make Covid a life-threatening virus, even if they are doubly immunized and boosted. Please do not require Southeast fishermen to risk their lives to be able to have equal access to participate in this meeting.

Furthermore, that access should be made as easy as possible for Southeast residents. An Anchorage location does not do this. Southeast meetings need to be held in Southeast, where the people closest to the resources live. It is already logistically and financially costly enough for those from the small rural communities that are most heavily dependent upon local fish to attend these meetings, and to hold it in Anchorage would further raise the barrier to their participation.

While the January 13 press release accurately credits Anchorage with having "the best hospital resources in the event of a large outbreak should medical care be required for a large number of attendees" the Board of Fisheries should take the responsible route and postpone the SE meeting until such time as the availability of medical facilities to treat a large number of meeting participants is no longer a concerning factor in setting the location of the meeting.

Please postpone the meeting until after the 2022 fishing season, ideally until January of 2023 (or anytime between October 2022-February 2023 if needed) and hold the meeting in Southeast.

Thank you, Tad Fujioka

FV Sakura

From: [Tom Fisher](#)
To: [DFG, BOF Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: SE meeting
Date: Monday, January 24, 2022 4:03:16 PM

January 21, 2022

An Open Letter to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

We the following listed fishermen and fishing related organizations represent a significant fraction of the fishing related entities in Southeast Alaska. We are writing to strongly implore you to delay the Southeast Alaska Board meeting until it can again be held safely in Southeast Alaska, say between November 2022 and February 2023. We understand the Board's desire to not get too far behind on its schedule. However, we don't feel scheduling a meeting during a pandemic is wise, and we don't feel scheduling a large Southeast meeting in Anchorage is a wise course either. Very few members of the public and/or stakeholders will be able or willing to attend the Anchorage meeting. Making major changes to the King Salmon Management Plan, or complex herring regulations, or commercial bycatch rules without adequate public input is just not reasonable or desirable.

We understand the convenience to the Board to hold several back-to-back meetings in March in Anchorage in an effort to "catch up." However, it has been our experience that the reason the Board of Fisheries process works is because the process has always belonged to the fishing public, and not for the convenience of the members of the Board.

We understand the cost and the logistical nightmare that having a Southeast meeting here in Southeast in March before or after the regularly scheduled March meeting would entail. That, we believe, is too high a cost, both logistically for the Board and financially to Southeast fishermen who are already commercial fishing in March. Additionally, the pandemic in Alaska is not expected to disappear in March. While the January 13th press release cited Anchorage's superior "hospital resources in the event of a large outbreak" in support of the Anchorage location, a more appropriate choice of action would be to not hold in person meetings at all when the likelihood of a major outbreak is significant enough to play a role in determining where the meeting is held.

Each of us has likely been a winner or a loser at Board of Fisheries decisions over the years. Win or lose, we support a Board of Fisheries process that is fair to all users and provides as many people as possible the opportunity to interact with Board members and staff in person within the region.

Moving the Southeast meeting to Anchorage is a slap in the face to Southeast fishermen. It is not likely a Board would move the Cook Inlet meeting to Fairbanks or Juneau. Why treat Southeast differently? Additionally, the board has delegated adequate authorities to the Commissioner to protect the users and the resource until a more reasonable meeting date can be set for Southeast.

Thank you.

Thomas A Fisher
F/V Aquarius
4465 Columbia Blvd
Juneau Alaska

Sent from my iPad

From: [Tiffany Cook](#)
To: [DFG, BOF Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Board of Fish Meeting
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 9:15:44 AM

I strongly feel that the Board of Fish meeting should be held in Ketchikan as originally intended. The issues are largely focused on Southeast and the meeting should be held where stakeholders can participate and be involved. Additionally, the economic benefit of holding the meeting is important to Ketchikan.

Thank you for your consideration.

-Tiffany Cook

Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang
Board Support Executive Director Glenn Haight
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Board of Fisheries
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811

January 21, 2022

RE: Southeast and Yakutat Board of Fisheries Meeting to be held in Anchorage

Dear Commissioner Vincent-Lang, Glenn Haight, Chair Carlson-Van Dort and Board of Fisheries Members,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the statewide commercial fishing trade association representing 37 commercial fishing organizations that participate in fisheries throughout the state, and the federal fisheries off Alaska's coast.

UFA acknowledges and appreciates the need for January's Southeast and Yakutat Board of Fisheries meeting to be rescheduled due to the rapid rise of Covid-19 cases in the region as well as the rest of the United States. Postponement of the meeting was the appropriate step to take at that time. That being said, UFA was caught off guard when the announcement was made on Tuesday, January 11th, that the meeting would be moved to Anchorage. The process in which this decision was made was not open and transparent, but instead, made behind closed doors with no avenue for interested parties to weigh in. Stakeholders were unaware of the criteria and considerations that were at play in the decision-making process for moving the meeting to Anchorage. This lack of transparency and ability to provide comment is cause for concern. Determining meeting locations and dates behind closed doors, particularly when it moves the meeting outside of the region, is troubling and creates distrust in the public process.

Holding a Southeast and Yakutat Board of Fisheries meeting in Anchorage, rather than at a location within the region, disenfranchises the commercial fishing industry in Southeast Alaska. While we appreciate the schedule adjustments that were made in order to accommodate active SE fisheries, requiring travel outside of the Southeast Region will have a significant impact on the ability of stakeholders to participate in the Board of Fisheries process at a level that they would otherwise have been able to, had the meeting been held in region. We appreciate the Board making allowances for individuals to provide testimony in a virtual format at select ADF&G locations. However, we believe that public participation throughout the process is vital to a successful meeting and would encourage that additional virtual opportunities be made available during the committee of a whole process. We sincerely hope that the lack of in person attendance at the meeting in Anchorage is not viewed as a lack of concern over the proposals and subject.

UFA understands that the Covid-19 pandemic has presented us all with unique challenges and circumstances and that rescheduling the meeting was out of the Board's control. We would like to stress that there is an extraordinary set of circumstances occurring and reiterate the importance of meetings held within the region and a precedent not be set for moving future meetings out of region. For future Board of Fisheries meetings, we recommend that they be held within the affected region, using the 'Criteria for Consideration on Reviewing Meeting locations' to aid in the decision-making process when determining a location in a public process.

Sincerely,



Matt Alward
President



Tracy Welch
Executive Director

UNITED SOUTHEAST ALASKA GILLNETTERS

Box 2196, Petersburg AK 99833 * (253) 279-0707 * usag.alaska@gmail.com * akgillnet.org

USAG'S MAIN PURPOSE IS TO PROTECT, SERVE AND ENHANCE SOUTHEAST ALASKA'S COMMERCIAL GILLNET FISHERY

January 13, 2022

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Alaska Board of Fisheries
1255 W. 8th Street
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Chairman Carlson-Van Dort and board members,

We would like to offer our support for the current meeting dates for the SEAK Finfish and Shellfish meeting that was announced today. While we would much rather the meeting was in the region that would allow for easier participation, it must be recognized that moving the meeting to another, probably later date, to accommodate the region in a time frame that would not interfere with fisheries in progress, would likely push the meeting out a full year. We already are over a year past a normal cycle. Pushing it out another would only serve to complicate further meeting dates, and would complicate cycling since Prince William Sound has already had their meeting.

Our view is that while it is not ideal, and will create some hardship for people to attend, we are more concerned with the hardship of not having our region addressed for another full season. This has been an extraordinary couple of years, and sometimes that calls for extraordinary measures. After two years of addressing this meeting, preparing for it, and commenting on it, we are ready to have it.

Sincerely,



Max Worhatch, Executive Director, USAG

UNITED SOUTHEAST ALASKA GILLNETTERS

Box 2196, Petersburg AK 99833 * (253) 279-0707 * usag.alaska@gmail.com * akgillnet.org

USAG'S MAIN PURPOSE IS TO PROTECT, SERVE AND ENHANCE SOUTHEAST ALASKA'S COMMERCIAL GILLNET FISHERY

January 24, 2021

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Alaska Board of Fisheries
1255 W. 8th Street
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Chairman Carlson-Van Dort and board members,

We support moving the meeting back down to Ketchikan, but only if we can have the entire meeting there. While we agree that a region's BOF meeting should occur in the region to allow participation by residents, we feel that it is irresponsible to have part of a meeting in a region, and possibly the other part in another. This will require some participants go to the Ketchikan meeting, in hopes that proposals pertinent to them will be heard, to possibly also having to go to the Anchorage meeting to actually address them. The time frame available in Ketchikan is likely insufficient to cover the size and scope of the meeting.

The order of the meeting as stated in the press release, prioritizes herring, groundfish and shellfish, over salmon. This increases the likelihood that any proposals left on the table when time runs out will be salmon. There are 2138 active resident commercial salmon permits for the region. If the board chooses to have the meeting in Ketchikan, the vast majority of commercial permit holders run the risk of having to attend another meeting in Anchorage. By comparison, there are 347 active resident commercial herring permits in the region. We fail to understand the reasoning behind prioritizing in the manner the board has chosen. Our guess is that it is more political than practical.

SEAK salmon is robust. We have SOC statuses to discuss, terminal harvest areas, gear modifications, new fisheries, and area closures to name a few. Those issues deserve the full attention at wherever the meeting is held by stakeholders. They shouldn't have to travel twice. The postponement in January has already disenfranchised participants due to the probable start of the longline season conflicting with the March date.

It seems like we have commented on when and how this meeting should take place more than we have commented on contents of the actual meeting. At this point, we would just like to have the meeting, in the scheduled time frame, at one location. There have been enough anomalies associated with this meeting due to delays. We don't need to make it weirder than it already is by splitting up the meeting at an unknown point. If Ketchikan cannot come up with the days necessary to prosecute this meeting in full, it shouldn't be considered.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Max Worhatch', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Max Worhatch, Executive Director, USAG

January 24, 2022

An Open Letter to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

We the following listed fishermen and fishing related organizations represent a significant fraction of the fishing related entities in Southeast Alaska. We are writing to strongly implore you to delay the Southeast Alaska Board meeting until it can again be held safely in Southeast Alaska, say between November 2022 and February 2023.

We understand the Board's desire to not get too far behind on its schedule. However, we don't feel scheduling a meeting during a pandemic is wise, and we don't feel scheduling a large Southeast meeting in Anchorage is a wise course either. Very few members of the public and/or stakeholders will be able or willing to attend the Anchorage meeting. Making major changes to the King Salmon Management Plan, or complex herring regulations, or commercial bycatch rules without adequate public input is just not reasonable or desirable.

We understand the convenience to the Board to hold several back-to-back meetings in March in Anchorage in an effort to “catch up.” However, it has been our experience that the reason the Board of Fisheries process works is because the process has always belonged to the fishing public, and not for the convenience of the members of the Board.

We understand the cost and the logistical nightmare that having a Southeast meeting here in Southeast in March before or after the regularly scheduled March meeting would entail. That, we believe, is too high a cost, both logistically for the Board and financially to Southeast fishermen who are already commercial fishing in March.

Additionally, the pandemic in Alaska is not expected to disappear in March. While the January 13th press release cited Anchorage’s superior “ hospital resources in the event of a large outbreak” in support of the Anchorage location, a more appropriate choice of action would be to not hold in person meetings at all when the likelihood of a major outbreak is significant enough to play a role in determining where the meeting is held.

Each of us has likely been a winner or a loser at Board of Fisheries decisions over the years. Win or lose, we support a Board of Fisheries process that is fair to all users and provides as many people as possible the opportunity to interact with Board members and staff in person within the region.

Moving the Southeast meeting to Anchorage is a slap in the face to Southeast fishermen. It is not likely a Board would move the Cook Inlet meeting to Fairbanks or Juneau. Why treat Southeast differently? Additionally, the board has delegated adequate authorities to the Commissioner to protect the users and the resource until a more reasonable meeting date can be set for Southeast.

Thank you.

Alaska Trollers Association

Southeast Alaska Seiners

Seafood Producers Coop

Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association

Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association

**Alaska Native Inter Tribal Association of Seiners
Territorial Sportsmen Incorporated**