

From: [Rep. Daniel Ortiz](#)
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Subject: For the Fish Board's Consideration/Deliberation Today
Date: Thursday, January 27, 2022 8:50:52 AM

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Good Morning Members of the Fish Board and Exec. Director Haight:

Members of State of Alaska Fish Board:

Thank you for agreeing to meet in order to reconsider your decision to move the Fish Board Meetings from Ketchikan to Anchorage in March of 2021. As the State Representative for the Southern Southeast Alaska Region, I have received many comments/messages of concern from the business community of Ketchikan, fisherman from throughout S.E. Alaska, and representatives of various gear groups since the decision was made by the Chair of the Board to move the previously planned meetings away from Ketchikan to Anchorage.

After communicating with House Speaker Louise Stutes and soon after with Exec. Director Haight, I was tasked by Speaker Stutes to see if I could work at resolving the primary reason stated by the Board as to why they would be unable to meet in Ketchikan in March. "Lack of a availability of space. In that task I received great co-operation from the acting City Manager of Ketchikan Lacy Simpson (the city has oversight responsibility of the Ted Ferry Center in Ketchikan) as well from the manager of the Ted Ferry Center itself. It was quickly determined that if the Fish Board was interested in reconsidering their decision and perhaps choose to move the meetings back to Ketchikan, the **facility would be available to the Board from March 5th to March 21st.**

On the morning of Monday, January 25, I was contacted by a representative of a commercial gear group that in the Board Press Release announcing the meeting that is to be held today, (January 27) to reconsider the decision. I was surprised to see the following as a part of that announcement: "**The public is further advised that a normal Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish meeting is scheduled for 13 days. The Ketchikan Civic Center is available for 11 days.**" To be clear and for the record the Board Members should be aware as you deliberate your decision today that the Ted Ferry facility in Ketchikan is available to the Board for up to 17 days, March 5 to the 21st, if needed.

Again, thank you for agreeing to take up the issue today in your meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rep. Dan Ortiz