



**Alaska Department of Fish and Game**

**Board of Fisheries**

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## **Agenda 4 & 5: Committees and Committee Assignments**

1. 2022/2023 meeting cycle committee assignments worksheet
2. BOF/NPFMC Joint Protocol Committee meeting summary (Oct 13, 2022)
3. Memo: Future Joint BOF/BOG meeting (upcoming work for BOF/BOG Joint Committee)



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## Alaska Board of Fisheries Committee Assignments

**Board of Fisheries committee and task force assignments**  
*(Updated at the October 2021 Work Session)*

	Walton	Jensen	Wood	Carlson-Van Dort	Godfrey	Mitchell	Payton
<b>Committees</b>							
Committee on Committees		X		Chair			X
Bd. of Fisheries/Bd. of Game			X			Chair	X
Federal/State Subsistence		X		X	Chair		
Habitat	Chair				X	X	
BOF/NPFMC Joint Protocol	X	Chair		X			
Legislation	X		Chair		X		
Hatchery	X	X	X	Chair	X	X	X

Task Forces / Workgroups

Naknek River Sport Comm Services and Guide Fisheries	X					X	Chair
Board Process		X	X	Chair			X
Fisheries Management Research Needs			X		X	Chair	

**Board of Fisheries committee and task force assignments**  
*(To be updated at the October 2022 Work Session)*

	Carpenter	Jensen	Wood	Carlson-Van Dort	Heimbuch	Mitchell	Weisz
<b>Committees</b>							
Committee on Committees							
Bd. of Fisheries/Bd. of Game							
Federal/State Subsistence							
Habitat							
Joint BOF/NPFMC Protocol							
Legislation							
Hatchery							

Task Forces / Workgroups

Naknek River Sport Comm Services and Guide Fisheries							
Board Process							
Fisheries Management Research Needs							



The Joint Protocol Committee of the  
**North Pacific Fisheries Management Council**  
and the  
**Alaska Board of Fisheries**



## Meeting Summary

The meeting was held in person at the Egan Center in Anchorage on October 13, 2022. The meeting agenda, background materials, presentation, and written comment letters are posted on the meeting webpage at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.meetinginfo&date=10-13-2022&meeting=anchorage>

Joint Protocol Committee membership:

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Angel Drobnic  
Kenny Down  
Andy Mezirow

Alaska Board of Fisheries

John Jensen  
Märit Carlson-Van Dort  
Mike Heimbuch

The meeting convened at approximately 8:35am.

1. **Introductions** – Mr. Jensen served as meeting Chair and opened the meeting with introductions of the members and Executive Directors.
2. **Staff Reports** – Mark Stichert (ADF&G) provided a presentation on **Bering Sea crab stock status**. He reviewed the catch specifications (limits) for the coming season. The snow crab fishery and all king crab fisheries are closed for the 22/23 season. For snow crab, mature biomass is the lowest in the timeseries, and the stock is considered overfished and a rebuilding plan is under development. He reviewed the recruitment data, including the historically high 2018 juvenile cohort, and the unexpected and subsequent collapse of the stock due to an extremely high natural mortality event between 2019 and 2021 (there was no survey in 2020 due to covid). There was also a fishery in 2020/21 based on model estimates, that in retrospect, added fishing mortality on larger crab. There is a 50mm cohort in the survey data that may recruit in about 4 years. Tanner crab remain at relatively low population levels, with some sign of good recruitment in future years. Bristol Bay red king crab has a very low level of mature males and females below threshold, with a poor outlook. There are no signs of incoming recruitment in the data.

Sarah Rheinsmith and Jon McCracken (NPFMC) provided an overview of the Bering Sea **snow crab rebuilding plan**. Due to the stock status overfished determination in 2021, a rebuilding plan is required by section 304 of the MSA. The time period for rebuilding the stock must be specified to be as short as possible, taking into account requirements detailed in MSA NS1. The Council intends to review a draft rebuilding plan in December 2022, and take final action in February 2023. Under the proposed rebuilding plan, there exist two alternatives; Alternative 1: no action and Alternative 2: adopt a rebuilding plan and specify target rebuilding time not to exceed  $T_{max}$ . Under Alternative 2, there are two options that consider whether or not directed fishing will occur during the time the stock is rebuilding. The minimum time projected for rebuilding ( $T_{min}$ ) is 6 years, dictating that the maximum time for rebuilding ( $T_{max}$ ) is 10 years. The rebuilding projections suggests there is minimal impact of bycatch on the rebuilding period.

Dr. Diana Stram (NPFMC) and Josh Keaton (NMFS) provided an overview of **Federal Pacific cod stock assessment and management**. Three stocks are managed: Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and Gulf of Alaska. Slides provided a description of harvest control rules, cod distribution, survey biomass estimates, and modeled biomass and recruitment where estimated. The Bering Sea stock biomass is high, but declining; AI biomass is low; and the GOA biomass is low and declining. The directed fishery has been closed in the GOA. Genetic information shows a break between Eastern GOA, Western GOA, AI, and Eastern Bering Sea/Northern Bering Sea stocks. Diana reviewed the allocations of total catch limits into federal (TAC) and state waters (GHL) in the Bering Sea and AI. In Federal fisheries, cod are further allocated to different sectors, gears and vessel sizes, and seasons, such that there are 34 separate allocations. Josh provided a summary of the 2021 catch by sector, maps showing the catch occurs by each sector, and histograms showing timing of catch by different gear sectors for Bering Sea and GOA Pacific cod fisheries. Time series of participation by different gear types were also provided for the GOA cod fisheries. A summary of observer coverage in the Pacific cod fisheries was provided.

Dr. Kate Haapala (NPFMC) provided an update of recent council action on **small boat access for Bering Sea Pacific cod**. This action would amend the FMP to require smaller vessels operating in the <60' hook and line /pot catcher vessels to harvest Pacific cod from the jig sector. Council took action in December 2022 to redefine the cod jig sector to include hook and line or pot vessels less than or equal to 55' length overall. The B and C season will be jig only, such that after the end of the jig sector's A season end, all hook and line or pot catcher vessels less than or equal to 60' would be in the same sector. Dr. Haapala highlighted points to consider for the BOF. Under the council's action, the BOF would need to address the trigger for opening the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict pot fishery. Currently, the state uses the <60' hook and line/pot catcher vessel sectors closure date as a trigger to open the DHS state waters cod fishery seven days after the sectors closure date. Impacts were discussed relative to possible BOF options (e.g., the redefined jig sector's A season closure date or the redefined <60' sector's closure date) to use as a trigger. For example, the redefined jig sector's A season might end at the regulatory closure date of April 30 which would substantially delay the timing of the DHS state waters cod fishery opening.

Given the timing for regulation development, this action would likely be implemented for the start of the 2025 fishing year. Recent participation in Federal and state water fisheries was presented for the different vessel size groups.

Mark Stichert (ADF&G) provided an overview of **State Pacific cod management**. State jurisdiction and state groundfish management areas were described, as well as the two types of fisheries that occur in State waters: Parallel fisheries that operate concurrently with federal fisheries, and state waters GHL fisheries. Mark reviewed the BSAI parallel and state waters Pacific cod fisheries requirements and characteristics.

A review of the various Alaska Peninsula, AI, Bering Sea and Chignik Pacific cod meeting proposals to the BOF was provided, with a highlight on those proposals that may involve both management bodies.

- **Proposal 1** (from ADF&G) would update the regulations in the AI.
- **Proposal 2** would restrict AI Pcod fishing to only pot vessels less than or equal to 100' using single lines, and jig vessels under 58' that are limited to <25% of GHL.
- **Proposals 3 and 4** would adjust the season start date in AI to March 1 for >60' trawl vessels.
- **Proposal 5** would restrict vessels fishing Unalaska Bay to <55'.
- **Proposal 6** would restructure allocation range of 10 to 13% of ABC for GHL in Dutch Harbor district, using 4 teirs.

- **Proposal 7** (from ADF&G) would revise pot and jig gear fishery requirements in the Dutch Harbor subdistrict.
  - **Proposal 8** (from ADF&G) would add a weather delay provision in opening the South Alaska Peninsula Pacific cod fishery.
  - **Proposal 9** would remove vessel registration exclusivity for state waters jig gear fisheries (black rockfish and Pacific cod) and open state waters Pacific cod seasons for jig gear on January 1.
  - **Proposal 10** would define a GHF for sablefish in state waters of the AI, set at 5% of the combined federal BSAI sablefish ABC.
3. **Oral Public Testimony.** A total of 3 people provided oral public comments: Jamie Goen, George Pappas, and John Moller. Testifiers noted concerns with the crab fishery closures and salmon runs, federal subsistence communications, and progress on reopening a fish plant on Adak. Written comment letters were also submitted and posted online.
4. **Committee discussion** – Council members highlighted recent Council action to conserve Bristol Bay Red king crab and snow crab, including identification of these stocks as priority conservation species, scheduling a review of an analysis for emergency action to restrict fishing gears from the Bristol Bay Red King Crab Savings Area, request for immediate voluntary efforts of the groundfish fleets to avoid salmon bycatch, and development of a comprehensive workplan to consider future conservation actions. The workplan will allow for additional time to work with the scientists and industry to find the best solutions for conserving and rebuilding this stock.

Board members requested that any action by the Council in December, relative to BSAI crab stocks and Cook Inlet salmon, be communicated to the members of the JPC. Should the Executive Directors decide that another JPC meeting should be scheduled to discuss these issues, one could be scheduled for some appropriate time next year.

Committee chair thanked staff for excellent and informative presentations, as well as the public for providing additional information and perspectives in their testimony.

5. **Other Business** – No other business was addressed.
6. **Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:40 am.

# MEMORANDUM

# STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME Boards Support Section

TO: Alaska Board of Fisheries

DATE: October 21, 2022

THRU:

PHONE: 907-465-6098

FROM: Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director  
Alaska Board of Game

SUBJECT: Board of Fisheries/Board of  
Game Committee Work for  
2022/2023

Art Nelson, Executive Director  
Alaska Board of Fisheries

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The Board of Fisheries/Board of Game joint committee membership is set to be assigned during the October 2022 Board of Fisheries Work Session. Board of Game members were assigned during the January 2022 Work Session; those members are Jerry Burnett, Allen Barrette and Lynn Keogh. The Board of Game will revisit committee assignments at the next Work Session scheduled for January 2023. This memo is provided to apprise board members of the work expectation for the joint committee during 2022/2023 meeting cycle.

The joint committee will be asked to have one to two meetings this winter to discuss the planning of the next Joint Board of Fisheries and Game (Joint Board) regulatory meeting. During the March 2019 Joint Board meeting, the boards expressed an intent, to schedule regulatory meetings approximately every five years for consideration of advisory committee regulations and those dealing with the process for adopting regulations (5 AAC Chapters 96 and 97). Regulations dealing with subsistence uses and non-subsistence areas (5 AAC Chapter 99) would be scheduled every ten years. Prior to 2019, the Joint Board held regulatory meetings as needed, approximately every five to eight years. (See page 3) In keeping with the intent of a five-year schedule, the next Joint Board meeting would be slated for 2024 to consider changes to 5 AAC Chapters 96, 97 and 99.

To begin the planning process for a Joint Board regulatory meeting, the joint committee will need to meet this winter with the boards' executive directors, ADF&G leadership staff, and the Department of Law, to discuss and develop a recommendation to provide each board with regards to scheduling a Joint Board meeting including the location, the regulatory topics for the Call for Proposals, and any other business concerning both boards.

In addition, the Joint Board is responsible under Alaska Statute 44.39.030, for providing the Governor with a list of qualified persons to serve as Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The Board of Fisheries/Board of Game committee will be involved with the planning process for fulfilling this responsibility of the Joint Board if any changes to the commissioner position occur following the 2022 gubernatorial election.

Alaska Statute 16.105.315 establishes the process for calling a Joint Board meeting. The boards may hold a joint meeting upon the call of the commissioner or a board, to resolve any conflicts in regulations of the boards and to consider matters that required consideration of both boards. Following the work of the joint committee this winter, both boards will be provided a committee report and recommendation during their regularly scheduled board meetings.

We look forward to working with the joint committee of the Board of Fisheries/Board of Game this meeting cycle. For the members' information, the following pages list of regulations under the authority of the Joint Board, and past Joint Board meetings.

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## **JOINT BOARD REGULATORY AUTHORITIES**

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### **5 AAC Chapter 96 – Local Fish and Game Advisory Committees and Adoption of Fish and Game Regulations**

- Article 1: Local Fish and Game Advisory Committee Regulations
  - Section 010. Establishment of local fish and game advisory committee system.
  - Section 020. Creation of local fish and game advisory committees.
  - Section 021. Establishment of advisory committees.
  - Section 040. Qualifications for members.
  - Section 050. Functions of local fish and game advisory committees.
  - Section 060. Uniform rules of operation.
- Article 2: Regional Fish and Game Councils – REPEALED
- Article 3: Administration of Local Fish and Game Advisory Committees
  - Section 440. Board assistance
  - Section 450. Committee status and change of status.
  - Section 460. Attendance at meetings.
- Article 4: Administration of Regional Fish and Game Councils - REPEALED
- Article 5: Adoption of Fish and Game Regulations
  - 600. Meetings
  - 610. Procedures of developing fish and game regulations.
  - 615. Subsistence proposal policy
  - 625. Joint board petition policy
  - 630. Special meetings
  - 640. Regular meetings
  - 650. Compliance
- Article 6: General Provisions
  - 910. Definitions.

### **Chapter 97 – Advisory Committee Closures**

- Article 1: Areas of Jurisdiction

- Section 005. Areas of jurisdiction for advisory committees
- Article 2: Emergency Closures
  - Section 010. Advisory committee emergency closures

**Chapter 99 – Subsistence Uses**

- Section 010. Boards of Fisheries and game subsistence procedures
- Section 015. Joint board nonsubsistence areas.
- Section 016. Activities permitted in a nonsubsistence area.
- Section 021. Definitions

*Note: Two sections under Chapter 99 are specific to one board: 92.005. Board of Fisheries subsistence finding standards, and 92.025. Customary and traditional uses of game populations.*

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**JOINT BOARD MEETINGS, 1985 TO PRESENT**

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Topics</b>
March 21-25, 2019	Anchorage	Forty proposals on AC regulations and board process; 22 were adopted, primarily making adjustments to AC membership; clarifying and updating the AC uniform rules of regulations, and modifying to the joint board petition policy.
January 26, 2019	Anchorage/ Teleconf	Joint Board Commissioner Nomination Selection
January 14, 2015	Juneau/ Teleconf	Joint Board Commissioner Nomination Selection
October 12-16, 2013	Anchorage	Forty-one proposals on AC regulations, nonsubsistence areas, and subsistence uses and procedures. Three new ACs were created; two of which resulted from the splitting of an existing AC.
May 13, 2011	Teleconf	Requests for Removal for Cause of Advisory Committee Members
October 5–8, 2007	Anchorage	Thirty-nine proposals total; 37 on AC regulations and two on nonsubsistence areas. Two new ACs were created and two were merged into one.
March 21, 2006	Anchorage	One proposal on AC member qualifications.

Feb. 27–March 1, 1998	Anchorage	Nineteen proposals on AC regulations plus others; two new ACs were created.
August 1, 1997	Teleconf	Discussion of governor’s subsistence panel
April 3–5, 1997	Anchorage	Initial action on 19 proposals on AC regulations and additional proposals, including Bristol Bay Reserve.
April 28, 1994	teleconference	Nonsubsistence areas resulting from Kenaitze v. State.
March 6–7, 1993	Juneau	Nonsubsistence area revisions, Kachemak Bay Management Plan.
November 1–7, 1992	Anchorage	Nonsubsistence area determinations, eight criteria.
October 27–28, 1992	Anchorage	Four proposals on AC regulations.
February 23–25, 1991	Juneau	Twenty-six proposals on AC regulations, process for adopting regulations, and subsistence procedures.
October 1990	Anchorage	New “all Alaskan” ruling.
March 12–14, 1990	Anchorage	Thirty-eight proposals on AC regulations and one to adopt a subsistence proposal policy.
April 24-26, 1989	Anchorage	Fourteen proposals on AC regulations.
November 12–14, 1985	Anchorage	Subsistence procedures, habitat protection, and AC regulations.
March 1985	Anchorage	Twenty-two proposals on AC regulations and one to adopt a Joint Board Petition Policy.

*Note: This table provides Joint Board meetings from the best available information on record, excluding Commissioner nomination meetings prior to 2015.*