Joint Board Petition Policy

Agenda Change Request Policy

Joint Board Criteria for Development of Board-Generated Proposal

Board of Game Index of Policies and Resolutions

- #2007-173-BOG - Nonresident Drawing Permit Allocation Policy – (#162 Revised)
- #2007-172-BOG - Annual Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose
(a) Under AS 44.62.220, an interested person may petition an agency, including the Boards of Fisheries and Game, for the adoption, amendment, or repeal of a regulation. The petition must clearly and concisely state the substance or nature of the regulation, amendment, or repeal requested, the reason for the request, and must reference the agency's authority to take the requested action. Within 30 days after receiving a petition, a board will deny the petition in writing, or schedule the matter for public hearing under AS 44.62.190--44.62.210, which require that any agency publish legal notice describing the proposed change and solicit comment for 30 days before taking action. AS 44.62.230 also provides that if the petition is for an emergency regulation, and the agency finds that an emergency exists, the agency may submit the regulation to the lieutenant governor immediately after making the finding of emergency and putting the regulation into proper form.

(b) Fish and game regulations are adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Board of Game. At least twice annually, the boards solicit regulation changes. Several hundred proposed changes are usually submitted to each board annually. The Department of Fish and Game compiles the proposals and mails them to all fish and game advisory committees, regional fish and game councils, and to over 500 other interested individuals.

(c) Copies of all proposals are available at local Department of Fish and Game offices. When the proposal books are available, the advisory committees and regional councils then hold public meetings in the communities and regions they represent, to gather local comment on the proposed changes. Finally, the boards convene public meetings, which have lasted as long as six weeks, taking department staff reports, public comment, and advisory committee and regional councils reports before voting in public session on the proposed changes.

(d) The public has come to rely on this regularly scheduled participatory process as the basis for changing fish and game regulations. Commercial fishermen, processors, guides, trappers, hunters, sport fishermen, subsistence fishermen, and others plan business and recreational ventures around the outcome of these public meetings.

(e) The Boards of Fisheries and Game recognize the importance of public participation in developing management regulations, and recognize that public reliance on the predictability of the normal board process is a critical element in regulatory changes. The boards find that petitions can detrimentally circumvent this process and that an adequate and more reasonable opportunity for public participation is provided by regularly scheduled meetings.

(f) The Boards of Fisheries and Game recognize that in rare instances circumstances may require regulatory changes outside the process described in (b) - (d) of this section. Except for petitions dealing with subsistence hunting or fishing, which will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis under the criteria in 5 AAC 96.615(a), it is the policy of the boards that a petition will be denied and not schedule for hearing unless the problem outlined in the petition justifies a finding of emergency. In accordance with state policy expressed in AS 44.62.270, emergencies will be held to a minimum and are rarely found to exist. In this section, an emergency is an unforeseen, unexpected event that either threatens a fish or game resource, or an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay would be significantly burdensome to the petitioners because the resource would be unavailable in the future. (Eff. 9/22/85, Register 95; am 8/17/91, Register 119; readopt 5/15/93, Register 126)

Authority: AS 16.05.251, AS 16.05.255, AS 16.05.258
Because of the volume of proposed regulatory changes, time constraints, and budget considerations, the boards must limit their agendas. The boards attempt to give as much advance notice as possible on what schedule subjects will be open for proposals. The following regulations specify how the Board of Game considers agenda change requests (5 AAC 92.005):

5 AAC 92.005. Policy for changing board agenda. (a) The Board of Game (board) may change the board’s schedule for considering proposed regulatory changes in response to an agenda change request, submitted on a form provided by the board, in accordance with the following guidelines:

(1) an agenda change request must be to consider a proposed regulatory change outside the board's published schedule and must specify the change proposed and the reason the proposed change should be considered out of sequence. An agenda change request is not intended to address proposals that could have been submitted by the deadline scheduled for submitting proposals.

(2) the board will accept an agenda change request only

   a. for a conservation purpose or reason;
   b. to correct an error in a regulation; or
   c. to correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted;

(3) the board will not accept an agenda change request that is predominantly allocative in nature in the absence of new information that is found by the board to be compelling;

(4) a request must be received by the executive director of the boards support section at least 60 days before the first regularly scheduled meeting of that year;

(5) if one or more agenda change requests have been timely submitted, the board shall meet to review the requests within 30 days following the submittal deadline in subsection (4), and may meet telephonically for this purpose.

(b) The board may change the board’s schedule for consideration of proposed regulatory changes as reasonably necessary for coordination of state regulatory actions with federal agencies, programs, or laws.

Note: The form in 5 AAC 92.005 is available on the Board of Game webpage at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.forms or by contacting the Department of Fish and Game, Boards Support Section office (907) 465-4110.

Updated July 2015
ALASKA JOINT BOARDS OF FISHERIES AND GAME

CRITERIA FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BOARD-GENERATED PROPOSAL

It has been suggested that criteria need to be established to guide the Alaska Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game, Board of Fisheries, and Board of Game (boards) members when deliberating on whether or not to develop a board-generated proposal. The boards will consider the following criteria when deliberating the proposed development and scheduling of a board-generated proposal:

1. Is it in the public’s best interest (e.g., access to resource, consistent intent, public process)?

2. Is there urgency in considering the issue (e.g., potential for fish and wildlife objectives not being met or sustainability in question)?

3. Are current processes insufficient to bring the subject to the board’s attention (e.g., reconsideration policy, normal cycle proposal submittal, ACRs, petitions)?

4. Will there be reasonable and adequate opportunity for public comment (e.g., how far do affected users have to travel to participate, amount of time for affected users to respond)?

Findings adopted this 16th day of October 2013.

Ted Spraker, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game
Vote: 6-0

Karl Johnstone, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Vote: 7-0
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<td>1984</td>
<td>#84-35-GB</td>
<td>Resolution on Waterfowl Stamp</td>
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<td>#84-34-GB</td>
<td>Transplant of Musk Ox to Nunivak Island</td>
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<td>1983</td>
<td>#83-33-GB</td>
<td>Resolution on Guide Board</td>
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<td>#83-32-GB</td>
<td>Findings on Moose in GMU 16B</td>
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<td>1982</td>
<td>#82-31-GB</td>
<td>Supplement to Wolf Population Control</td>
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1981
#81-30-GB  Findings and Policy Regarding Nelchina Caribou
#81-29-GB  Finding and Policy for Future Management of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
#81-28-GB  Letter of Intent: Wolf Reduction in Alaska

1980
#80-27-GB  Letter of Intent Regarding Use of Alaska’s Game for Religious Ceremony
#80-26-GB  Findings and Policy Regarding Bowhunting
#80-25-GB  Standing Committee II on Deer
#80-24-GB  Regarding Advisory Committee Coordinators

1979
#79-23-GB  Authorization to Export Animals from Alaska
#79-22-GB  Staff Directive to Subsistence Section
#79-21-GB  Relating to Brown Bear in GMU 4
#79-20-GB  Relating to Brown Bear in GMU 4
#79-19-GB  Brown Bear, GMU 4
#79-18-GB  Relating to Muskoxen

1978
#78-18-GB  Statement of Direction: Use of Airplanes in Controlling Predation by Wolves
#78-17-GB  Relating to (d)(2) Legislation, State’s ability to Manage Fish & Wildlife Resources
#78-16-GB  Relating to (d)(2) Legislation, State’s ability to Manage Fish & Wildlife Resources

1977
#77-15-GB  Delegation of Authority to Commissioner to Address Petitions
#77-14-GB  Repeal of Regulations Relating to Registration of Camps by Guides for Hunting Bears
#77-13-GB  Regarding Closed Season for Caribou (rescinded November 30, 1977)
#77-12-GB  Regarding the 17(d)(2) Land Settlement

1976
#76-11-GB  Trapping Wolves by ADF&G
#76-10-GB  Request for Public Safety Involvement in Enforcement of Caribou Regulations
#76-9-GB  Management Goal: Western Arctic Caribou
#76-8-GB  Export of Live Game Animals Outside of Alaska
#76-7-GB  Musk Ox to Anchorage Children’s Zoo (rescinded November 30, 1977)
#76-6-GB  Taking of Wolves by Helicopter
#76-5-GB  Regarding the Taking of Wolves in Units 23 and 26A
Endorsement of Trapping as a Legitimate Use of Renewable Resources
Delegation of Authority to Adopt Emergency Regulations (See #87-42a-GB)
Procedures for Delegations of Authority (See #87-42d-GB)
Effectuating Delegation of Authority
At the March 2007, Southcentral/Southwest Region meeting in Anchorage, the Board of Game modified the Nonresident Drawing Permit Allocation Policy, #2006-162-BOG, by adding item #4 to the guidelines that shall be applied when determining the allocation percentage for drawing permits to nonresidents:

1. Allocations will be determined on a case by case basis and will be based upon the historical data of nonresident and resident permit allocation over the past ten years.

2. Each client shall provide proof of having a signed guide-client agreement when applying for permits.

3. Contracting guides shall be registered in the area prior to the drawing.

4. When a guide signs a guide-client agreement, the guide is providing guiding services and therefore must be registered for the use area at that time.

Vote: 7-0
Amended: March 12, 2007
Anchorage, Alaska
Alaska Board of Game
Policy for the
Annual Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose

#2007-172-BOG

Background

Alaska Statute AS 16.05.780 requires the Board of Game to reauthorize the Antlerless moose seasons in each Game Management Unit, subunit or any other authorized antlerless moose season on a yearly basis.

In order for the Board to comply with AS 16.05.780, it must consider that antlerless moose seasons require approval by a majority of the active advisory committees located in, or the majority of whose members reside in, the affected unit or subunit. For the purpose of this section, an “active advisory committee” is a committee that holds a meeting and acts on the proposal.

Because of the requirement for yearly reauthorization, the Board of Game approves of the proposals in order to insure they remain in regulation. In the case of the antlerless moose seasons, the Board of Game has delegated authority to the Department which allows them to administer a hunt if there is an allowable harvest of antlerless moose. The Board of Game has provided language to allow the Department to issue an “up to” number of permits so that we do not have to try and set a hard number each year. In most years it would be very difficult for a decision on allowable harvest to be made prior to the surveys the Department makes of the moose population.

This requirement for yearly authorization takes a lot of valuable Board time as well as requiring the Department to bring in area biologists or regional supervisors to present to the Board information on the proposed regulation. The attendance of many of these area biologists or regional supervisors is not required for any other proposed regulatory changes that the Board will consider in the normal Board cycle of proposals.

Because this requirement increases the cost to the Department and the Board, and because the annual reauthorization for some of the antlerless moose seasons may be considered a house keeping requirement in order to comply with AS 16.05.780, the Board has determined that a more efficient way to handle the annual reauthorization should be adopted and has established the following policy in agreement with the Department.

Policy for yearly authorization of Antlerless Moose Hunts by the Board of Game

Each year, the Department will present as a package for approval all of the antlerless moose proposals. During that presentation, if there are any changes that will be required to be considered, they will be noted for later discussion.
Because the Board had delegated the authority to the Department to hold antlerless moose hunts, there are many hunts that do not occur based on biology. The Department and the Board finds that it is important to keep these regulations on the books so that when opportunity exists, the Department will have the ability to provide additional opportunity for the use of antlerless moose.

The Board agrees that it will minimize debate during the presentation and only consider extensive discussion on any reauthorization that will be associated with a pending proposal submitted during the normal cycle to be considered. This discussion will be limited to any proposal submitted to the Board and not during the approval of the packaged proposals for reauthorization of antlerless moose seasons.

The Board is aware of the time and expense required to comply with AS 16.05.780; it feels that by adopting this policy both the Department and Board will be better served.

Cliff Haddock, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

Vote: 7-0
March 12, 2007
Anchorage, Alaska