

Dates to Remember

Board of Fisheries

- Feb. 23-March 1: Alaska Peninsula /Aleutian Islands/ Chignik Finfish, Anchorage (Comments due Feb. 8)
- March 8-11: Statewide Finfish, Anchorage (Comments due Feb. 18)
- April 11: Proposal deadline for 2016-2017 cycle

Board of Game

- Feb. 20-21: Dall Sheep Working Group, Anchorage
- March 17: Work Session, Fairbanks
- March 18-28: Statewide, Fairbanks (Comments due March 4)
- April 29: Proposal deadline for 2016-2017 cycle

Thank You! Members with 30+ Years of Service

<u>Arctic</u>	<u>Interior</u>	Hudson T. Sam Sr.	<u>Southwest</u>	<u>Western</u>
Pete Schaeffer	Arnold Hamilton	Pollock Simon Sr.	Paul Gunderson	Frank Berezkin
Victor Karmun	Frank Entsminger		Alfredo Abueid	James Charles
Nate Perkins	Lester Erhart	<u>Southcentral</u>	Marvin Yagie	John Nicholas
Calvin Moto	Eddie Bergman	Chuck McMahan	Tom Hoblet	Zachariah Chaliak
Art Ivanoff	Harry Maillelle	Arne Hatch	Frank Kelty	John Andrew
	Victor Lord	Don Horrell	Oliver Holm	Charlie Brown
	Ray Collins	Ray Atkins	David Osterback	Charlie Spud
	Ken Chase			

Do you know an AC member whose outstanding service should be recognized? Let us know! Contact Jessalynn at 465-6097.

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Department of Fish and Game Boards Support Newsletter

Winter 2015-2016

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Dear Advisory Committee Members

Happy New Year to all. Alaska's fish and game management meeting season is in full gear. With the Boards of Game and Fisheries in full swing, ACs have met and continue to do so in anticipation of board work on issues of importance.

In an effort to hold down costs and more precisely budget for the year, I asked for your help in a Fall 2015 letter to AC chairs (and vice-chairs) by making advanced travel plans with Boards Support. My thanks to those who assisted in that effort. Because of you we are able to save money. However, there are many ACs that did not respond to our request for advance planning. This significantly increases costs that limit the ability for other ACs to travel later in the meeting cycle. We need everyone's help making the board and advisory committee process work with continued declines in funding.

A more recent occurrence is the Office of the Governor's new travel restrictions, which limit state travel for the rest of this fiscal year to that which is "mission critical." The remaining board meetings are on for the rest of the year, but further travel restrictions may befall ACs given this explicit direction.

This newsletter covers many subjects including recent Joint Board committee efforts aimed at reducing pressures on the state's budget. We sincerely appreciate advisory committee help on this subject; several committee members have already provided detailed advice on potential savings.

Sincerely,

Glenn Haight, Executive Director, Alaska Board of Fisheries

If You're Traveling A Note from the Boards Admin Team

This is the time of year when travel reimbursement requests flood our office due to all the travel by AC members, board members, and Boards Support staff. Approving and processing your travel paperwork in order for you to be reimbursed takes time, and we appreciate your patience. Below are some reminders and updates about submitting your paperwork that will help us process your forms.

- New this year - All travelers are required to sign the travel documentation form whereas prior years it wasn't required. We'll need to track you down if you didn't sign the form.
- Submit ALL original receipts within five/ten days after travelling.
- Keep your regional coordinator informed about travel changes/delays. A travel reimbursement request will not get processed if it is lacking information.

Thank you for your help with these administrative matters.

Dall Sheep Working Group Progress

Representatives from 13 advisory committees are participating in the recently established Dall Sheep Working Group. The working group consists of 40 members total, and also includes representatives from interest groups, the Board of Game, federal RACs and agencies, and members of the public.



The working group held their first meeting in early December and again in late January, and is scheduled to meet February 20 & 21 in Anchorage. The group is working toward providing recommendations to the Board of Game and ADF&G regarding sheep management and research.

We appreciate the AC members' contribution in this process. For more information about the working group including the membership roster, meeting summaries, and ADF&G reports, visit the website at www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=sheepcomm.main.



Fairbanks AC meeting in 2015

Joint Board Committee: Budget Brainstorming

At the 2015 Board of Fisheries Work Session in Anchorage, Executive Director Glenn Haight provided a brief report regarding the expected budget shortfall for the 2016/2017 meeting cycle. Projections indicated if the boards and advisory committees meet as planned, and as consistent with historical use patterns, there will be a budget shortfall of \$170,000 with no further reductions in revenue. The Governor's budget submitted to the Legislature calls for an 11.5% reduction in Department of Fish and Game general funds. Boards Support did not have to share in that overall reduction, but may well face reductions through the legislative process.

At the Work Session, the department asked the board to convene the Joint Board committee to review board process and consider changes that might reduce pressure on the budget. Some ideas include reducing meeting days and travel for the advisory committees, reductions in staff, extending the Board of Fisheries meeting cycle from three to five years, and process changes that would alleviate staff commitment to board work.

The subcommittee met December 9 and again on January 17. Both boards will review revenue saving measures at their next board meetings.

Call for Proposals

Both the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game are currently accepting proposals for the 2016-2017 cycle:

Board of Fisheries

- Proposal deadline: Monday, April 11, 2016
- Regions & topics open to proposals this cycle:
 - Lower Cook Inlet Finfish
 - Upper Cook Inlet Finfish
 - Kodiak Finfish
 - Statewide King & Tanner Crab, except Southeast/Yakutat

Board of Game

- Proposal deadline: Friday, April 29, 2016
- Regions open to proposals this cycle:
 - Interior Region (Game Management Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25 26B, 26C)
 - Arctic/Western Region (GMUs 18, 22, 23, 26A)

Coming to the Board of Game! The board will be considering proposals to add sugar gliders (right) to the "clean list" of animals allowed in Alaska.



Excellence in Service Awards

The Excellence in Service award was established to help recognize the critical work done by AC members. Every year--and year after year--AC members demonstrate exemplary service in helping to manage Alaska's fish and game resources. We are happy to be able to recognize the outstanding contributions made by this year's Excellence in Service Award winners.

- **The GASH (Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, Holy Cross) AC.** With dedication, perseverance, and leadership, the GASH AC transformed a vision of re-introducing wood bison into a reality. The AC was critical to bringing together tribal, state and federal entities to ensure the bison's release. The bison will provide an alternate meat source, stimulate local economies and provide educational opportunities.
- **Jehnifer Ehmann, Mat Valley AC.** As the Mat Valley AC chair, Ms. Ehmann has demonstrated leadership through contentious issues and advocacy for protecting resources in the Mat-Su rivers. She has also been the energy behind the AC's efforts to build local participation in fish & game issues.
- **Frank Kelty, Unalaska/Dutch Harbor AC.** Through 35 years of service, Mr. Kelty has been critical to the Unalaska AC, revitalizing it in 2001 and serving as chair ever since. He has long led community participation to improve resources throughout the region. and been instrumental in support of the Pacific cod fishery and protecting salmon and halibut stocks for local users.
- **Dave Martin & Steve Vanek, Central Peninsula AC.** Serving as chair and secretary of the AC, respectively, Mr. Martin & Mr. Vanek have volunteered vast knowledge of resources, a commitment to participation, and immeasurable time and energy advocating sound management for a combined 60+ years.
- **Pete Schaeffer, Kotzebue AC.** ADF&G biologist Jim Dau testifies that "Pete has contributed more to the AC system in Unit 23 than anyone else I've worked with since arriving here in 1988." Over the course of more than 30 years of service, many as chair, Mr. Schaeffer has been instrumental in the regulatory process throughout the region, including Unit 23 subsistence wildlife management.

Congratulations to this year's awardees, and thank you all for your service. For more information about AC recognition, this year's awardees, and how to nominate someone whose service is outstanding, visit <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.acrecognition>.

Happy Retirement to Jim Dau

Jim Dau, a widely known and respected caribou biologist in Northwest Alaska, is retiring after 28 years of service with the Kotzebue Fish and Game office. His involvement with Game Management Unit (GMU) 23 began in the late 1970's with the University of Alaska-Fairbanks Reindeer Program. In 1988, Jim began work with ADF&G in Kotzebue as the assistant area biologist, and soon became acting area biologist. In 2007 he took on the role of lead caribou biologist for Region V, working with the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, Alaska's largest

caribou herd. He has conducted research on caribou migration, calving, seasonal range use, and techniques for aging caribou through the use of caribou jaws.

"His steadfast determination to acquire information about caribou has led to one of the most coveted datasets on caribou in existence," said former area biologist Charlotte Westing.

In Jim's nearly 40 years of work with ADF&G and the University of Alaska he has created

lasting bonds with the 40 local communities that are nestled in the extent of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. Jim was awarded the Governor's Award - Coworker Recognition 2011. His extensive knowledge has made him an invaluable asset to the people and the wildlife of the state.

Congratulations to Jim on his retirement; his contributions to and hard work for the people of the state and the wildlife will be long-lasting and fondly remembered.



Representing Your AC: Board Meeting Checklist

Before the Board Meeting:

- Contact your regional coordinator to arrange transportation & lodging
- Be familiar with all proposals submitted by the AC
- Get a copy of the minutes from the meetings during which the AC formulated or commented on proposals
- Read over the meeting agenda

During the Board Meeting:

- Fill out a blue public testimony card and give it to staff at the front table
- Sign up for individual testimony in addition to AC testimony if you wish to share personal views
- Plan your testimony. Include what the AC discussed about the proposals, including any dissenting ideas

When testifying:

- State your name and the name of the AC for the record
- Have the AC minutes handy for reference (do not read the minutes; board members have copies)
- Board members may ask you questions after your testimony. Remain at the microphone until you have answered any questions

Committee of the Whole:

- At Board of Fisheries meetings, public testimony can be followed by a Committee of the Whole format, where comments from the public on specific proposals are welcomed. There is no sign-up needed for this portion. It is especially important you speak to any proposals submitted by your AC; this is an opportunity for discussion with other ACs and members of the public.