

Boards Support Newsletter

Fall 2018

BOARDS SUPPORT

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Dear Advisory Committee Members

We hope this newsletter finds everyone doing well and feeling refreshed as the summer comes to an end. The upcoming meeting cycle is a busy one that started immediately with a special meeting in July for the Board of Fisheries (BOF), at which they addressed seven emergency petitions. Additionally, two extra meetings are scheduled this cycle. The BOF meets for two days in October to consider Pacific Cod regulations, and the Joint Board meets for five days in March.

The Board of Game's (BOG) two meetings this cycle completes its first three-year cycle. BOF members and staff look forward to visiting Dillingham for the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting, while the BOG folks travel to Petersburg for the Southeast Region. Having meetings in rural communities is a great opportunity for the public who may not often attend meetings in Anchorage to have a chance to participate, while affording board members and agency staff exposure to residents and communities previously unseen.

As always, we look forward to working with you and thank you for your service to this process.

Glenn Haight, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Game

Advisory Committee Input Essential for Joint Board Proposals

This coming March, the Joint Board will consider 40 regulatory proposals, most of which concern the advisory committee system's Uniform Rules of Operation. Many of these proposals were submitted by ADF&G at the recommendation of Boards Support. As the staff who implement these regulations, we often scratch our heads at several of the Uniform Rules of Operation's inconsistent or unclear provisions. Many of the ADF&G proposals seek clarifications, suggest removal of redundancies, or adopt changes that reflect current practices. Proposal 17 is a good example; it retains the current regulatory wording for the election, nomination, and vacancy procedures, but places the procedures in a more logical order. We find the proposed order is easier to understand, but want to hear if the advisory committees agree or have other solutions to offer.

Advisory committees are the experts in these regulations. Please take the time to review the proposals, inquire with Boards Support staff for more information, and provide comments

Advisory Committee Excellence in Service Award Nominations Open

Advisory committee members who have demonstrated exemplary service in helping to manage Alaska's fish and game resources are nominated each fall by ADF&G employees, board members, and fellow advisory committee members. Up to five awards are given each year. Criteria for the award include:

- The service resulted in an action that improved the economic or community health of Alaska or a region, or the sustainability of Alaska's resources.
- The service was unique, innovative, and commendable in the face of diverse opinions, and difficult or unusual circumstances.
- The service demonstrated leadership in conducting AC functions.

Nominations are open until October 31, 2018. You can find an online and printable form at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.acrecognition or by contacting Boards Support.

JOINT BOARD

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to the Joint Board to help inform their decisions. ADF&G comments on Joint Board proposals are expected to be available in November 2018. Advisory committee recommendations are due March 7, 2019.

One other issue the Joint Board intends to discuss is the need for a set Joint Board meeting schedule. Currently the Joint Board meets as the need arises. There is no proposed meeting schedule to comment on, but advisory committees are encouraged to provide recommendations on what may be an efficient timeline.

BOARD OF FISHERIES

Looking at Last Year

Salmon hatcheries were on the minds of many. To address concerns, the board reinvigorated the principles called out in its 2002 Joint Protocol on Salmon Enhancement and will hold regular hearings on hatcheries. The first planned hearing will occur at the board's October 15-16 work session. The hatchery session is planned for the afternoon of the 16th. The BOF will also take up hatcheries at its statewide meeting in March after receiving the department's annual salmon enhancement report.

While a number of long-standing issues were at play during the BOF's Southeast Finfish meeting held in Sitka this past January, Chinook salmon was among the more prominent. With dismal return projections below escapement goal levels in the offing for Southeast Alaska's king salmon runs to the Chilkat, Taku, Stikine, King Salmon, and Unuk rivers, the BOF, ADF&G, advisory committees, and all stakeholders worked in unison to craft action plans designed to maximize the ability for these fish to make it to their natal streams. As the summer winds down, managers report escapement goals were not met as expected for most Chinook runs with the exception of the Unuk River which exceeded the lower bound of its escapement goal. This encouraging news from the Unuk River provides support for this collective work by all the users and bolsters future efforts.

This Year

This year the BOF tackles issues from Western Alaska from Chignik up through the Arctic region, including the Yukon and Kuskokwim river systems, as well as Statewide Finfish provisions. The number of proposals this year is starting at 173. This represents 50 fewer proposals than the 2015-2016 cycle. Although the number is down, many of the perennial issues exist.

Please note the following meeting, locations, dates, and advisory committee recommendation due dates:

Alaska Peninsula, Chignik, Aleutian Islands, and Bering Sea Pacific Cod
October 18-19, 2018 | Egan Civic and Convention Center, Anchorage
Comment deadline: October 3, 2018

Bristol Bay Finfish
November 28-December 4, 2018 | Dillingham Middle School, Dillingham
Comment deadline: November 14, 2018

Arctic, Yukon, Kuskokwim Finfish
January 15-19, 2019 | Sheraton Hotel, Anchorage
Comment deadline: January 2, 2019

Alaska Peninsula, Chignik, Aleutian Islands Finfish
February 21-27, 2019 | Sheraton Hotel, Anchorage
Comment deadline: February 7, 2019

Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues
March 8-11, 2019 | Sheraton Hotel, Anchorage
Comment deadline: February 20, 2019



BOARD OF GAME UPDATE

During the 2018/2019 meeting cycle, the Board of Game will meet to address regulation changes in the Southeast Region (Game Management Units 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) and the Southcentral Region (Game Management Units 6, 7, 8, 14C, and 15). The Southeast Region Meeting is scheduled for January 11-15, 2019 in Petersburg at the Sons of Norway Hall, following a one-day work session. The Southcentral Region Meeting is scheduled for March 15-19 in Anchorage at the Anchorage Sheraton Hotel and is followed by the Joint Board Meeting, scheduled for March 21-25 at the same venue.

The board will consider over 140 proposals, primarily impact hunting and trapping regulations for Southeast, Anchorage, Kodiak, and the Kenai Peninsula. Advisory committees should take note that proposals include proposed changes for a few other regions, proposals the board deferred from previous meetings, as well as annual reauthorizations for antlerless moose seasons and brown bear tag fee exemptions.

The board will also meet via teleconference on a date to be determined in November to address agenda change requests (ACRs) received by the new November 1 deadline. See “Board of Game Modifies Agenda Change Request Policy” below for information on changes to the ACR deadline and criteria.

Proposals and meeting information are available on the Board of Game webpage at www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov.

Board of Game Modifies Agenda Change Request Policy

The Board of Game recently modified its agenda change request (ACR) policy at its November 2017 Statewide Regulations Meeting (Proposal 66), effective July 1, 2018. The updated policy changes the criteria for the board to accept an ACR and sets the deadline as November 1 each regulatory year. The board will now accept an ACR only:

- To correct an error in a regulation,
- To correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted,
- If the request identifies a biological concern for the population or a threat to meeting objectives for the population,
- If the request identifies an unforeseen, unexpected event or effect that would otherwise restrict or reduce a reasonable opportunity for customary and traditional wildlife uses, or
- If the request identifies 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 because the resource would be unavailable in the future.

Following the November 1 deadline, the board will schedule a teleconference meeting within 30 days to review the timely submitted requests.

The updated ACR policy is available under “forms” on the Board of Game webpage at www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov.

Board of Game to Discuss Pathogens and Parasites in Alaska's Wildlife

This November, during a to-be-scheduled teleconference to address agenda change requests (ACRs), the Board of Game will address an ACR submitted by ADF&G concerning mule deer and other non-native species that threaten Alaska's indigenous wildlife by spreading parasites and pathogens. This ACR was based on an emergency request to harvest mule deer submitted by the Kenai/Soldotna AC in order to prevent the spread of winter tick to moose and caribou.

ADF&G is currently monitoring and collecting information specific to pathogens and parasites, and would like to work with the board, local fish and game advisory committees, and the public to determine how best to manage wildlife that move into Alaska, and how best to handle the pathogens and parasites they carry.

Advisory committees are encouraged to read “Information on Pathogens and Parasites in Alaska's Wildlife,” included in the 2018/2019 Board of Game Proposal Book, and provide comments on the ACR (ACR 2), available on the Board of Game webpage at www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov. If accepted, the ACR will be scheduled this cycle, which will be another opportunity for providing comments on this topic.

Advisory Committee Travel to Board Meetings

In order to efficiently budget and provide for advisory committee travel to board meetings, pre-planning is essential. Chairs are to identify to Boards Support by **November 15** if they anticipate a representative might attend one of the meetings. Failure to provide early notice may prevent the advisory committee from traveling should adequate funding be unavailable.

DATES TO REMEMBER

BOARD OF FISHERIES

Oct. 15-16, 2018 | Anchorage
Work Session
Comment deadline: Oct. 3, 2018

Oct. 17, 2018 | Anchorage
Joint Protocol Committee Meeting
Comment deadline: Oct. 3, 2018

Oct. 18-19, 2018 | Anchorage
Pacific Cod Meeting
Comment deadline: Oct. 3, 2018

Nov. 28-Dec. 4, 2018 | Dillingham
Bristol Bay Finfish
Comment deadline: Nov.14, 2018

Jan. 15-19, 2019 | Anchorage
Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Finfish
Comment deadline: Jan.2, 2019

Feb. 21-27, 2019 | Anchorage
Alaska Peninsula/Chignik/Aleutian Islands Finfish
Comment deadline: Feb. 7, 2019

Mar. 8-11, 2019 | Anchorage
Statewide Finfish & Supplemental Issues
Comment deadline: Feb. 20, 2019

BOARD OF GAME

ACR DEADLINE: NOV. 1, 2018

Nov. 2018 (date TBD) | Teleconference
ACR Teleconference
Comment deadline: TBD

Jan. 10, 2019 | Petersburg
Work Session
Comment deadline: Dec. 28, 2018

Jan. 11-15, 2019 | Petersburg
Southeast Region
Comment deadline: Dec. 28, 2018

Mar. 15-19, 2019 | Anchorage
Southcentral Region
Comment deadline: Mar. 1, 2019

JOINT BOARD

Mar. 21-25, 2019 | Anchorage
Joint Board Meeting
Comment deadline: Mar. 7, 2019

OTHER DEADLINES

AC Excellence in Service Award nomination deadline:
Oct. 31, 2018

Deadline to inform Boards Support of planned AC travel to 2018/2019 board meetings:
Nov. 15, 2018



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