

BOARD MEETINGS & DEADLINES

BOARD OF FISHERIES

January 11-14, 2020 | Kodiak
Kodiak Finfish
Comment deadline: Dec. 27, 2019

February 7-19, 2020 | Anchorage
Upper Cook Inlet Finfish
Comment deadline: Jan. 23, 2020

March 7, 2020 | Anchorage
Hatchery Committee Meeting

March 8-11, 2020 | Anchorage
Statewide King & Tanner Crab & Supplemental Issues
Comment deadline: Feb. 21, 2020

March 12, 2020 | Anchorage
Special Committee on Nushagak Mulchana King Salmon

Proposal Deadline for 2020/2021
Friday, April 10, 2020

BOARD OF GAME

January 16, 2020 | Nome
Work Session
Comment deadline: Jan. 10, 2020

January 17-20, 2020 | Nome
Arctic/Western Region
Comment deadline: Jan. 3, 2020

March 6-14, 2020 | Fairbanks
Interior/Northeast Arctic Region
Comment deadline: Feb. 21, 2020

Proposal Deadline for 2020/2021
Friday, May 1, 2020



New Online Comments Submission Portal

Boards Support has developed a new online commenting system for Advisory Committees and members of the public to submit written comments. Created in partnership with Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, this program provides an organized display for cross-referencing proposal comments and AC Minutes.

Feedback welcome, email:
dfg.bds.webmaster@alaska.gov

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SEASONS GREETINGS

From Boards Support

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME Boards Support Newsletter

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BOARDS SUPPORT

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The Fairbanks AC at the Burnett Sport Fish Hatchery in October 2019.

IN THIS ISSUE

Meet the New Regional Coordinators
AC Manual Update
Klawock AC Revitalized
Board of Fisheries News
Board of Game News
Excellence in Service Award Winners

Dear Advisory Committee Members

Welcome back to another year of Alaska's fish and game regulatory process. Both boards are up and running with interesting topics ranging from emus to worms. Advisory committees around the state are also ramping up. As always we sincerely appreciate your service on your local advisory committee.

As you'll read in this newsletter there are a few new things afoot. We have several new folks here at Boards Support including Janet Bavilla in the Western Region, Charity Lehman in the Southcentral Region, and Annie Bartholomew, the Board of Game publications specialist who also serves as the regional coordinator for our Northern Southeast region. We have another stellar suite of Excellence in Service award winners to announce.

Thank you again for your efforts and service to the fish and game resources in Alaska.

Glenn Haight, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Game



The Boards Support staff at William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery in Anchorage this October.

Board of Fisheries News

The Board of Fisheries (BOF) is in the midst of what is typically its busiest meeting cycle – the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet finfish, Kodiak finfish, and Statewide king and Tanner crab cycle. The BOF has 283 proposals on its docket, 171 of which are planned for the Upper Cook Inlet finfish meeting.

The last time the board took up this cycle, in 2016/2017, the meetings generated over 5,600 pre-meeting pages in public comment, advisory committee recommendations, and staff reports. The Upper Cook Inlet meeting generated over 4,700 pages alone.

We anticipate another busy year.



Agenda Change Request Updates

The BOF considered 12 Agenda Change Requests (ACRs) during the work session in Anchorage this October. Of the 12 ACRs, six were accepted. Four were scheduled for the Statewide King and Tanner Crab and Supplemental Issues meeting in Anchorage this March, and two were scheduled for the Lower Cook Inlet Meeting which happened earlier this month in Seward.

At the Seward meeting, the BOF generated Proposal 283 regarding Aleutian Island Pacific cod season dates, which will be heard at the Kodiak Finish meeting.

LOWER COOK INLET MEETING

Proposal 278 (ACR 7) Designate the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict an exclusive registration area for Pacific cod. This passed 7-0.

Proposal 282 (ACR 12) – Extend emergency order authority to include restriction of stocked waters to no retention (catch and-release) in times of low hatchery production or if stocked waters become contaminated. This passed 7-0.

STATEWIDE KING AND TANNER CRAB & SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUES MEETING

Proposal 277 (ACR 1) – Add the Crawfish Inlet Terminal Harvest Area and West Crawfish Inlet to waters that may be opened to a hatchery chum salmon troll fishery.

Proposal 279 (ACR 8) – Allow two Bristol Bay drift gillnet CFEC permit holders to fish concurrently from the same vessel and jointly operate up to 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear when the Naknek River Special Harvest Area is open.

Proposal 280 (ACR 9) – Allow use of set gillnets with 6” mesh to harvest salmon other than king salmon and other non-salmon fish species on the Kuskokwim River for subsistence purposes during times of king salmon conservation.

Proposal 281 (ACR 11) – Prohibit fishing in fresh water with

Meet the New Regional Coordinators

SOUTHCENTRAL REGION

Charity Lehman moved to Alaska in 2012. Since then, she’s spent most of her time in Seward where she owns and operates Shearwater Cove, a remote summertime lodging business, which she and her partner Jason built from the ground up.



SOUTHEAST REGION (NORTH FREDERICK SOUND)

Annie Bartholomew is from Juneau and comes to Boards Support from the public radio world. She’s a graduate of the UAF Journalism Program and is a regular musical performer at the Alaska Folk Festival.

WESTERN REGION

Janet Bavilla is from the community of Platinum on Alaska’s western coast. She first began working at ADF&G when she was just 17 in a seasonal position. She has acquired years of experience in the divisions of Commercial Fisheries, Subsistence, Wildlife Conservation, and now joins the Boards Support section as a Regional Coordinator.



Legislative Audit on Board of Game Regulatory Process Released 12/18/2019

The Legislative Budget and Audit Committee released the audit on the BOG regulatory process which provided two recommendations.

1. The AC manual should define “reasonable public notice” and provide training to AC members.
2. Updates to department reports on the BOG website need to be clearly identified.

Recommendation #1 will be addressed in the revised AC manual to encourage 7 days public notice for meetings.

Many thanks to those of you who participated in the audit process. Survey respondents can expect to receive a copy of the audit. Otherwise it is available online at:

<http://legaudit.akleg.gov/digest/11-30085-19/>

Updated AC Manual on the way

Look out for new revisions to the AC Manual arriving early next year. The latest version reflects changes from the Joint Board at their March 2019 meeting including the revised regulations governing ACs (5 AAC Chapter 96). The manual contains material to guide AC members through the board process, including submission of comments and testifying at board meetings. It also provides helpful information for conducting AC elections, tips for using Roberts Rules of Order, relevant forms, and contact information.

REAL ID Deadline: October 1, 2020

Next year Alaska residents will need a REAL ID compliant license/ID or passport to board commercial aircrafts. More information:

<http://doa.alaska.gov/dmv/akol/ID%20News.htm>

Board of Game News

The Board of Game (BOG) heads to Nome this January where they will hold a one-day work session followed by the Western Arctic/Western Region meeting. During the meeting, the BOG will consider over 40 proposals for Game Management Units (GMUs) 18, 22, 23, and 26A, plus one statewide proposal resulting from an ACR (see below). During the work session, the board will receive informational reports from ADF&G and address administrative business including meeting dates and locations for the next meeting cycle. The last BOG meeting in Nome was in November 2009 and they look forward to returning.

In March, the Board of Game will meet in Fairbanks to address over 160 proposals for Interior and Eastern Arctic: GMUs 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C.

Agenda Change Requests: The BOG considered 7 ACRs during a teleconference in late November. Of the seven ACRs, one was accepted and scheduled for the January 2020 meeting in Nome. ACR 5, which is now Proposal 169, requests regulatory clarification that big game tags must be paid for and issued prior to hunting. This clarification was requested in response to a recent court decision.

Klawock AC Revitalized

In December, the Southeast Alaska community of Klawock held its first AC meeting since 2008. Around 25 people came to Klawock ANB Hall where they elected officers and scheduled three winter meetings to tackle issues including enforcement, resident and non-resident uses, low sockeye returns, herring fisheries, and documenting historic uses.

2020 Excellence in Service Award Winners Announced

Every year we recognize AC members who demonstrate exemplary service in helping to manage Alaska’s fish and game resources. We are happy to announce the outstanding contributions made by this year’s Excellence in Service Award winners.

KEVIN TAYLOR, ANCHORAGE AC

When the Anchorage AC Chair stepped down suddenly in the fall of 2018, then Vice-Chair and head of the Fish Subcommittee Kevin Taylor filled the vacancy. His leadership saved the AC valuable time and avoided losing ground during the board cycle. He has applied his broad knowledge in commercial and sport fishing and hunting for eight years of service on the AC and runs meetings with efficiency and professionalism.

MIKE TINKER, FAIRBANKS AC

Mike Tinker has been working with the Fairbanks AC on and off for over 30 years, testifying at both BOF and BOG meetings. He has served as AC Chair, headed sub-committees, and represented the Fairbanks AC on the 40 Mile Caribou Harvest Coalition since its inception over 20 years ago. Mike has also kept the committee informed and up to speed on legislative affairs concerning fish, game and habitat. Mike is recognized for his demonstration of concern for the resource and user groups.

JACOB IVANOFF & WES JONES, SOUTHERN NORTON SOUND AC

With long-standing members stepping down, the Southern Norton Sound AC’s leadership vacuum was short-lived. With a challenge to remain active, Jacob Ivanoff and Wes Jones are providing the leadership and guidance needed to keep the region’s voice active. Jacob served as secretary for the AC and stepped up to carry out the officer duties to make sure the AC was able to meet and hold elections this cycle. His leadership and knowledge just got him elected as Chair in December. Wes has written a number of proposals for the Southern Norton Sound AC, and is very knowledgeable of the regulatory issues that affect the area. Both are recognized for their dedication to the AC process.

TOM CARPENTER, COPPER RIVER/PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AC

For more than 22 years, Tom Carpenter has served the Copper River/Prince William Sound AC by keeping careful track of issues of relevance to stakeholders in the community. Tom has connections within many diverse groups and users feel they can approach him with concerns to receive adequate consideration. Tom is co-chair of the advisory committee, serving lead on the committee’s wildlife issues. In this capacity, Tom has kept Cordova’s voice in wildlife issues strong and clear in a community dominated by fisheries issues.



MARTIN WEISER, ANCHORAGE AC

Anchorage AC member Martin Weiser provides a valuable historic perspective with a background in commercial fishing and sport fish guiding. Martin is recognized for bringing diverse groups together, and clearly communicating with the general public and Fish Subcommittee that he chairs for the Anchorage AC.