

MEMORANDUM

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Boards Support Section

TO: Joint Boards of Game and Fisheries DATE: January 16, 2016
Subcommittee

THRU: PHONE: 907-465-6095

FROM: Glenn Haight, Executive Director 
Alaska Board of Fisheries SUBJECT: Board Process Change
Findings and
Recommendations

Boards Support Section is facing a budget shortfall in FY17 of \$170,000 without additional budget reductions in the 2016 Legislative session. To address this impending shortfall, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (department) asked the Boards of Game and Fisheries to convene its Joint Boards Subcommittee (subcommittee) to review potential process changes that could help reduce impacts on dwindling budgets.

Opportunity was offered for public comment, including a survey effort, and Fish and Game divisions provided estimates of resources dedicated toward the board process. Boards Support completed its initial review and analysis, including a compilation of ideas. This memo provides summaries of that information along with notes on boards processes and potential changes. Boards Support did not include ideas that did not appear to lead to cost savings, but would encourage the subcommittee to review all input for other potential savings.

Potential Actions

The subcommittee may wish to proceed along several tracks, including one or a combination of the following:

1. No action. The subcommittees finds there is no need to follow through on changes to boards process on any level.
2. Recommendations for boards-specific policy changes. The subcommittee finds there are potential administrative changes each board, acting individually or jointly, may consider. Examples include: delegations to the department, changes to meeting process and flow, board cycle changes, and other administrative decisions.
3. Recommendations for boards-related regulatory changes. The subcommittee finds there are potential regulatory changes each board, acting individually or jointly, may consider. Examples include: the regulatory process under 5 AAC 96.610, the advisory committee system, and boards-specific process regulations.

4. Recommendations for department action. The subcommittee finds there are potential administrative changes the department may consider. Examples include: staffing considerations, boards related functions, and procurement processes.
5. Recommendations for Legislative action. The subcommittee finds there are potential statutory changes the Legislature may consider. Examples include: fees, amendments to the Administrative Procedures Act and/or the Open Meetings Act, or other statutes.

Process Change Ideas

After distilling the public input and further internal review, there are a number of process change ideas the subcommittee may wish to consider. These are categorized in the same manner as the actions listed above. Additional explanation and cost savings are provided if calculable. It should be noted cost saving estimations are provided notwithstanding savings that might occur if other actions are taken.

- 1) Recommendations for boards specific policy changes.
 - a) The Board of Fisheries might consider the following administrative actions –
 - i) Changes to 2016/2017 Meetings:
 - (1) Conduct the 2016 Work Session as a teleconference. Utilize no-cost state conference rooms where available, but otherwise operate the three-day meeting as a teleconference. The board scheduled one day of this meeting as an opportunity for public comment by Kenai/Soldotna residents on Upper Cook Inlet proposals. A skeleton Boards Support crew could set up a public testimony hall in Kenai and facilitate public testimony in that manner. Board members who do not reside in a town with an ADF&G office could fly to the nearest office. *Estimated savings: \$25,000.*
 - (2) Combine Lower and Upper Cook Inlet finfish meetings and reduce the 18-day meeting. A shortened meeting schedule could be handled if the board significantly reduces the number of proposals under review. (See Proposal Review Process on page 3.) *Estimated savings: up to \$70,000 would be saved by eliminating 8 days.*
 - (3) Reduce the Kodiak finfish meeting from 4 to 3 days. *Estimated savings: \$5,000.*
 - (4) Reduce Statewide King & Tanner crab meeting from 5 to 3 days. *Estimated savings: \$10,000.*
 - ii) Board of Fisheries 5-Year Cycle:
 - (1) Considerable public comments were made regarding a 5-year Board of Fisheries cycle. *Estimated savings to Boards Support is \$100,000 annually.*
 - b) The Board of Game might consider the following administrative action –
 - i) Changes to 2016/2017 Meetings:
 - (1) Consider amending the Interior and Arctic meetings for cost savings. The meetings could be combined or moved to less expensive venues. *Estimated savings: \$5,000-\$10,000.*
 - c) The Joint Board subcommittee might consider the following administrative actions –
 - i) Advisory committee travel prioritization: Boards Support determines if advisory committees should attend board meetings as authorized by 5 AAC 96.460. To date,

Boards Support has liberally allowed advisory committee travel, but that may no longer be possible. Boards Support may establish more defined standards to follow when approving advisory committee travel. Savings are scalable to available travel budgets.

- ii) Eliminate workgroups and committees: The boards received a recommendation to eliminate workgroups and committees. Currently the use of these committees may run \$3,000 and up. Often committees or workgroups are covered by non-Boards Support budgets.

2) Recommendations for Boards-related regulatory changes.

- a) The Joint Board subcommittee might consider the following regulatory actions
 - i) Proposal books: 5 AAC 96.010(c) requires the department to “distribute proposal books to the public through department offices, and send them to the committees.” If the department utilizes its Internet resources to provide proposals to the general public it would save money. Proposal book copies for board members and advisory committees may be provided by Boards Support as needed. Currently, proposals book production and mailing is handled through a third party. The department does not expect this change to be in violation of the Administrative Procedures Act as long as the department maintains a mailing list with names added upon request. *Estimated savings: \$15,000 in contractual.*
 - ii) Advisory Committee Structure: Regulations under 5 AAC 96.060(e)(1) **Uniform rules of operation**, and related regulations under 5 AAC 96.021. **Establishment of advisory committees**, indicate an upper limit for advisory committees of 15 members. As was pointed out in public comment, providing an allowance for 15 members when fewer would suffice will help reduce the number of committee members and potentially lower travel costs. There are other practical reasons to consider such a change, including the practicability of filling all 15 slots.
 - iii) Proposal Review Process: The subcommittee may wish to consider amending the regulatory process in 5 AAC 96.060 to allow for their boards to vet proposals in advance of proposal book development. Through a vetting process, the boards may prioritize the order for handling proposals at each meeting, adjust meeting days as needed, and reduce the number of proposals that advisory committees, members of the public, staff, and the boards must directly respond to. If the Joint Board subcommittee wishes to consider this system it may require the creation of standing committees for each board, criteria for prioritization, and criteria for proposal consolidation.

The savings for this action is difficult to quantify. Creating a priority agenda will allow the boards to handle proposals within a set amount of resources. As the number of meeting days dwindles based on a reduction in budget, the boards will be able to handle the highest priority proposal first. Creating a method for streamlining proposal review should further allow the boards to manage proposal workload within diminished timeframes.

- iv) Consent agenda process: The boards may consider formalizing a consent agenda process. While screening proposals, a committee of each board may also develop a list of proposals that appear to have little controversy.
- 3) Recommendations for Department action. The department welcomes recommendations by the subcommittee related to its executive and budgetary decisions. It is already planning a series of changes to deal with the budget shortfall.
- a) Administrative position reorganization: The department's smaller divisions of Habitat, Subsistence, and Administrative Services (the latter of which Boards Support resides) are merging administrative positions to handle reduced budgets. Boards Support currently has two positions, of eleven, that will be brought under this reorganization. The service benefit of this reorganization is to maximize workloads across the board for personnel. The constraint may be less timely service at peak times for Boards Support. *Estimated savings: \$40,000 in personal services.*
 - b) Proposal books: Starting in FY17, the number of proposal books produced by Boards Support will be limited only to copies for board and advisory committee members. All other agency personnel and the general public will need to print copies from Board's website. Boards Support could eliminate proposal book publication altogether with regulatory changes referred to in the preceding section. *Estimated savings: \$5,000-10,000 in contractual (if regulatory change is not made).*
 - c) Coffee Service: Starting in FY17, Boards Support will no longer be paying for coffee service at the board meetings. *Estimated savings: \$30,000.*
 - d) Additional measures: Boards Support will continue to attempt to reduce meeting costs by moving its own equipment to meetings and utilizing department vehicles whenever possible. Funds set aside for potential training opportunities and staff secondary travel will be eliminated. Budgeting for committee work may be significantly reduced. The honorarium currently budgeted for the Board of Game member serving on the Big Game Commercial Services Board will be eliminated. *Estimated savings: \$15,000-25,000 annually.*
 - e) Division participation: The Divisions participating in the boards process will be carefully reviewing their role in helping the boards process and will reduce efforts were practicable. (See division cost review, page 7.)
- 4) **Recommendations for Legislative action.** There are a number of recommendations received through public input that would require legislative action. Changes to the Administrative Procedures Act (and the Open Meetings Act) could save modest resources. There are recommendations to increase fees. There are several recommendations amending antlerless-moose reauthorization legislation.

Supplemental Material List

I. 2017 Budget Projections

- II. Summary of Public Comment
- III. Survey Results Condensed
- IV. Survey Public Comment

Supplemental Material I

2017 Projection Scenarios

Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Boards Support				
FY17 Boards Support Summary Projections	Current w/ No Change	Reduction Scenarios at:		
	0%	0%	5%	10%
Revenues	0%	0%	5%	10%
General Fund	\$ 1,389,100	\$ 1,389,100	\$ 1,319,645	\$ 1,250,190
I/A Receipts	\$ 320,000	\$ 320,000	\$ 320,000	\$ 320,000
Total Revenues	\$ 1,709,100	\$ 1,709,100	\$ 1,639,645	\$ 1,570,190
Expenditure Assumptions				
Headquarters				
Employee Payroll Projection	\$ 706,367	\$ 670,959	\$ 639,941	\$ 611,582
Non-board meeting travel / staff meeting	\$ 18,077	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Training	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Equipment, overhead, supplies	\$ 86,907	\$ 86,907	\$ 86,907	\$ 86,907
Total Boards Support Expenses	\$ 814,351	\$ 760,865	\$ 729,847	\$ 701,488
Board Meetings / Other				
BOF Work Session - Kenai	\$ 38,681	\$ 4,232	\$ 4,232	\$ 4,232
BOG Orientation TBA	\$ 1,358	\$ 1,308	\$ 1,308	\$ 1,308
BOF Lower Cook Inlet - Homer	\$ 52,710	\$ 48,560	\$ 44,322	\$ 44,322
BOF Kodiak - Kodiak	\$ 53,903	\$ 49,543	\$ 45,572	\$ 45,572
BOF Upper Cook Inlet - Anchorage	\$ 131,380	\$ 116,980	\$ 112,812	\$ 112,812
BOF Statewide K&T - Anchorage	\$ 56,592	\$ 51,177	\$ 47,312	\$ 47,312
BOG Work session	\$ 5,190	\$ 5,090	\$ 5,090	\$ 5,090
BOG Interior Meeting	\$ 61,864	\$ 61,364	\$ 61,364	\$ 48,886
BOG Arctic/Western	\$ 45,058	\$ 44,583	\$ 44,583	\$ 34,405
BOF Debriefing Meeting	\$ 1,006	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
BOG Debriefing Meeting	\$ 3,774	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Big Game Commercial Services Board	\$ 1,814	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
BOF Notices	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,300
BOG Notices	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,300
BOF Call for Proposals	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600
BOG Call for Proposals	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600
Proposal books	\$ 13,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
BOF Potential Emergency Petitions	\$ 9,148	\$ 9,148	\$ 9,148	\$ 9,148
BOF Committee Meetings	\$ 16,081	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
BOG Potential Emergency Petitions	\$ 9,964	\$ 9,964	\$ 9,964	\$ 9,964
BOG Committee Meetings	\$ 8,281	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
BOG Planning Meetings	\$ 1,107	\$ 1,107	\$ 1,107	\$ 1,107
BOF Miscellaneous Travel	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
BOG Miscellaneous Travel	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Total Board Meetings / Other	\$ 528,709	\$ 428,855	\$ 412,614	\$ 389,957
Advisory Committees				
Reg. Coord. & Prg & Cap Costs	\$ 346,644	\$ 329,986	\$ 329,986	\$ 329,986
Southeast Region	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,484	\$ 1,283
Southcentral Region	\$ 22,900	\$ 22,900	\$ 19,990	\$ 17,278
Southwest Region	\$ 35,900	\$ 35,900	\$ 31,338	\$ 27,086
Western Region	\$ 48,145	\$ 48,145	\$ 42,027	\$ 36,325
Arctic Region	\$ 27,935	\$ 27,935	\$ 24,385	\$ 21,077
Interior Region	\$ 53,700	\$ 53,700	\$ 46,876	\$ 40,516
Total Advisory Committees	\$ 536,923	\$ 520,265	\$ 496,086	\$ 473,550
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,879,983	\$ 1,709,985	\$ 1,638,547	\$ 1,564,995
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (170,883)	\$ (885)	\$ 1,098	\$ 5,195

Supplemental Material II

Summary of Public Comment

This summary of public comments comes from the Joint Board Subcommittee's December 9, 2015 meeting, public testimony, and written public comment received by December 2015. Boards Support compiled the summary.

Sources of Revenue

- Use license fees – Mark Richards
- Increase license fees – Gary Stevens, AOC

BOF 5-Year Cycle and other Cycle changes

- Don't like – Mark Richards
- Violates statute – John Murray
- Change to five years –
 - Richie Davis, Seafood Producer's Cooperative
 - Prince William Sound Setnetter's Association
 - Paul Shadura
- Status quo –
 - Norm Van Vactor
 - Jimmy Hurley
 - Gayla Hoseth
 - Neil DeWitt
 - Steve Vanek
 - Bristol Bay petitioners (Gary Cline)
 - Kvichak Setnetter's Association
 - Dave Martin, Central Peninsula AC
 - Dennis Andrew
 - Randy Alvarez
 - Thomas Tilden
 - Terry Nininger - Mat Valley AC
 - Kenny Wilson
- Combine UCI and LCI – Dave Martin, Central Peninsula AC
- Consolidate meetings within a year – Paul Shadura

Boards Construction

- Professionalize board with scientific committee oversight – Dave Martin, Cent Peninsula AC
- Keep three year board terms – Gary Stevens, AOC
- Eliminate use of subcommittees and work groups – Fairbanks AC (no quorum)

Proposals

- Reduce the # of proposals (provide analysis that highlights cost of redundant proposals) – John Murray
- Require at least one Alaska signatory on proposals – Richie Davis, Seafood Producer's Cooperative

- Reduce redundancy – Dave Lyon, Homer AC
- Vet proposals through ACs, not for approval, but for improvement (ACs need to be open to all) – Dave Lyon, Homer AC
- Don't change – Gayla Hoseth
- Keep to one issue on proposals –
 - Steve Vanek
 - Dave Martin, Central Peninsula AC
- If no ACs approve a proposal it doesn't advance –
 - Steve Vanek
 - Dave Martin, Central Peninsula AC
- Reduce proposals by requiring they lead to maximum sustained yield – Dave Martin, Central Peninsula AC
- No Board generated proposals – Dave Martin, Central Peninsula AC
- No rewriting a proposal that changes intent – Dave Martin, Central Peninsula AC
- Don't support vetting proposals through ACs –
 - Paul Shadura
 - Terry Nininger - Mat Valley AC
- Charge a fee for submitting proposals – Fairbanks AC (no quorum)
- Strict criteria for Board Generated Proposals – Terry Nininger - Mat Valley AC
- Review proposal process – reduce redundancy, multiple issue proposals - Terry Nininger, Mat Valley AC

Changes to Meetings

- Use teleconference with ACs –
 - John Murray
 - Fairbanks AC (no quorum)
- Restrict Department of Public Safety and Department comments to just the public testimony time – Fairbanks AC (no quorum)
- Longer meeting hours to each day – Fairbanks AC (no quorum)
- Seek out low-cost venues –
 - John Murray
 - Fairbanks AC (no quorum)
 - Terry Nininger - Mat Valley AC
- Get to rural areas –
 - Norm Van Vactor
 - Gayla Hoseth
 - Dennis Andrew
 - Randy Alvarez
- Eliminate rural meetings –
 - Fairbanks AC (no quorum)
- Abbreviate ethics disclosure – Neil DeWitt
- Change hours of public testimony to include evening hours so working people can attend – Neil DeWitt
- Board of Fisheries small committee process is a waste of staff time and board misses out – Steve Vanek

- People need to be at board meetings – Steve Vanek
- Meet in areas most impacted and where activity occurs – Dave Martin, Central Peninsula AC.
- Reduce committees to major issues – Dave Martin, Central Peninsula AC.
- Have AC chairs/representatives at table and ask for errors and omissions – Dave Martin, Central Peninsula AC
- Analyze, discuss, gather economic impacts in detail. Thorough record – Dave Martin, Central Peninsula AC
- Don't have committees – Gary Stevens, AOC
- Trim/eliminate regional overviews – Fairbanks AC (no quorum)

Staff Considerations

- Keep regional coordinators engaged – Gayla Hoseth
- Less staff at board meetings – Neil DeWitt
- Reduce staff at meeting – Dave Martin, Central Peninsula AC
- Have reports out earlier – Dave Martin, Central Peninsula AC
- Limit out of area travel to meetings for staff – Fairbanks AC (no quorum)
- Use teleconference with staff –
 - Steve Vanek
 - Fairbanks AC (no quorum)

Proposal books

- Reduce the number of proposals books – John Murray

Board Member

- 3-Year terms are long enough – Steve Vanek

AC Changes

- Allow chairs of ACs to get-together – Dave Martin, Central Peninsula AC
- Keep AC and regional coordinator travel whole – Gary Cline
- Reduce AC membership to 9 down from 15 – Randy Alvarez
- ACs could be encouraged to have members submit proposals in the spring and seek AC support for the fall meeting. Avoids having to have a meeting in the spring to look at proposal concepts – Randy Alvarez
- Reduce number of ACs? – Fairbanks AC (no quorum)

Other

- Capture over-escapement of salmon (and dedicate to Board process?) – Dave Martin, Central Peninsula AC
- Consider building a state-owned meeting facility in Anchorage – Neil DeWitt
- Defund Mat-Su Fishing Commission and add money to board process – Neil DeWitt
- Seek greater efficiencies – Gary Stevens, AOC
- Create efficiencies through technology – Thomas Tilden
- Reduction of bulk of regulations – Fairbanks AC (no quorum)

Legislative

- Eliminate antlerless moose and brown bear tag fee annual reauthorizations – Fairbanks AC (no quorum)
- Allow email meeting poll through OMA – Fairbanks AC (no quorum)
- Tap the Permanent Fund Dividend – Kenny Wilson
- Seek funding from processors – Kenny Wilson

Supplemental Material III

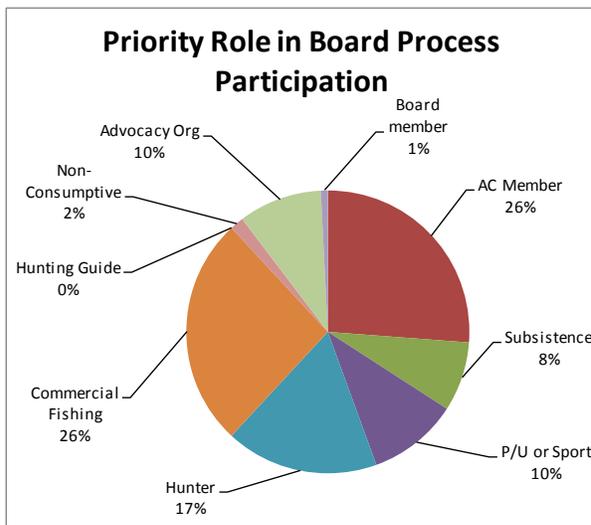
Survey Results

Quick Notes:

156 surveys were started.

33 surveys were not completed, or 21%.

43 of the survey respondents listed themselves as current or former ADF&G employees. Those responses were removed entirely from the results.



Participation Levels at Boards	Count
100% Board of Game / 0% Board of Fisheries	8
75% Game / 25% Fisheries	15
50% Game / 50% Fisheries	26
25% Game / 75% Fisheries	32
0% Game / 100% Fisheries	23

Board of Game Meetings	Count
None	44
1 to 5	31
6 to 10	14
11 to 15	5
16 to 20	1
20 or more	4

Board of Fisheries Meetings	Count
None	22
1 to 5	35
6 to 10	18
11 to 15	10
16 to 20	2
20 or more	15

Q5. Based on your experience, rate the following statements:

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	No opinion	Average Weight
<i>Weights</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>		
Current Board of Game process is adequate.						
Total	7	14	34	17	11	2.8
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	2	5	9	6	0	2.9
Board of Game process should not change due to budget cuts.						
Total	5	13	22	30	12	3.1
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	2	5	5	10	0	3.0
Current Board of Fisheries Process is adequate.						
Total	10	11	34	21	8	2.9
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	2	6	7	6	1	2.8
Board of Fisheries process should not change due to budget cuts.						
Total	7	16	23	28	8	3.0
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	2	4	4	11	1	3.2

Q7. Regarding the call for proposal process, identify your level of agreement with the following statements.

	Strongly disagree <i>Weights</i> 1	Somewhat disagree 2	Somewhat agree 3	Strongly agree 4	No opinion	Average Weight
The current call for proposal system should not change.						
Total	13	23	17	24	27	2.7
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	4	7	4	5	6	2.5
A limited number of proposals should be deliberated on each year.						
Total	29	15	22	10	26	2.2
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	8	7	5	2	4	2.0
There should be stricter requirements for a proposal to be deliberated on.						
Total	9	10	22	29	32	3.0
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	2	2	9	9	4	3.1
Proposals should be prioritized and handled in priority order.						
Total	15	7	27	24	29	2.8
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	4	3	10	5	4	2.8

Q8. If proposals were required to meet certain criteria to be reviewed in a meeting cycle, which of the following criteria should be considered as a reason for elimination? Check all that apply.

	False <i>Weights</i> 1	Maybe 2	True 3	No opinion	Average Weight
A review process is not needed.					
Total	38	21	19	2	1.8
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	10	8	3	0	1.7
It has not been reviewed by an Advisory Committee.					
Total	33	21	26	2	1.9
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	9	5	8	0	2.0
It is not supported by an Advisory Committee.					
Total	36	20	24	2	1.9
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	9	4	8	1	1.9
The proposal is not supported by ADF&G.					
Total	49	20	7	4	1.4
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	14	4	2	2	1.4
The proposal was filed anonymously or be an unverifiable entity.					
Total	9	7	66	1	2.7
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	3	2	16	1	2.6
The board does not have authority to act on the proposal.					
Total	9	5	64	4	2.7
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	5	2	14	1	2.4
The proposal is unclear.					
Total	13	15	51	2	2.5
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	3	5	13	1	2.4
The proposal is a placeholder that provides no detail					
Total	15	17	47	3	2.4
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	5	5	10	2	2.3
The proposal is identical to another proposal to be included.					
Total	9	9	62	2	2.7
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	3	3	15	1	2.6
The proposal addresses an issue that other proposals address. Board should take up the "issue", while recognizing various proposals.					
Total	24	22	34	2	2.1
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	6	5	10	1	2.2
The proposal was contemplated at an earlier meeting and no new information was provided.					
Total	22	11	47	2	2.3
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	7	1	12	2	2.3
The proposal was not categorized as regional or statewide.					
Total	24	21	31	6	2.1
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	6	5	8	3	2.1
The proposal is not seeking regulatory change.					
Total	15	20	46	1	2.4
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	6	4	11	1	2.2

Q9. Are there aspects of the board meeting formats that could be more efficient? Please rate the following statements.

	Strongly disagree <i>Weights</i> 1	Somewhat disagree 2	Somewhat agree 3	Strongly agree 4	No opinion	Average Weight
Public testimony should include participation by phone/teleconference						
Total	18	17	21	32	3	2.8
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	4	5	6	10	2	2.9
Advisory committee testimony should include participation by phone/teleconference						
Total	15	14	23	36	3	2.9
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	2	3	5	15	2	3.3
Ethics disclosures can be read ahead of time and do not need to be presented at meetings						
Total	25	7	29	22	8	2.6
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	4	1	12	8	2	3.0
Staff reports may be read ahead of time and do not need to be presented at meetings						
Total	31	16	23	15	6	2.3
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	8	8	7	3	1	2.2
Advisory committees and regional advisory councils should be limited to the same amount of time as all other public testifiers.						
Total	48	19	12	7	5	1.7
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	22	3	1	0	1	1.2
Public testimony for the entire meeting cycle could be held at one meeting.						
Total	38	12	20	8	13	2.0
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	12	5	7	0	3	1.8
The entire meeting cycle could be done at one meeting/in fewer meetings						
Total	23	14	31	12	11	2.4
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	7	5	11	2	2	2.3

Q10. Please rank your opinion about the following statements. Extending the Board of Fisheries meeting cycle to 5 years....

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neutral	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	No opinion	Average Weight
<i>Weights</i>	1	2	3	4	5		
...creates more agenda change requests.							
Total	0	3	15	12	30	4	4.2
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	0	0	3	3	14	1	4.6
...creates more emergency petitions.							
Total	0	3	10	17	31	4	4.2
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	0	1	1	5	13	1	4.5
...is better for fisheries businesses.							
Total	23	14	20	12	7	6	2.6
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	8	6	4	3	0	1	2.1
<i>Commercial fishermen</i>	7	2	4	1	6	0	2.9
...saves money for members of the public who participate.							
Total	10	10	17	22	18	6	3.4
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	2	4	8	6	1	1	3.0
...adversely impacts the health and sustainability of the resources.							
Total	6	9	15	16	32	5	3.8
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	0	2	4	4	11	1	4.1
...reduces the opportunity for public participation.							
Total	7	11	9	15	36	5	3.8
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	1	3	2	3	12	1	4.0
...is not justified for these cost savings.							
Total	12	9	12	9	36	5	3.6
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	1	1	2	4	13	1	4.3

Q13. ADF&G staff are a critical part of the board process. Please rate how you think staff time could best be spent:

	Do much less	Do somewhat less	Adequate	Do somewhat more	Do much more	No opinion	Average Weight
<i>Weights</i>	1	2	3	4	5		
ADF&G staff work with advisory committees							
Total	1	2	40	19	15	2	3.6
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	0	0	12	4	6	0	3.7
ADF&G staff reporting (research, writing, production)							
Total	1	8	39	18	11	3	3.4
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	0	1	15	2	3	1	3.3
ADF&G staff comments at board meetings							
Total	5	7	46	12	6	4	3.1
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	1	2	15	10	1	1	3.3
ADF&G staff attendance at board meetings							
Total	4	14	45	10	5	2	3.0
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	2	6	11	2	0	1	2.6
Boards Support staff at board meetings							
Total	2	5	55	9	6	3	3.2
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	0	2	16	0	2	2	3.1
Boards Support staff work with advisory committees							
Total	2	4	44	17	10	3	3.4
<i>Advisory Committees</i>	0	1	12	4	4	1	3.5

Supplemental Material IV

Survey Comments

Question 5. Please identify other observations on board process.

Public and Advisory Committee Responses

ADFG Staff time could be better spent managing resource rather than vetting new proposals. Board process should be responsive to the needs of the resource, not the whim of any individuals with an ax to grind.
Budget reductions reduce participation by rural ACs and Alaskans. The AC process provides a periodic meeting of local fish and wildlife consumers and the F&G staff to work out issues and distill issues to bring to the Boards. It is essential to have 2 meetings /year to keep the AC active and involved.
If you change to longer cycles, then there will be a shift to more "emergency" meetings out of cycle to deal with conservation and also allocation issues as they arise.
Carefully review or reconsider the necessity of the boards providing travel and per diem for members of AC's to attend the Board meetings (it should be more than just a free trip into town). Perhaps some of this participation can be provided (telephonically, streamed, etc.) through LIO offices or ADFG offices and thus reduce the travel cost.
The board process has been changed to make attendance and avocation by State local advisory committees already. Members are not allowed to attend enough meetings nor able to represent their communicate interests adequately. AC members are voted in by the community to represent them their voices are not heard or listened to at the BOG process, and often over ridden by BOG members with agendas
The Boards, Advisory Committees and The Public are all part of the process that is mandated by Alaska Statute. This is the law, and how the legislature determined that BOG and BOF should conduct business.
BOF members need staff dedicated to their better understanding of the complex issues that are before them. Not F&G staff dedicated to the administrative duties such as board support.
I'm sure some changes can be made, no coffee, shopping for cheaper meeting rooms.
Already it seems that the time between cycles is long enough, longer would make the system much less responsive to user needs, especially when fish & game populations can be so volatile.
Need for better consideration of biology and AC input.
The public testimony process seems to take a significant amount of time in the 7 days that meetings are conducted. The testimonies can be lengthy and repetitive and the people testifying can get off track. Having said that, it is also very important to give individuals the opportunity to testify. It is often that the individuals who are testifying are local participants to the fisheries and may not have any other means of having their voices heard.
The best example of open access politics in America
I would think that amount of money coming into state by hunters would out way expenses to state. Especially when you think about economics from in state guides.
Proposal process could be made more efficient. Going to a longer cycle than 3 years will seriously impact the ability of ADFG, the boards and the AC's to deal with fisheries and game issues.
Meetings are too long because AC's opinions are not weighed upon as they have been in the past. In other words, the Board(s) re-invents the wheel at the start of every meeting instead of picking up where the AC's left off.
1) Proposals take up too much time and energy at BOF, ADFG staff and AC's. The process of putting in proposals is not very discrete (too many bogus ones). 2) I've noticed AC reps coming to meetings with comments on few proposals, I believe AC reps should be urged to comment via teleconference to save money. 3) I think the process overall is good some fine tuning should take place. Also Board Support does an excellent job working with Board and

Question 5. Please identify other observations on board process.

Public and Advisory Committee Responses

AC's.
Three years is a good time frame for BOF and the BOG
There used to be one meeting, now there are many for each area and group. Combine the discussions from meetings to reduce cost if cost is an issue. The meeting will be longer but will reduce cost.
The Board process would work much better if they actually listened to the public comment and comments from the AC's. IF 90% of the comments are against something and the Board still passes it, it makes the public and the AC's wonder why they are giving comments.
It's the only way for people in an open discussion to get their points across
Advisory committee support needs to remain status quo. Some groups are not represented by AC's so proposal to give AC's a greater role is not equitable.
The board of fish and game process seems to work pretty well. I think the frequency of board of fish and game meetings should not be lengthened. Perhaps savings could be achieved by finding ways to expedite the meeting process or maybe combining meetings to address proposals for more than one area. Finally, I understand there are a huge number of proposals the boards must consider during each meeting. A discussion on a way to streamline the process and perhaps limit the number of proposals in some way might be warranted.
The Boards do not follow process. The practice of manipulating process extends meetings, deliberations and often ends up in court. All that runs up the 'cost' of operating the boards.
I think that there can still be public involvement and notice and fewer meetings and less travel.
Lots of wasted time on repetitive testimony, current board lacks professional experience and is too beholden to a single special interest that purports to, but does not represent the interests of resident sport fishermen.
Please provide more access by the public to participate via teleconference, and the committee as a whole does not provide enough public input on proposals because it is too limiting in its current structure.
Proper personnel would make a difference
I support an efficient process that is inclusive of input of users and still provides adequate information from the Department. I think people can get their own coffee while in Anchorage, a location where meeting facilities make money by charging for every service. I am supportive of the committee of the whole process and think it works. The proposal submission process should require users to certify they are who they say they are. The process should find a way to reduce/eliminate redundant proposals or proposals that are blatantly illegal, incomplete or do not meet criteria. Three years is not long enough to really know if a proposal has worked or not. Three years is also highly disruptive to the management process and fishermen. It is also hard on ADF&G staff and board members. Please consider extending the board cycle, as the Board of Game has done.
If fewer proposals could be put forward to the BOF and/or BOG that would be good.

Question 6. Please offer thoughts on how, if at all, the call for proposal process could change to reduce costs.

Public and Advisory Committee Responses

I see the boards of fish & game as being the final judge & jury on the subjects of proposals. The advisory committees should be used as the filter & the separator of any and all proposals before the boards are made aware of said proposals to include proposals by ADF&G. I know head strong bureaucrats will quiver but we can no longer afford to continue this ineffective job.
The call process gathers suggestions for solutions. These suggestions need to be grouped to be considered by

Question 6. Please offer thoughts on how, if at all, the call for proposal process could change to reduce costs.

Public and Advisory Committee Responses

committee to bring to the board for final decision. Lots of time spent considering obviously dead on arrival ideas.
There needs to be consolidation of proposals that for all intents and purposes, are identical. Consolidation needs to be done by someone who puts professional integrity over their own agenda. I would trust most ADF&G staff members with this, but not board members.
The Call for proposals is somewhat confusing for the general public. I think fewer calls with more regions/ species may work better. Also public outreach/ education.
Limit the number of proposals an individual can submit to three and 6 by organizations. Charge \$10 fee to submit a proposal
It takes a quite a bit of time to deal with individual proposals, especially if they are simply expressing frustration and give no direction to policy.
Implement a process to consolidate proposals (no need for multiple proposals that address the same issue).
Don't take recommendations from non-residents or federal employees.
Currently the board has to take on state wide issues every meeting, many proposals are written by residents on the state wide section that in reality only pertain to their local problem. Juneau residents suggesting trapping regulations for Allakakit as a state wide prop is a waste of time and effort of the board. Reauthorization of antlerless moose hunts EVERY meeting is a waste of time and effort. Not listening to AC members from the region and establishing new plans or working groups to justify their positions on the board or to meet the agenda of the day is a waste of time and resources for the board the state and its residents.
Allowing a hand full of individuals a voice in the management of a natural resources is not putting the state in the red! This should not be taken away under any circumstances.
The date prior to a Board meeting to accept the call for proposals has already been extended, so proposals must be submitted much more in advance of Board meetings. This has already created less proposals from being submitted by the public.
Somehow, or some kind of pre board of game committee to weed through proposals that are very similar could be compiled into the main topics and have one discussion instead of going through each proposal individually? Example: sheep being a big topic, out of all the sheep proposals most of it could be compiled into 5 main topics.
Recent adjustments on the call for proposal process have already made it cumbersome and NOT responsive to the public. Don't make it even worse.
I think the "Call for Proposals" is sufficient as is. It gives all user groups the opportunity to submit proposals for review.
Clearly there are some proposals submitted that will never pass and don't deserve deliberation or F&G spending time on with A&Rs. We need to weed out some proposals before they ever get in the book, but not sure how that can be accomplished.
BOF could meet every 4 years instead of 3.
Become more efficient, address issues in a timely manner by having sub committees forward recommendations to the board as a whole thereby saving discussion/review time. We all need this board process to continue.
Boards should eliminate duplicate proposals. Proposals should have greater brevity. Proposals should be limited to just one issue.
They should be brought forward by the public to the AC's to combine like ideas and to help formulate language for the individual so the Boards can move forward with fewer repeats and mistakes
Yes it should change. Over my twenty five years of paying attention to process or being on Sitka AC for fifteen years I've noticed many proposals come up which I categorize as a waste of time for all involved. I made a list 1) shatter shot proposals (usually one person) put in hoping maybe one might stick. 2) trading stock proposals put in to make a

Question 6. Please offer thoughts on how, if at all, the call for proposal process could change to reduce costs.

Public and Advisory Committee Responses

trade happen during or before meetings (usually put in to intimidate another gear group into submission) 3) tit for tat proposals (see Sitka herring 2015). 4) shot over the bow proposals, they are highly unlikely to pass as written but many times change happens because of these. I believe these kind can and should be settled outside of BOF/BOG. The Board's process is burdened by to many proposals which just aren't thought out and vetted or should be settled outside Board process. As far as AC's doing the vetting for Board's, we are rather limited in time, expertise to take on this.
Nothing, this is how the people are heard. This is for the people of the state.
All proposals need to be vetted through the appropriate AC's. That would streamline the process for the Boards.
Keep the meeting process one place – Anchorage.
I think we need to have this discussion at the Advisory Committee, Board and Department level. I am not sure what the solution is. I do appreciate the open process, but recognize the time it takes to review each proposal. Perhaps the proposals could be limited to those submitted by the department, advisory committees and organizations that represent interested parties, though I am not sure this is the solution.
ACs meetings have little or no public cost.
Each Proposal should be evaluated on legal and biological basis and a priority attached to it. A limited number of time allotted for board process and review will eliminate frivolous or immaterial proposals.
Involve the ACs on proposal process pre-submittal so proponents of like proposals could "synch up", and AC could help tailor proposals to the reality of statutes, regulations, and management plans.
Possibly some cost savings by having two times per year for the call for proposals process to take place. Might be some cost savings in paper and printing and staff hours.
Non-game species should be included in this call, especially if they are under special pressures.
Commercial fishers are in need of representation.
Telephonic meetings.
Involve villages to help out with some costs.
I don't have any good suggestions on this. I do feel that the proposal process should be tightened up and that far too many proposals must be considered each cycle.
New people. New ideas. They should be heard. I have a few myself. There are proposals that have been the same for over a decade. Copy and paste year to year. Let's get some new ones.
I have submitted proposals in the past and feel that it is a very good way to solicit ideas from all Alaskans.

Question 7. Please indicate if your advice above (to questions related to whether proposals should be limited) will save money, and if so, how.

Public and Advisory Committee Responses

Advisory committees are free all most and were designed and originally expected to do most of the area ground work and ferreting of worthy and not worthy proposals. Time is money except in the case of free advisory committees. Said committees also in my experience have much more area experience history and skin in the game. Just ask a committee member. Thanks.
Limited proposals means less participation by staff at Board meetings, saving travel, lodging & per diem costs.
Might shorten meetings.

Question 7. Please indicate if your advice above (to questions related to whether proposals should be limited) will save money, and if so, how.

Public and Advisory Committee Responses

<p>Money and time can be saved (especially by AC members) by segmenting meetings so that a proposal is presented, discussed and deliberated on all within a day or two. Having to stay through the whole board meeting to follow one or more proposals from beginning to end gives unfair advantage to those who can afford the time and money. These too often are those who have an economic interest in the results.</p>
<p>Duplicate/ same intent proposals could be combined with all the authors names on the.</p>
<p>Restrict proposals meeting the call to residents meeting Perm fund criteria. Advocacy groups with base headquarters outside Alaska should be restricted to proposals meeting the call after registering with the board process "consistently" for at least ten years. No grandfathering allowed.</p>
<p>Cluster proposals together that deal with the same issue, and prioritize issues based on conservation issues first then allocation issues second.</p>
<p>Develop a process to consolidate/prioritize/ streamline the proposal system resulting in fewer proposals, less printing/ mailing costs, less time commitment by the board - all save money.</p>
<p>Vetting of BS proposals is not strict enough it is clear when many are written by a person or group to advently support that person or groups singular interest. Proposals that are definately " OUT THERE" should not be in the book. Regional issues should not be state wide issues (see above note) individuals or groups should not request state wide regs if they are unfamiliar with state wide issues. or the reg is related to a local problem. The Boards SHOULD NOT be able to submit a proposal of its own. that is the depts job. The AC of the area could better vet the process with a joint letter than the board support system currently does and would provide MORE AC input. When there are 200 props all repeating themself the AC could pick several to carry forward to the board. The AC can also better identify that ONE proposal that is put in every cycle just to appease that person or group. This inundates the process for the purpose of inundating the process.</p>
<p>Proposals are a way for individuals to have a voice in the management process of limited resources. Natural resources with a high \$\$ value tend to have many outspoken advocates to keep a good thing going with legislative and local government input/support. The state has an obligation to the hear from individuals who are being impacted by dwindling resources.</p>
<p>Who decides all of the above??? This is a public process, and should remain unchanged. The SOA should provide the funds necessary to the BOG and BOF to accomplish their agendas as required by Alaska Statute. How can limiting proposals or prioritizing proposals even be considered? That would not follow the Statutes of the SOA, and be unlawful? This is all a PUBLIC process!</p>
<p>Possible ways to save money is to charge a small sum per proposal, In addition each proposal should be submitted by an organization or require a proposal to have five signatures before the proposal is submitted.</p>
<p>This may be about "money" for Boards Support, but for the rest of us, it's about responsiveness to the public.</p>
<p>The process of access to a public trust resource through the proposal, petition and ACR process must not be impeded. Otherwise the extreme politics of the board member selection process will become even more contentious and corrupted then it already is now.</p>
<p>Requiring that a proposal is sound, such as a pre determination that it would not likely be outside the authority of the board may save cost by time savings realized at the meetings. Public notice of this determination should be given.</p>
<p>By stricter requirements for a proposal to be deliberated it would weed out ahead of time the frivolous ones.</p>
<p>Before board consideration, consolidation of like proposals should be done.</p>
<p>Prioritizing of proposals should be first given to AC generated or passed proposals. If an individual's proposal cannot pass successfully by an AC it could go into a category of proposals for AC's to be able to read in the proposal book, and then speak up about and support at BOF meetings. The Board could then select some of those proposals that enough AC's support for consideration with the AC passed/generated ones. This would reduce BOF/ADF&G personnel work and time and BOF meeting time and therefore costs and eliminate proposals that have no supporting base. Would place more of the burden of proposal submission to the individual but not be overly hard for an</p>

Question 7. Please indicate if your advice above (to questions related to whether proposals should be limited) will save money, and if so, how.

Public and Advisory Committee Responses

individual to get a reasonable one passed by their local AC.
All proposals are important. It is the individuals within the affected communities, as well as participants in the fisheries, who have a hands-on perspective of the fisheries that may see a need for change. Their perspectives and opinions are equally as important as any other person or organization involved.
If organizations or multiple people sign off as the proposer it should have higher priority than a proposal submitted by one individual that will not even bother to be present at the meeting.
Review the proposals submitted. Have priority reason for accepting or rejecting anything reviewed. There needs to be a method for tabling non critical issues. Then review the lesser by subcommittee.
Boards should eliminate duplicate proposals. Proposals should have greater brevity. Proposals should be limited to just one issue.
Shorter meeting times
AC reps should be urged as a cost saving to use teleconferencing. It cost a good amount to fly and put up AC reps. As far as above the process needs a tune up. The Board's, Board Support and AC's should come up with an outreach program to make groups, AC's, and involved persons aware of time and energy savings and cost saving of offering good solid and pre vetted proposals and urge groups to work outside the Board process to get things done instead of taking up time at meetings.
Some are same ones over and over lump them into a one?
Listen to the AC's for each area. They represent the people of each area. There are several AC's that are active.
Again if the proposals were vetted by the AC's then sent on to the Board the process for the Board would be much more streamlined. Many times there are multiple proposals of similar intent.
Paring down on duplicity could be one way, and of course the true nut bag proposals
I think if there is a way to combine proposals that are similar it would cut down on cost
Do not review the same proposals from last meeting cycle.
Groups will often acquiesce or compromise to hasten the board process and shorten meeting, hopefully.
If we can a way fairly prioritize or limit the number of proposals I would support it and think it would save money. Figuring out what is just is the challenge and I am not certain what to recommend.
The excessive time required to address the work load could be reduced.
Utilize the AC's better.
Boards are set up to make decisions but have limited resources. By limiting proposals, boards will not have to be compensated and staff can be saved travel and work time.
There seem to be too many similar proposals so possibly the proposals should have to go before the advisory committee to be discussed which may result in slimming down several like proposals to one or two the proposers could agree on and then submit with the advisory committee's ok.
Prioritization would be the most fair and budget-friendly change.
I'm a commercial fisherman Let us fish and you will have more money
Less printing, less meeting days and less proposals means less money spent.

Question 8. Please identify other criteria the boards might consider when considering to accept a proposal.

Public and Advisory Committee Responses

Advisory committee's inputs not political or financial but biological and local knowledge.
To improve quality, proposers should be encouraged to talk to an ADF&G biologist before submitting a proposal, but this should not be mandatory. This could be presented on the basis that a proposal stands a better chance of being adopted if it has had some professional review.
The true and false is confusing in this question. There could be some type of vetting process before the proposals go into the book or before a board, but then you are adding another layer of time spent on the proposal. A lot of times people will put in proposals that the Board has no power to take action on, but sometimes that is the only way the public can bring it up for a discussion.
Should only address one regulatory change.
Stick to the proposal as written, unless public comment before the Board is again allowed.
Proposals from groups of sportsman like the AOC should take precedence to individual requests.
I think the board process works very well and should not be tinkered with other than above
ALL proposals should be considered.
Might be to taxing on the AC's but if a proposal was directed through at least 3 AC's maybe they would hash out the main talking points or ideas, and make it go faster for BOG??
All proposals that are submitted by an organization or has five signatures should be considered.
Individuals should still have the ability to have a legitimate proposal heard by the board, but it must be complete and follow guidelines required.
If the proposal is unconstitutional or inconsistent with current statutes under AS 16 don't include it in the list of proposals for the board to deliberate on.
Should not eliminate an individual's ability to get their proposal in the proposal book but feel it should be prioritized as suggested in question 7 comment section.
All proposals are important. If someone has taken the time and effort to support a proposal, then that individual has belief that change is needed. Though sometimes the proposal may seem odd or will not pass, it still warrants discussion at the meetings. The voice of ALL Alaskan's and participants in the process must have EQUAL opportunity.
Things change year to year and proposals irrelevant one cycle may have weight at another time.
If all AC's support a certain proposal that should tell you something. But on the other hand if only two AC's comment and rest don't that's not much of a consensus. Also unclear and poorly written proposal are a hassle for everybody. Place holder proposals, that is tough one, but I believe that is privilege which is abuse to intimidate.
All should be considered.
NO Board generated proposals
Hate to see obtuse thinking on what is considered after all this is said and done
I feel that the board should not be able to generate proposals
Board commonly consider the best written of similar proposals.
Proposals purely for self-interest of an individual or selected group. If you cannot craft proposals that benefit the resource and more than one constituency, then what you're asking for is a resource grab, not proper public policy for shared public resources. Why waste so much time on battles between constituencies - force them to work together outside the board's valuable time.

Question 8. Please identify other criteria the boards might consider when considering to accept a proposal.

Public and Advisory Committee Responses

It all boils down to who is represented on the board
Investigate who is financially involved in any proposal. Lobbyists, Feds, and other stakeholders

Question 9. Please identify other cost efficiencies associated with changes to the board meeting format.

Public and Advisory Committee Responses

Public and Advisory Committee Comments
Board meeting should be held in the region that is being considered. This gives the public more opportunity to participate.
Eliminate State per- diem for Advisory committees and councils, costs may come from outside sources. Written comments are still fine as long as they make the comment book at the Board meeting.
Public testimony is always an issue - I personally have waited multiple days to provide 5 minutes of testimony. Implement a more stringent Public Testimony schedule (set a time frame and stick to it - no exceptions).
Public safety should be required the same testimony process as AC for props they submit.
Time is money. Keep a time limit on everything but keep it open and fair to the public
Meeting cycles have already been made longer. From two years to three years, and some thought of changing to 4-5 years I have heard to save money which is totally unacceptable to this public process to manage the fish and game resources of all Alaskans. It seems that this is an attempt to not utilize Advisory Committee process and public testimony process which is mandated by State Statute. This is all VERY wrong, and seems to be an attempt to change legislative statute. This is a PUBLIC process, not just the ADFG staff, BOG member and BOF members.
I don't think that a per diem or parking costs for AC members is necessary. While meetings need to have sufficient accommodations, the state should strive to use state, university or as cost effective spaces as possible.
The voice of all in attendance should have the opportunity to be heard. It is important for the chairman of the board to ensure that speakers stay on track and keep the flow of the meetings moving. Perhaps allow speakers to speak only once during public testimony unless asked by the board to clarify. Another thought is to remove the initial public comment portion that occurs in the first two days where people speak about many proposals and instead limit their opportunity to speak during the "committee of the whole" and speak only about the specific proposal that is being discussed. I say this because people often spend their 3 minutes making points and then repeat those points in "committee of the whole". The "committee of the whole" is important to initiate productive conversations from both supporters and opposers.
Find new venues.
It is critical that fishermen have access to the Board of Fish and holding an entire meeting cycle at one meeting make the burden of travel too hard. The State is just too big for this.
Hard time on some questions since it takes time in meetings, consolidation of it all may be too lengthy to comprehend by board.
Combine meeting in region OPTION one support. OPTION two I support this because budget concerns. OPTION three this could have merit if other areas agree, OPTION four I don't support a five or six years cycle in S.E. This would no doubt save money but I believe this is a contradictory to Article 8 and Alaska statute 16.05,020. You have to ASK is this process an Essential Service to wise use of F&G resources I believe it is.

Question 9. Please identify other cost efficiencies associated with changes to the board meeting format.

Public and Advisory Committee Responses

With today's technology not everyone has to physically be present in the room to participate. Save money and time with teleconferences or video conferences.
Myself as the co-chair of our region have many voices I speak what the people have said not what I believe, even if I don't feel the same.
Video conferencing would save travel expenses. Boards might actually meet more often by video and become more educated about issues before meetings commence.
In a meeting I participated in, there was much repetition in a "subcommittee" process split up by topic, such as "commercial" "sport" etc., and the same comments were heard there from many of the same folks as in the public testimony. It seemed a waste of time.
Have meetings locally. Like in Kenai.
Extend the board cycle to hold less meetings per year. Combine meetings IF it makes sense.
I don't know enough about the cost and budget enough to answer this question. How is it broke down in costs?

Question 10. Please identify other cost efficiencies associated with changes to the board meeting format.

Public and Advisory Committee Responses

I fear if the cycle is extended there will be another avenue found for change and not to digress much that is scary the closed door deals we all know about all in the name of good. NOT.
Will cause rural ACs to be inactive ACRs will be the preferred method for addressing issues before the BOF
Under no circumstance should UCI be treated differently like being address every year!
Will not save money - just end up with more unplanned issues being taken up - spend more money in the long run.
Agenda change requests and Emergency Orders can still be used to address special issues.
Good practices require fewer changes and meetings.
Does not make sense to try and save \$100,000 by moving the meeting cycles to a 4 or 5 year cycle at the cost of public input and resources being neglected for longer periods of time.
A four or five year meeting cycle will further exclude the public from the BOF process. This would allow the BOF and ADFG to make emergency decision further excluding the public knowledge of the resource changes and again not allowing public input.
A longer 4 or 5 year cycle could be acceptable if the criteria for ACR and petitions did not change. While more might be submitted, if the criteria was strictly adhered to and board generated proposals were not created from ideas on ACR this would be a cost savings. The concern is if more single out of cycle proposal are considered that would ramp up the costs for both ADF&G and the public have people at a regulatory meeting where your interest is in single proposal.
Allows the management plans previously adopted at a previous meeting cycle to better align with salmon cycles. Five year cycles make sense for the majority of the proposals as long as the ACR, petition and BGP process is fairly constructive to deal with current concerns and gives the public more direct involvement in the process.
A five year cycle is 2 years longer than a Board member or governor etc. serves. There would be a lack of consistency and potential for in person knowledge limited.
Having just seen BOG go from 2 to 3 year cycle, I see that any further elongation of the cycle would make it much

Question 10. Please identify other cost efficiencies associated with changes to the board meeting format.

Public and Advisory Committee Responses

less responsive to the needs of the resource, the user and the Dept.
Some fisheries are more volatile than others. Perhaps an analysis of the economic impact that a fishery has on local regions could provide precedence on the regularity of the meeting cycles. Also, the number of participants in a fishery could be used to determine regularity of years between meeting cycles. More participants = BOF meetings more often. Another tool might be the value of the fishery to the state of Alaska.
If you extend the cycle, you will need a bigger venue with more chairs.
We are forced by the fiscal situation to make changes, a longer cycle results in the most cost savings.
Things are continually changing in the fisheries. The money made by the state warrants a 3 year cycle. What works today may not work in 3 years. Housecleaning alone is necessary every 3 years.
You're saving nickels now and will pay dollars in the future. With lost resources, world market share, stewardship of Alaska's fish and game.
I think the three-year committee/board cycle is generally good except that responses to developing fishery "emergencies" are poor simply because the response may have to wait nearly three years just to hit the right cycle. That's no good for fish, fisheries or fishermen regardless of whether one is talking about sport, subsistence or commercial use. Increasing that cycle to five years would only exacerbate the problem. Creative use of modern technology could actually make the process more rather streamlined without increasing the years/cycle.
Don't extend, combine current meetings.
We all have to bear the burden of no money if needed we can always E O a proposal
I think extending the time would have the potential of having an adverse effect on fisheries
Resource fluctuation has been so unexpected, there would be emergency meetings so no savings at all, or public left out of executive sessions.
Extending the meeting cycle to more than three years would allow the user groups with more funding and political capital to overshadow the other users of the resources allowing bad proposals to pass and have a longer negative effect on the resource and less affluent user groups. The existing cycle allows the user groups to look at a bad proposal that passed and do something about it, e.g. in a 20 year fishing career a fisherman may only get to participate in the process 3 or 4 times if the cycle is moved to 5 years.
It might lessen the corruption.
Extending the cycle makes economic sense, but more importantly it will help provide stability for the process. Having each region and fishery up for review and change every three years creates an environment of chaos. Extending the cycle will save the BOF money, ADFG money, and the public money. Attending the meetings is expensive, more than most potential participants can afford.

Question 11. Are there any revenue solutions that the boards should consider? For example: charging a fee for submitting proposals. Please be specific.

Public and Advisory Committee Responses

A fee may supplement some cost be deterrent of sorts. 100 dollars per proposal. Knowing money though could cost that much to account for it and no gain. More than 100 dollars could be too much for some citizens.
A fee may supplement some cost be deterrent of sorts. 100 dollars per proposal. Knowing money though could cost that much to account for it and no gain. More than 100 dollars could be too much for some citizens.
Bad idea. How to discourage participation by those least able to pay.
Charging for proposals favors those who are willing to pay more for the resource. Proposals should be an expression

Question 11. Are there any revenue solutions that the boards should consider? For example: charging a fee for submitting proposals. Please be specific.

Public and Advisory Committee Responses

of the public, not an auction.
I think charging a fee would add barriers to the public process and would do little to offset cost.
Yes, \$10 per proposal for individuals and \$30 for groups/associations
Good idea - nominal fee per proposal, to be reimbursed if the person or a proxy person shows up to the meeting to speak on behalf of the proposal. Nothing is worse than having a proposal where the proposer does not show up to discuss the proposal.
A small filing fee for individuals to submit proposals would help defray costs. A fee of 10.00 per-proposal would eliminate some proposals that are filed spur of the moment. Advisory Committees do not have funding sources to pay filing fees, and should be exempt.
The proposal books are available online so charge a fee for printed copies (printing and mailing costs).
NO !!!!!
Charge a few to submit and the cost of consideration and time.
A fee (to public only) would certainly eliminate the frivolity however fees to other agencies would affect their budgets and reduce the line item crap they often come up with. Federal users would have to pay higher fees.
Totally fair- request all proposals be charged a fee of \$100 per proposal and anyone who wants to comment on the proposals must submit a \$100.00 comment fee per proposal.
Possible
Don't even think about going this way! This is a State public process mandated by Statute!
A small fee such as \$5 or less plus shipping for a proposal book would help with the costs. Having printed proposal books is important to the public .Another idea would be as suggested a small fee \$5-10 for each proposal.
Never should there be a charge for submitting a proposal.
I would rather see a fee placed on the commercial fisherman to help cover the costs of the BOF. They are profiting financially off of the resource, and in my opinion should pay for the management before those that don't profit financially off the resource.
A small admin fee would be fine, ~\$20
I think a small fee could be charged.
Changing the structure of the ADF&G to be proactive with this public process. An interactive approach to working with the proposers and petitioners to mediate solutions. Should have one science division for all of the Department. Management divisions should not control the science.
Any large fee could create a barrier for the public. A small fee for processing of \$5.00 or less would seem reasonable and may deter multiple proposals on the same subject. IE the proposer may just list "options" under one proposal instead of submitting 5 different ones.
I would approve of a fee.
Hold the board meetings at locations that provide the greatest cost savings in terms of travel, lodging and venue.
Good idea, 25.00 this would vest the proposer, and help pay for costs.
Proposal prioritizing as in section 7.
Charging a fee to submit proposals is NOT the answer. Requesting policy change is a part of the American political process that makes this country great.
Our organization does not believe that a fee should ever be charged to submit proposals.
I would be willing to pay a fee.

Question 11. Are there any revenue solutions that the boards should consider? For example: charging a fee for submitting proposals. Please be specific.

Public and Advisory Committee Responses

A fee for submitting a proposal is definitely appropriate. Charging people the cost of production of a proposal book would also be great if it made them more accessible.
Cut state spending on something that doesn't carry itself. Not fish and game.
Don't think you should charge admission. Ask nonprofit hatcheries to contribute a stipend of support.
Strongly disagree of a fee for submitting proposals. Some good proposals may fall thru the cracks.
Take advantage of offers from cities and towns and any other vendor who offers discounted or free support services
Within legal guide lines promote the idea of getting towns and cities to offer incentive packages which would save money. I believe it could be done in S.E. where in the winter months it would be advantages for say Sitka to offer incentives to Board's and participants to utilize their community.
Try it-ok with me-might eliminate a few.
WHY? Public process is a public resource charge the public maybe?
There should not be a proposal fee at all, combine current meetings.
Proposal should be vetted first by executive director to make sure it is Board relevant and not legislature relevant. Proposal then should be passed to appropriate AC's to deliberate. Then ones that successfully pass the appropriate AC are then passed to the Board. So therefore only thorough proposals are considered.
Pay for our voice whoa now which country are we in democracy in action
NO!
no
Charging a fee for organizations might be possible, but probably not enough to matter. Individuals should be encouraged to work with AC.
If a proposal fails the board vote. It cannot be brought up at the next cycle. Or one that is of similar language.
A non-consumptive user fee should be created so that these stakeholders could not only support funding but also have standing.
They should be funded by commercial user fees
I think that seeking non-governmental funding is problematic and would invite Big Business or subverting money.
Maybe KRSA should pay the payroll. Just kidding. But for how much money they've socked away tax-free, much of it from public officials, and how much they manipulate the process, especially confirmations, they should be paying for it for the control they exert and the damage it has incurred.
Charge a fee for the printed proposal books. No fee for submitting proposals.
A reasonable fee would make the process consider only serious requests and would help pay for administrative processes.
Reveal the corruption
Do away with board generate proposals.
I think you can't charge for proposal books, but I support charging if you can to make up for your expenses.
Charging the public to participate in the process is unacceptable. They are already bearing their own cost (i.e.: time away from work, travel expenses, etc.).
I actually like the idea of charging \$50-\$100 to submit a proposal. It might weed out some nonlegitimate proposals. What about having more fundraising events? I'd personally be more than happy to help with that.

Question 12. Are there specific actions the Legislature could take to help the boards reduce their costs?

Public and Advisory Committee Responses

I believe the legislature fully funded the Boards and Commissions budget, so I don't believe the legislature intended further cuts to this service.
No
The governor shouldn't waste the departments money on asking them to relocate cute little bears, when it's none of his business
Legislator should honestly look at license and tag fees again to support the ADFG, they should also look strongly at the record of the board members to identify agenda items and that do not fall within the purview of the appoint of that member. often as not a meeting is taken over by a board member and that member will have sufficient following on the board to push an agenda forward. (See Community harvest/ Nelchina caribou hunting? sheep proposals) the board should not be including its own proposals as the regulatory maker.
They need to reinstate the license fee for sports fishing charters and guides. Increase all fees for all resources
No
Yes. The legislature should allocate the necessary funding to this public process. Cut out frivolous spending by the ADFG and other state agencies, but keep the BOG, BOF, Advisory Committees and Board Support funding in place.
No the legislature should not give more authority to the boards
Legislature should stay out of the process. Their involvement politicizes and pollutes the entire board member selection process. Their budget actions mute the open and free conversation between the Department and the stakeholders.
Unknown
Fund the Boards cost of doing business.
N/a
Considering the extreme importance of fisheries to the Alaska's economy, legislature should provide an adequate budget to continue the Board of Fisheries as is.
Instead of reducing costs, more thought needs to be put into ways to increase revenues to fund the Board Support system. For example, a hunting license and tag fee increase to better support the game side.
Get rid of the conflict of interests from the board. If members are not conflicted from voting and better able to participate it would help them educate fellow board members and speed up all the meetings.
We need the board process to continue. Let's not let politicians work on this.
Bring it up to the Lawmakers Is this an essential service?
Negative very strongly disagree having the legislative fix to regulatory process
Use more teleconference and video link capabilities to save money on travel and lodging.
They should pare back waste and redundancy
Keep board meetings in centralized areas such as Anchorage. This will keep travel costs down
Only Alaska residents can submit proposals.
Not sure. Boards could meet with electronic support services i.e., teleconference and video conference. Board support person could reach out via electronic and social media instead of face to face travel.
Approve professional level candidates such as Robert Ruffner who have professional level experience.
Don't know.
Get out of the process

Question 11. Are there any revenue solutions that the boards should consider? For example: charging a fee for submitting proposals. Please be specific.

Public and Advisory Committee Responses

too many staff at meetings; mostly they mill around and look important and it gives them an opportunity to wear a tie, eat out, charge per diem, and get more miles on their accounts. They can appear telephonically.
Only involve the legislature if necessary.
The legislature should continue to fully fund the Boards process. Further diluting the public's involvement and the ability of the Boards to react in a timely manner is not reasonable.
The BOG should review certain proposals and be responsible to present them to legislature's.

Question 13. Please identify ideas related to use of ADF&G staff time.

Public and Advisory Committee Responses

ADF&G staff tie with the AC would reduce proposal workloads and educate public on issues. Many proposals are the result of poor understanding on either staff or public. Compromises could solve many problems.
Review staff commitments for proposals - sometimes staff travel to meeting to deal with one issue - this is where teleconferencing / video conferencing might reduce costs. If a staff person in Fairbanks has to travel to Cordova for a five day meeting to deal with a few proposals, is that the best use of staff time and expenses when a teleconference system could be a better use of time and resources.
Many times there are multiple ADF&G staff at Board meetings that do not have a reason to be present.
ADFG staff reports could be abbreviated or provided to the Board prior to the meeting to shorten the meeting time factor. Have the biologists available for questions from the board regarding specific proposals to save everyone's time (Board and ADFG)
Defer some ADFG staff projects and research until the SOA is through this current budget situation. Possibly staff layoffs if absolutely necessary.
Having staff comments and reports (guaranteed date by) published prior to public comment could in the end reduce staff time answering questions from the public and AC's if they were available 3 weeks before the public comments deadline, and you knew this information would be available prior to. This last cycle was better.
Stop wasting time on "non-game" and other programs in an attempt to mollify non-consumptive users. We have serious game mgt issues to deal with.
ADF&G staff comment durations are very personality driven. Some talk too much...
Staff seems to be operating at a maximum level with a minimum amount of individuals. There is a point where inefficiencies due to too many cuts outweigh the cost savings of cutting man hours.
Hard for me to judge these things not having seen how more or less of them would affect the process.
In Homer we have great support from fish and game staff.
The ADF&G staff are the people who keep the meetings moving smoothly and provide important information throughout the meeting process. Their attendance is extremely important for attendees of the meetings to gain information and direction in how to conduct their participation.
None of the staff should be reduced, they are all essential. .
Over all ADFG staff does a very good job educating AC members on many aspects. Staff comments are done well. Board Support does excellent work.
ADFG hinders the public process by not having staff reports before AC meetings and in time for comments due.
They are a valuable part of the process. Their budget is under attack too. Without their data decisions the AC's and

Question 13. Please identify ideas related to use of ADF&G staff time.

Public and Advisory Committee Responses

Board make are made more difficult.
They do a good job.
I have been less than impressed with local ADFG sport fish reps ability to explain or know relevant facts relating to a proposal. If they are not the most knowledgeable and prepared, it's a waste of their time.
Having support staff identify and help regulate the processes for meetings could help make them more efficient.
Look at specific data and be able to act.
Sometimes the number of ADF&G staff at a meeting is too much. The Board and public would benefit if ADF&G reports and comments were available sooner, this would waste less time asking questions and debating issues at the last minute.
Have a director write up a statement and get a low entry biologist to read it at meetings. Would cost less and would give young biologists great experience.

Question 14. Please offer any other thoughts you have on potential savings from changes to the board process.

Public and Advisory Committee Responses

The board process is meant to serve the public. So don't leave the public out of the process
Cut beverage service at meetings.
Again, I don't believe in the budget process that the legislature endorsed further cuts to the fish and game boards. I think they allocated money to do these essential services. It appears that cost savings on boards will be shifted to other departments within ADFG, which is not going to go over well with the Legislature or user groups.
The ability to call into meeting would reduce travel costs for the AC's and the public dramatically. AC's with pressing proposal should still have the option of participating in person.
Currently many AC are required to rent facilities to meet, look at new lower rent options. State offices that may be available in different areas. public facility etc.
Increase fees by all users groups. Increase penalty fees by those who break the law.
No public coffee
Abolish the non-game and fish programs, and reallocate these funds to The Board process. It seems very clear that you are attempting to remove the Advisory Committee and public input process. Shame on the SOA!
The entire tone of this exercise has seemed like the Dept is trying to find ways to disenfranchise the AC's. This is NOT a good idea and will end up torpedoing your credibility.
Fire the executive directors. Have the BOF members do more of the work.
Look at your accommodations costs and meeting places. We are holding government meetings, and no one needs to be pampered. If the hotels aren't to someone's liking, they can pay their own bills and go elsewhere.
It is not necessary to have the meetings in expensive convention centers. We are but humble fishermen. If it means continuing the process as it is with the same regularity, we would be just as happy in a free High School auditorium as in the Egan convention center.
Make adjustment where its wise in Board cycle, combine meetings, refine proposal and outreach program dealing with proposals issues, teleconference or call -ins with AC's reps during meetings, incentive to Board by localities where

Question 14. Please offer any other thoughts you have on potential savings from changes to the board process.

Public and Advisory Committee Responses

legal concerns are meant.
Do not change the process.
Some things cost money. Some things are worth the cost. This public process needs to be continued but can be streamlined.
Remember that this is our time to speak of changes we think are right.
Do not use high end hotels. Meet for a couple more hours after dinner. When deliberation begins only advisory committees can submit RC's or PC's
Utilize AC processes. Modify and enhance the function of AC and Board process.
I think the BOF staff does a great job and are good professionals who should not have to witness or tolerate the abuses that go on - it's very bad for morale.
Fewer hands in the pot would make for cost savings and go with the data. Overescapment is not the answer. Proper management is. With so many people in Anchorage it is not possible to manage the fishery for any amount of money. The Kenai is a feeding frenzy that will doom the river.
I am pleased that the BOF and the BOG are taking Alaska's budget issue seriously. I applaud the BOG for taking the step to lengthen the board cycle which helps save money and create stability for the public, board members and staff at the Boards and ADF&G. Find ways to tighten up the AC process and participation. Not to discourage the public from participating but to create reasonable expectations. 80 AC's is a lot.