

**OVERVIEW OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SYSTEM  
AND THE BOARDS OF FISHERIES AND GAME PROCESS  
FOR ADOPTING REGULATIONS**

**by**

**ADF&G Boards Support Section**

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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# Overview of the Advisory Committee System

## Introduction

There are 84 local fish and game advisory committees (ACs) around the state established in regulation by the Joint Board of Fisheries and Game (Joint Board). The ACs play an important role by providing local information and recommendations to the Boards of Fisheries (BOF) and the Board of Game (BOG). The ACs are supported by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Boards Support Section (boards support) for meeting coordination and funding. They are also supported by the other ADF&G divisions who regularly attend meetings and provide biologic and socioeconomic information to the committees on fish and game management issues.

The AC members are dedicated and contribute many hours of voluntary service to the fish and game regulatory process. ACs manage heavy workloads addressing BOG and BOF issues, as well as federal fisheries issues and the federal subsistence program. Several AC members participate in the federal subsistence Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) and some serve on Subsistence Resource Commissions.

The level of AC participation in the board process varies across the state. Nearly 60 of the 84 ACs met during the 2018/2019 board meeting cycle. Thirteen ACs, 12 of which in the Southeast Region, are considered inactive, having not met in recent memory. For the purpose of this report, active and inactive status used to describe AC activity differs from the active status provided for in regulation (5 AAC 96.450), which stipulates active status as having two meetings per year. The Joint Board will consider one proposal concerning active status for ACs (Proposal 27).

For several ACs, their ability to meet is constrained by their location in the state. In a 1981 report to the Joint Board (Zahn Report to the Joint Board, 1981, *Appendix A*), the ACs were described in three categories that still apply.

1. Rural ACs – membership is drawn from small remote communities, generally not connected by roads. Communication and transportation are cumbersome and associated costs exceed, by far, those of other committees.
2. Railbelt/Road-system ACs – these tend to be smaller communities that are on the road system and members tend to have ready access and communication for committee functions.
3. Urban ACs – these are the larger cities with good transportation and communication infrastructure, and include Fairbanks, Anchorage, Wasilla, and Juneau–Douglas.

There is a wide range of meeting frequency and participation during board meeting cycles for active ACs. ACs along the road system and urban ACs are able to meet more frequently. The urban committees meet as often as eight or nine times per board meeting cycle, while road-system committees tend to meet as needed. Rural, multi-community ACs generally meet once or twice per meeting cycle due to high costs associated with meetings. In the past, budget constraints limited many rural multi-community AC meetings to a single meeting per year.

## **Statutory and Regulatory Authority**

The statutory authority for ACs is from Alaska Statute (AS) 16.05.260.

**Sec. 16.05.260. Advisory committees.** The Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game may adopt regulations they consider advisable in accordance with AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) establishing, at places in the state designated by the individual boards, advisory committees to be composed of persons well informed on the fish or game resources of the locality. The boards shall set the number and terms of each of the members of the advisory committees, shall delegate one member of each committee as chairman, and shall give the chairman authority to hold public hearings on fish or game matters. Recommendations from the advisory committees shall be forwarded to the appropriate board for their consideration but if the Board of Fisheries or the Board of Game chooses not to follow the recommendations of the local advisory committee the appropriate board shall inform the appropriate advisory committee of this action and state the reasons for not following the recommendations. The commissioner shall delegate authority to advisory committees for emergency closures during established seasons. The commissioner is empowered to set aside and make null and void only opening of seasons set by the advisory committees under this section. The appropriate board shall adopt the necessary regulations governing these closures.

This authorizing statute essentially accomplishes three things: 1.) directs the Joint Board to develop the AC system, 2.) directs ACs to make recommendations to either board, and 3.) appoints ACs the ability to order emergency closures through the commissioner of ADF&G. The regulatory authority for ACs exists in Title 5, Chapters 96 and 97 of the Alaska Administrative Code (AAC). In general, these regulations include establishment, functions, uniform rules of order, and areas of jurisdiction.

## **Support for the Advisory Committees**

The State of Alaska supports the ACs with personnel and financial support. Boards support administers the AC system. There are five seasonal regional coordinators located in the Arctic, Western, Interior, Southwest, and Southcentral regions of the state, who provide technical and logistical support for the ACs. Support for Southeast Region ACs is provided by headquarters staff, who serve as the publication specialists for each board.

Travel expenditures cover costs associated with AC meetings and representative travel to board meetings. Funding for regional coordinator salary, travel expenses for staff and ACs are included in a separate budget appropriation from the Boards of Game and Fisheries. AC members do not receive a stipend for their work.

## **Historical Perspective**

The AC system began at statehood and expanded over the years. In 1981, there were 67 ACs with a total of 665 members. Today there are 84 committees with approximately 800 members throughout the state with some members serving for over 25 years.

In the 1981 report to the Joint Board, the overall effectiveness of the committee system noted several issues and trends which are still pertinent today. In his report, Zahn raised a number of considerations for the boards including:

1. Would an overall limit on the number of committees be useful?
2. Should closely adjacent communities have separate committees? Would a policy of fewer committees encourages neighboring towns to work together.
3. Would separate committees for fisheries and for game be more effective?
4. Should inactive committees be dissolved?
5. Is there a point of diminishing effectiveness in the public forum process? If so, what is it? An often-heard complaint is that people have too many meetings to attend and issues to consider. Does the number of inactive committees indicate a saturation point?
6. Should emergency closure authority be revised?
7. Should boards expect to settle intra-committee disputes regarding conduct at meetings?

In October 2001, the Joint Board initiated a comprehensive review of the state’s AC system by establishing a task force charged with performing a “scoping function” by identifying issues and examining ways to strengthen the AC system. The 12-member task force had statewide representation including 11 active or former AC members. The task force held two meetings, both in April 2002. The resulting report (“Status Report on Joint Board Task Force on Advisory Committees,” *Appendix B*) was forwarded to each board in December 2002. The task force identified a number of issues including: timing/organization, public input, training, elections, funding and interaction.

The BOF and the BOG separately took the task force recommendations under advisement, but did not schedule a meeting to consider regulatory action due to budget and scheduling limitations.

**Joint Board Meetings Since 1985**

The Joint Board met to consider proposals on AC regulations frequently over the years. Other Joint Board meetings have addressed topics of common jurisdiction to both boards, such as to address areawide management plans, to respond to changes in the state’s subsistence law, and to establish nonsubsistence areas.

**JOINT BOARD MEETINGS AND WORK SESSIONS, 1985 TO PRESENT**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Topics</b>
March 1985	Anchorage	Twenty-two proposals on AC regulations and one to adopt a Joint Board Petition Policy.
November 12–14, 1985	Anchorage	Subsistence procedures, habitat protection, and AC regulations.
September 28, 1988	Anchorage	Work session.
April 24-26, 1989	Anchorage	Fourteen proposals on AC regulations.
March 12–14, 1990	Anchorage	Thirty-eight proposals on AC regulations and one to adopt a subsistence proposal policy.
October 1990	Anchorage	New “all Alaskan” ruling.
February 23–25, 1991	Juneau	Twenty-six proposals on AC regulations, process for adopting regulations, and subsistence procedures.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Topics</b>
October 27–28, 1992	Anchorage	Four proposals on AC regulations.
November 1–7, 1992	Anchorage	Nonsubsistence area determinations, eight criteria.
March 6–7, 1993	Juneau	Nonsubsistence area revisions, Kachemak Bay Management Plan.
April 28, 1994	teleconference	Nonsubsistence areas resulting from <i>Kenaitze v. State</i> .
April 3–5, 1997	Anchorage	Initial action on 19 proposals on AC regulations and additional proposals, including Bristol Bay Reserve.
August 1, 1997	teleconference	Discussion of governor’s subsistence panel.
Feb. 27–March 1, 1998	Anchorage	Nineteen proposals on AC regulations plus others; two new ACs were created.
March 21, 2006	Anchorage	One proposal on AC member qualifications.
October 5–8, 2007	Anchorage	Thirty-nine proposals total; 37 on AC regulations and two on nonsubsistence areas. Two new ACs were created and two were merged into one.
May 13, 2011	Teleconference	Requests for removal of two members on the Anchorage AC and one member on the Juneau/Douglas AC.
October 12-16, 2013	Anchorage	Forty-one proposals on AC regulations, nonsubsistence areas, and subsistence uses and procedures. Three new ACs were created; two of which resulted from the splitting of an existing AC.

*Note: This list does not include the periodic Joint Board meetings convened for purposes of the commissioner selection process.*

During the March 1985 meeting, the boards adopted the Joint Board petition policy in addition to addressing general AC rules of operation. During the March 1990 meeting, the board adopted the subsistence proposal policy. Proposals concerning committee procedures or committee–board interaction were not adopted; however, remaining procedural issues were referred to the separate boards. Indirect outcomes of the 1997–1998 review included implementing more stringent requirements for BOF agenda change requests, as well as nonregulatory changes, such as initial development of the BOF’s committee process and updating the AC manual.

The March 2006 meeting deferred a proposal concerning AC member qualifications to the October 2007 meeting where the Joint Board addressed 39 proposals. The changes made during the 2007 Joint Board meeting were adjustments to the designated seats for nine committees [Edna Bay, Copper Basin, Mt. Yenlo, Tok Cutoff/Nabesna, Lower Yukon, Upper Kobuk, Middle Nenana River, Middle Yukon, and Grayling/Anvik/Shageluk/Holy Cross (GASH)], establishment of the Susitna Valley, Stony/Holitna, and merging the Western Arctic and the Eastern Arctic ACs into a single, North Slope AC, changing the overall number of ACs to 82.

On March 13, 2011, the Joint Board met via teleconference to address three requests for removal of AC members. As a result of this meeting, the boards concluded the need to schedule a Joint Board meeting to address regulatory proposals, including one generated from a committee of the Joint Board to provide clarification regarding removal for cause, submission of minutes, and implementing disciplinary measures under *Robert's Rules of Order*.

The Joint Board last met to review regulatory proposals in October 2013 for five days. Along with deliberating on 41 proposals, the board also held a leadership work session with ACs, and heard from an ad hoc working group of ACs which made a number of recommendations to the board. The board created the Bethel AC and also split what was the Lower Yukon AC into the Coastal Lower Yukon and Mid-Lower Yukon ACs bringing the number of ACs to 84. The Joint Board passed a number of changes to the rules of operation and repealed regulations concerning regional councils and functions. Perhaps most notably, the board did not pass subsistence related proposals including two to create non-subsistence area around Kodiak and Bethel.

## Advisory Committee and Board Process Issues Related to Joint Board Proposals

### Ability to Meet

Rural, multi-community ACs that must travel to meet (traveling ACs) can have as many as 13 community-designated seats. Travel costs associated with meetings are significant and coordination is challenging. Twenty-six of the 84 ACs fit this description and are listed in Table 1. Prior to significant budget cuts to the boards support budget in FY15 and FY16, and subsequent travel restrictions, traveling ACs were allotted two face-to-face meetings. With just one meeting, these ACs often have long agendas which result in meetings lasting one or two days to address a large number of issues. The following paragraph was written by the boards support Western Region regional coordinator. While written about Western Region ACs, the situation is emblematic for all the traveling ACs.

*“All Western Region ACs are located off the traditional road system and transportation to/from communities requires travel by air, boat, ATV, snow machine, or river ice roads in the winter. The high cost of travel in this area and unpredictable weather creates significant challenges to conducting in-person meetings. In recent years, six of the seven ACs have been limited to one face-to-face meeting per meeting cycle. The exception to this is the Bethel AC since all members reside in Bethel and significant travel is not required. State per diem and travel reimbursement are often insufficient to cover meals and compensate for the high cost of fuel needed for the unique surface travel needs of the region. Having a single AC spread over 12 or more communities creates additional difficulties reaching quorum, retaining and recruiting members, and involving the public in this important regulatory process. Difficulties persist in recruiting younger community members to actively participate in the state’s regulatory process. Unreliable internet and cellular services in the region negatively impact the ability to hold teleconference-based AC meetings. Translation services are needed for some advisory committees making teleconferences additionally challenging. These challenges often prevent Western Region ACs ability to fully engage in the process.”*

This functional impediment to meet puts traveling ACs on an unequal footing with road-system or single community ACs. While the traveling ACs are successful in completing the primary purpose of providing recommendations to the boards, in general they are less

**Table 1: Traveling Rural ACs**

<b>Southeast (22 ACs total)</b>
None
<b>Southcentral (18 ACs total)</b>
None
<b>Southwest (12 ACs total)</b>
Nushagak (9 communities)
Kodiak (4 communities)
Lake Iliamna (6 communities)
Lower Bristol Bay (4 communities)
Togiak (3 communities)
Chignik (5 communities)
<b>Western (7 ACs total)</b>
Central Bering Sea (13 communities)
Lower Kuskokwim (12 communities)
Central Kuskokwim (5 communities)
Stony/Holitna (4 communities)
Mid-Lower Yukon (7 communities)
Coastal Lower Yukon (6 communities)
<b>Arctic (9 ACs total)</b>
Northern Norton Sound (8 communities)
Northern Seward Peninsula (2 communities)
Upper Kobuk (3 communities)
Lower Kobuk (3 communities)
Noatak/Kivalina (2 communities)
North Slope (8 communities)
Southern Norton Sound (5 communities)
<b>Interior (15 ACs total)</b>
McGrath (4 communities)
Yukon Flats (8 communities)
Tanana/Rampart/Manley (3 communities)
Middle Yukon (4 communities)
Koyukuk River (5 communities)
Grayling/Anvik/Shageluk/Holy Cross (4 communities)
Minto/Nenana (2 communities)

able to delve deeply into other fish and game matters and develop proposals for upcoming cycles. As this remains mainly a budget issue there are no proposals before the Joint Board to address this shortcoming of the AC system.

### **Advisory Committee Elections**

A more challenging area of operation for ACs is conducting elections. While most elections occur with little fanfare, challenges persist. There are over a hundred community designated seats where elections are conducted in the community. Boards Support staff is unable to physically attend to elections in those communities and must rely on community organizations whether it is the city or tribal government or another organization. Generally this works well, but there are some communities that have disputed election results and others where assistance is challenging. The end result are communities with AC seats that have not faced an election for multiple years. Proposal 21 allows AC chairs the option of declaring a vacancy for expired designating seats which may compel an election.

Boards support plans to further address this issue through administrative action. It will ask community organizations to provide resolutions giving guidance and procedures for conducting elections in their communities in a timely manner.

The other notable election anomaly occurs in the larger urban ACs when particular interest groups organize membership to attend an election and “vote-in” their membership. This is not against the current rules and there are no proposals before the Joint Board to address the practice. Certain ACs, notably Kenai/Soldotna, Kodiak, and several Southeast Region ACs, have designated user seats in an attempt to attract and maintain a diverse set of user groups. Implementing this practice is arguably best done at the AC level.

### **Cumbersome Uniform Rules of Operation**

Boards support staff relies heavily on the Uniform Rules of Operation (5 AAC 96.060) for administering ACs. With 84 diverse and complex committees, establishing a simple set of rules has proven anything but simple. Well intended efforts over the years to solve problems in the AC system has the long-term effect of creating a cumbersome set of regulations that can be onerous to navigate.

In offering a number of regulatory changes to the rules section for the 2019 Joint Board meeting, boards support is attempting to streamline certain areas, and in other areas, at the risk of creating more confusion, solve a particular problem. The department and other proposers recommended operation-related regulations in proposals 11, 15, 17-25, and 27.

### **Inactivity of Advisory Committees**

AC rules of operation provide definitions for “active” and “inactive” ACs. An AC must meet two times in a calendar year to be “active”. As discussed previously, with limited funding this is a difficult test. It is also a standard of limited administrative importance. There are several ACs that have not met for a number of years. Most, with the exception of the Lake Minchumina and St. Lawrence Island ACs are in the Southeast region. Of the twenty-three Southeast ACs, twelve have not met in at least five years. Encouragingly, this year two ACs met, Ketchikan and East Prince of Wales, Klawock intends to meet in April, and interest was expressed from Kake, Angoon, and the communities of Hoonah and Gustavus from the Icy Straits AC.

For an AC to be defined as inactive the Joint Board make that declaration. Given a sparse Joint Board meeting schedule, that will happen infrequently if at all. Inactivity does not automatically lead to dissolution so it is unclear what it matters to be “inactive”. In practice, an AC will “activate” when there is a need and per regulations need only have a single meeting to become active.

Boards support struggles to evaluate the importance of the “active AC” delineation. There is little administrative cost to having an inactive AC. There may be the perception that many inactive ACs denote an ineffective system, but truly inactive ACs mainly persist in the Southeast region. Inactivity could be linked to population declines, shifts in local economic interests, or other reasons. Whatever is causing the inactivity, it has proven difficult for the Joint Board to dissolve an AC, while relatively simple to agree to forming another one.

For the purposes of administering the AC program this regulation is impractical. Many ACs will meet when there is a need. This may occur once a year or once every three years. Regardless, the AC maintains communication with boards support and engages when needed.

Board support sought to test the Joint Board’s appetite for dissolving an AC through Proposal 6, although there are ACs in the Southeast region that may be more appropriate. The department is also proposing to remove the definition of active v. inactive with Proposal 27. No change is proposed to regulations that “dissolve” an AC.

### **Areas of Jurisdiction**

Areas of jurisdiction is another perplexing function of the AC system. The authorizing statute for ACs, AS 16.05.260, provides the ability for ACs to call for emergency closures in the event of a conservation concern. This provision gives individuals proximate to the resource the ability to act on a resource conservation concern in a timely manner. However, practical realities and the manner in which it is written in regulation makes implementation cumbersome.

The guiding regulations in 5 AAC 97.010. Advisory committee emergency closures, requires a majority of ACs in the defined “areas of jurisdiction” to affirm an emergency closure initiated by a single AC. First, calling together an AC, not to mention several ACs, in the middle of a fishery or hunt is problematic. Depending on the game management unit (GMU) or fisheries, the number of ACs that must engage is significant. If a conservation issue befalls a Southeast shellfish fishery, twenty-two Southeast ACs serve the area, meaning 12 need to affirm the decision. With 12 ACs that have not met in recent memory, this becomes a near impossibility to comply. Proposal 15 attempts to remedy this issue.

There are other “areas of jurisdiction” related issues. There are a number of instances in regulation where an AC has an area of jurisdiction to which they are not proximately located. 5 AAC 97.005. Areas of jurisdiction, establishes AC jurisdictions. In the Southeast Region, all ACs garner jurisdiction over all fisheries in the region. Southeast Alaska, also known as the Alexander Archipelago, is over 300 miles long and encompasses over 1,000 islands. User activity in the region is often localized. Moving further north, the Anchorage AC has jurisdiction in ten GMUs including GMU 8 (Kodiak), GMU 9 (Alaska Peninsula), and GMU 19 (upper Kuskokwim).

For identifying conservation concerns and providing a rapid response, increasing the number of ACs that must affirm that determination, in particular those not within the region, makes statutory implementation less effective.

Areas of jurisdiction also has a nexus with AC elections. Based on the Uniform Rules of Operation in 5 AAC 06.060(e)(3), Membership, it reads:

“Each committee members, and each voting age resident of the area of committee jurisdiction in 5 AAC 97.005 who attends a committee election, may vote on a nomination for membership. ... To the extent practicable, ... membership must include representatives from each town or village located in the area that the committee represents.”

5 AAC 96.060(h), Nomination, reads:

“A committee member or resident of the area served by the committee who qualified under this section may submit a nomination for committee membership ... A person qualifies as a resident of the area served by the committee if the person is a resident as defined in AS 16.05.940 who maintains an abode in the area served by the committee described in 5 AAC 97.005 *{Areas of Jurisdiction}*.”

We construe this to mean anyone residing in a committee’s area of jurisdiction may nominate and vote for an AC member. That individual may also serve on the AC. For instance, in the Southeast Region finfish and shellfish management areas, every AC in Southeast is listed in the area of jurisdiction regulations. That means anyone who resides anywhere in the Southeast finfish and shellfish region may nominate anyone who meets the qualifications for membership to any of the Southeast ACs. Therefore, someone residing in the northern community of Skagway could nominate and vote in a Saxman AC election in the southern area of the region.

Staying with the Southeast region, but focusing on game issues, the areas of jurisdiction are more locally derived. For instance, if you reside in GMU 1A, you can only nominate and vote in elections for the Ketchikan, Hyder, Craig, Klawock, Saxman, Hydaburg, and East Prince of Wales ACs. However, because the finfish area of jurisdiction provisions are cast much more broadly, an individual living in Skagway interested in GMU 1A issues has the ability to nominate and vote in the southern AC elections.

In another example, an individual residing in GMU 13, which includes the communities of Eureka, Copper Center, Glennallen, Gulkana, Gakona, Paxson, and Cantwell, may nominate and vote in elections for the Paxson, Copper Basin, Middle Nenana River, Tok Cutoff/Nebesna Road, Denali, Anchorage, Matanuska Valley, Copper River/Prince William Sound, and Susitna Valley ACs because these ACs have GMU 13 as an area of jurisdiction. However, residents of GMU 14 which includes Anchorage, Wasilla, Palmer, Talkeetna, and Girdwood, may not vote in any of the GMU 13 based ACs like Copper Basin, Middle Nenana River, or Tok Cutoff/Nebesna Road, because those ACs do not list GMU 14 as an area of jurisdiction.

Essentially residents of an impacted area have the right to nominate and vote in elections of ACs that have jurisdiction over their area, regardless of how remote and distant those residents may be from the AC locale. This is most prominent for the Anchorage AC, which has areas of jurisdiction for Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay Area finfish and GMUs 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 19. This determines that residents from Prince William Sound, all of the Kenai Peninsula, Kodiak, Bristol Bay, the Alaska Peninsula, the Upper Copper River/Wrangell St. Elias regions, those living along the Parks and Glenn highways, those living on the westside of Cook Inlet up through Denali

National Preserve, and finally those living along the upper portions of the Kuskokwim River from Lower Kalskag up to Nikolai, may all nominate members, vote, and serve on the Anchorage AC.

Given the complexity of this body of law, the Joint Board may wish to reflect on whether there are ways to make it more workable to accomplish what the original statute intended. Further, using it as a standard for AC elections may not be its best use. Proposal 12 seeks to require AC members to live within the AC's geographic area. Proposal 13 seeks to have a few ACs removed from the Cook Inlet finfish areas of jurisdiction.

### **Advisory Committee Frustration at Board Decisions**

AC are often frustrated at the outcome of actions by the boards. ACs cite they are ignored or not given enough voice. To accommodate concerns each board modified their processes. The BOF implemented the committee process around 1997 to gain more information and increase public participation. ACs were named ex-officio members of all committees. Recently, the BOF modified the committee process to provide additional opportunity for discussion between the public and all board members by using the "Committee of the Whole" process. The BOG recently changed its AC testimony process to provide AC representatives the opportunity to testify just prior to deliberation of the proposals for their areas. The BOG also uses an informal, town hall committee process to address complex issues in which all AC representatives can participate.

Frustration is understandable, but perhaps an inevitability of the system. The AC function developed in statute is to provide advice. Depending on the importance of an issue, giving advice may not be enough for some members. There are two proposals (28 and 29) that bring back a concept presented before the boards at prior meetings to have ACs sit at the board table during deliberations for proposals they authored or by which they are affected.

### **Alaska Statute 16.05.300 Board Meetings**

AS 16.05.300 provides legislative instruction to the boards for conducting meetings. This statute was last amended in 1975 when the Board of Fisheries and Game split into two boards. Based on legislative research, the 1975 amendment added subsection (b) which required the BOF to physically meet in five regions of the state. This statute was written at a time when forms of communication were limited to in-person or on a phone. Videoconferencing, facsimiles, and the internet were not available. It was also a time when the board was not receiving upwards of 600-800 proposals in a year. All of this has come to pass and the BOF adjusted its process accordingly. Today, the BOF meets the intent of the statute through the agenda change request process which allows areas of the state to have time-sensitive fisheries issues vetted by the BOF even if region and species is not in-cycle.

Concerns remain despite these external factors that fundamentally changed the way the BOF conducts its business. There are three proposals before the Joint Board (Proposals 30-32) seeking to define terms that would compel the BOF to physically meet in each region in AS 16.05.300(b).

### **Joint Board Petition Policy and Subsistence Proposal Policies**

There are proposals seeking changes to the Joint Board's Petition Policy (petition policy) in 5 AAC 96.625 and the Subsistence Proposal Policy in 5 AAC 96.615. The petition policy gives guidance and standards for adopting emergency regulations. The policy is written unlike most regulations

in that a majority of it serves as a preamble or explanation of how the board handles petitions versus proposals. This often goes unnoticed as readers hone in on the last section which deals with emergency petitions and drives action. However, the initial sections are as important.

The overarching body of law that controls all state agency regulatory processes, including the Boards of Fisheries and Game, is the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) found in AS 44.62. In following the hierarchy of laws, regulations must conform with statutes. The APA allows the public to submit “petitions” virtually at any time although there is no requirement for an agency to initiate a proposed regulation if the agency denies the petitions. APA does not provide any prescription for why a petition can be denied. Much of the petition policy explains how the boards thorough, consistent, and highly public regulatory processes serve as the denial for petitions received outside of one of the established processes, unless of course the petition is found to be an emergency.

The subsistence proposal policy was adopted by the Joint Boards in 1990 to help the boards address a backlog of customary and traditional (C&T) findings and amount reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS) determinations. The policy allows out of cycle subsistence proposals to be heard when submitted at the Call for Proposal deadline so long as certain criteria are met. The subsistence proposal policy is not used as often as the petition policy, but it is referenced in the petition policy as a standard for adopting subsistent petitions received outside either the call for proposal or agenda change request deadlines. There are four proposals (proposals 34, 35, 36, 37) requesting the Joint Board modify these policies.

#### **Alaska Statute 44.62.310 Open Meetings Act**

ACs are considered “governmental bodies” under the Open Meetings Act (OMA). The OMA requires public notice be given for meetings of the body, whenever more than three members or a majority of the members, whichever is less, gather. The OMA applies to the ACs and the boards. In 2014 the Alaska Superior Court ruled in *Alaska Wildlife Alliance et. al. v Spraker and Alaska Board of Game*, that the use of email by the BOG violated the OMA when used to determine whether a public petition appeared appropriate for an emergency petition. Subsequent to this ruling, both boards discontinued calling meetings via email for emergency petitions.

This ruling extends to ACs. The most common reason for ACs to gather on email is to approve recommendations when time does not allow for a full meeting of the committee. The court findings dictate the use of email to conduct AC business is a violation of the OMA. There is one proposal before the Joint Board (proposal 22) which requests the use of email for ACs to discuss and vote on certain issues. Proposal 24 seeks to clarify ACs are governed under the OMA.

#### **Conclusion**

This report is provided to the Joint Board to provide background information of the AC system and the board regulatory process related to some of the proposals before the Joint Board at the March 2019 meeting. ACs provide a valuable service for the state’s fish and game regulatory process by providing a local forum for the public to participate and as a conduit for passing local information to the boards and resource managers. Many of the issues before the Joint Board have been topics of discussion at several past board meetings and many are new proposals to modify the boards’ regulatory processes. When considering proposals that will increase expenses such as travel for increases to AC membership and the need for additional board meetings, ADF&G asks

the Joint Board to consider the fiscal impacts resulting from the adoption of the proposals. Additional funding for the board and AC program is unavailable to support the regulatory changes being considered by the boards. Regardless of the actions taken by the Joint Board at this meeting, ADF&G will continue to work towards improving the AC system and identifying ways to help ACs be more effective with their meetings, providing transparency in both AC and Joint Board processes, and facilitating public participation.

## Advisory Committee Regional Reports

### Arctic Region Advisory Committees

The Arctic Region has nine ACs representing 34 communities across the Arctic and Northwestern Alaska. All but one AC in this region, the Kotzebue AC, serves multiple communities. All but one of the ACs serving multiple communities have designated seats. The Saint Lawrence Island AC does not have designated seats, but represents the communities of Savoogna and Gambell. Seven of the ACs met during the 2018–2019 meeting cycle. The St. Lawrence Island AC has not met since 2014 and the Upper Kobuk last met in 2016.

Geographic features: None of the ACs are on a road system that connect to other communities except for the 80-mile Nome-Teller highway used during the summer months. There are ice roads in the winter months mostly used to haul fuel and supplies, or for an occasional ice fishing expedition or recreation. The Arctic Region contains the following major water bodies: rivers - Kobuk, Selawik, Noatak, Buckland, Deering, Unalakleet, Colville, Meade and Nome; sounds - Kotzebue and Norton; and seas - Chukchi and Beaufort. Large expanses of land are managed by the federal government in the form of preserves, parks, monuments and national wildlife refuges. There are also many private landholders, including land owned by Native corporations and through Native allotments.

General areas of interest: There are several overlapping areas of concern shared by the Arctic Region ACs, including the Western Arctic caribou herd (WACH), disruptions in caribou migrations, and increasing brown bear and wolf populations and their relationship to declining numbers of caribou and moose. The muskoxen have proven to be a nuisance species with some of them desecrating cemetery markers in one village and attacking dog lots in other areas resulting in the defense of life and property.

Region specific proposals: The Joint Board will consider three proposals for this region. Proposal 9 requests a name change from Kotzebue AC to Kotzebue Sound AC. Proposal 10 requests the Joint Board reduce the number of undesignated seats for ACs in the Arctic region. and Proposal 14 seeks to update the area of jurisdiction for westward area king crab to include the Kotzebue AC.

### Northern Norton Sound – Charlie Lean, Chair

The Northern Norton Sound AC represents the communities of Nome, Elim, Wales, Golovin, White Mountain, Shishmaref, Teller, Brevig and Mission. There are also two undesignated seats for a total of 15 members. The communities are located in GMUs 22B, 22C, 22D, and 22E. The areas of jurisdiction for game are GMUs 22 and 23, Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area for finfish, and Registration Area Q for shellfish. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Nome	6 representatives	Shishmaref	1 representative
Elim	1 representative	Teller	1 representative
Wales	1 representative	Brevig Mission	1 representative
Golovin	1 representative	Undesignated	2 representatives
White Mountain	1 representative		

Current committee status: The Northern Norton Sound AC seats are all currently filled with the two undesignated seats held by Nome residents. The AC is active, holding two meetings per year.

Areas of interest: Recent interests for the AC include moose matters, proxy hunting on muskoxen, brown bear hunting in Unit 22, salmon management plans in the Norton Sound, and crab pot loss. AC members participate on the WACH working group and Seward Peninsula RACs.

**Northern Seward Peninsula – Percy Ballot, Chair**

The Northern Seward Peninsula AC represents the communities of Buckland and Deering and has ten undesignated seats for a total of 15 seats. The communities are located in GMU 23. The areas of jurisdiction for game are GMUs 22 and 23, and the Kotzebue Sound Area for finfish. The community-designated seats are:

Buckland	3 representatives	Undesignated	10 representatives
Deering	2 representatives		

Current committee status: The current membership for the Northern Seward Peninsula AC is six with four members from Buckland and two from Deering. Prior to 2013, the AC included designated seats for the village of Selawik. During the 2013 Joint Board meeting, the boards adopted a proposal from the Selawik members serving on the AC seeking to redistribute their seat designations to the Lower Kobuk AC. The AC is active, holding one to two meetings per cycle, often by teleconference.

Areas of interest: Subsistence hunting and fishing dominates AC discussion. The issues of concern for the AC include caribou, moose, muskoxen, wolves, sheefish, brown bears, and transporters. Members of the AC are active on the WACH and the Northwest Arctic RAC.

**Upper Kobuk – Shield Downey, Chair**

The Upper Kobuk AC represents the communities of Ambler, Shungnak, and Kobuk with twelve seats, two of which are undesignated. The areas of jurisdiction for the AC for game are GMU 23 and the Kotzebue Sound Area for finfish. The community-designated seats listed in regulations for the AC are:

Ambler	3 representatives	Kobuk	2 representatives
Shungnak	3 representatives	Undesignated	2 representatives

Current committee status: Current membership for the AC is eight members including three from Ambler, three from Shungnak, and two from Kobuk. The AC has not met since December 2016.

Areas of interest: Issues of concern for the AC in the past is mainly game-related including moose, bear, and wolf populations, and caribou migration. Residents indicate difficulties harvesting caribou in the fall hunting season. The AC has also been interested in sheefish issues.

**Lower Kobuk – Larry Westlake, Chair**

The Lower Kobuk AC represents the communities of Noorvik, Kiana, and Selawik. It has 15 seats including seven undesignated seats. The areas of jurisdiction for game is GMU 23 and the Kotzebue Sound Area for finfish. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Noorvik	3 representatives	Selawik	3 representatives
Kiana	2 representatives	Undesignated	7 representatives

Current committee status: The current membership of nine includes four from Noorvik, two from Kiana, and three from Selawik. Prior to 2013, the AC did not have seat designations for the village of Selawik; these seats were added in 2013 by the Joint Board in response to a proposal

by the Selawik members serving on the Northern Seward Peninsula AC. The AC met once this meeting cycle, and generally will meet one or two times depending on the meeting cycle.

Areas of interest: Issues of concern for the AC include sheefish, research on the Selawik and Kobuk rivers, caribou migration, and predation on moose and caribou. Members observe changing climate may be impacting caribou. Members of the AC are active in the WACH working group.

**Noatak/Kivalina – Enoch Mitchell, Chair**

The Noatak/Kivalina AC represents the communities of Noatak and Kivalina. There are ten undesigned seats for a total of 15 members. The communities are located in GMU 23. The area of jurisdiction for game is GMU 23 and the Kotzebue Sound Area for finfish. The community-designated seats are:

Noatak	3 representatives	Undesignated	10 representatives
Kivalina	2 representatives		

Current committee status: The Noatak/Kivalina AC seats are currently filled by five Noatak residents and 3 Kivalina residents. The AC is active holding up to two meetings a year and typically holds one to two meetings per cycle.

Areas of interest: The interests for the Noatak/Kivalina AC include caribou and trout. Changes in caribou migration is making traditional hunting patterns difficult. Several AC members participate in the WACH working group. The Chair is a member of the Northwest Alaska RAC.

**North Slope – Enoch Oktollik, Chair**

The North Slope AC represents the communities of Utqiagvik, Point Hope, Point Lay, Wainwright, Atqasuk, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut and Anaktuvuk Pass. There is one undesigned seat for a total of nine members. The communities are located in GMU 26A. The area of jurisdiction for game is GMU 26. It is not listed for shellfish or finfish jurisdiction. The community-designated seats are:

Barrow (Utqiagvik)	1 representative	Kaktovik	1 representative
Point Hope	1 representative	Nuiqsut	1 representative
Point Lay	1 representative	Anaktuvuk Pass	1 representative
Wainwright	1 representative	Undesignated	1 representative
Atqasuk (Atqasuk)	1 representative		

Current committee status: The North Slope AC seats are currently filled with one undesigned seat held by an Utqiagvik resident. The North Slope AC also serves as the North Slope Fish & Game Management Committee, receiving support from the North Slope Borough. The AC may meet once a cycle, and meets quarterly as the borough committee.

Areas of interest: The interests for the AC include bowhead whales and polar bears. The people remain vigilant ensuring the continued bowhead whale hunts. Members of the AC sit on national and international whale organizations. Local hunters note changes in polar bear patterns based on changing environmental conditions. Members of the AC are active on the North Slope RAC.

**Southern Norton Sound – Wade Ryan, Chair**

The Southern Norton Sound AC represents the communities of Unalakleet, St. Michael, Stebbins, Shaktoolik, and Koyuk for a total of 15 members. The communities are located in GMU 22A. The

area of jurisdiction for game is GMU 22A and Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area for finfish. The community-designated seats are:

Unalakleet	6 representatives	Shaktoolik	2 representatives
St. Michael	2 representatives	Koyuk	2 representatives
Stebbins	2 representatives	Undesignated	1 representative

Current committee status: The Southern Norton Sound AC seats are partially filled. There are four members from Unalakleet, one from St. Michael, one from Shaktoolik, and one from Koyuk. The undesignated seat has remained vacant for many years. The AC is active and typically meets one per meeting cycle.

Areas of interest: Major issues of interest for the AC include moose surveys and hunting opportunity, and commercial and subsistence fishing. They oppose the removal of same day airborne restrictions and use of aircraft for taking big game. The AC would like to see a bonus point system for muskoxen drawing hunts. There are concerned about the lack of king salmon in the region. Members of the AC are active on the WACH working group.

**Kotzebue – Lance Kramer, Chair**

The Kotzebue AC represents the single community of Kotzebue. The committee has 15 seats. The community is located in GMU 23. The areas of jurisdiction for game are GMUs 22 and 23, and Kotzebue Sound Area for finfish.

Current committee status: The Kotzebue AC membership is currently ten members. The AC holds one or two meetings per cycle.

Areas of interest: Major issues of concern for the AC include caribou in GMU 23 and the changing migration patterns creating difficulties with historical hunts; chum salmon runs; and sheefish in the Kotzebue Sound and Kobuk Lake.

**St. Lawrence Island – Iver Campbell, Chair (term expired 2016)**

The St. Lawrence Island AC represents the communities of Gambell and Savoonga. The AC has 15 undesignated seats. The areas of jurisdiction for game is GMU 22, Registration Area Q for king crab, and the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area for finfish.

Current committee status: The AC has not met since 2014.

Areas of interest: Previously the AC focused significantly on fisheries issues. Current areas of interest are unknown.

### **Interior Region Advisory Committees**

The Interior Region encompasses 15 ACs. Four ACs are accessible via the road system (Upper Tanana/Fortymile, Delta, Fairbanks, and Middle Nenana) and usually meet on a monthly or bimonthly basis. Three ACs are not on the road system and represent single communities (Central, Eagle, and Ruby). These ACs tend to only meet once or twice a cycle unless there are issues warranting more frequent meetings. The Minto/Nenana AC is connected via the road system, but it is more feasible to fly members to a central location. The remaining Interior ACs are composed of multiple communities connected only via air or snow machine trails (Grayling /Anvik /Shageluk /Holy Cross, Koyukuk River, McGrath, Middle Yukon, Tanana/Rampart/Manley, and Yukon Flats). These ACs meet once or twice a cycle depending on funding and need. All Interior ACs, except Lake Minchumina, met during the 2018/2019 meeting cycle.

Geographic features: The Interior Region covers a large area, stretching south to McKinley Village, west to Holy Cross, north to Arctic Village, and east to the Canadian border. Contained within the boundaries of the region is a large portion of the Yukon River and its drainages, as well as the upper portions of the Kuskokwim River and its drainages. The Interior Region includes GMUs 12, 19C, 19D, 20, 21, 24, and 25. It contains seven national wildlife refuges, a national preserve, a national park and preserve, a national recreation area, and a national conservation area. There is also a U.S. Air Force base, two U.S. Army bases, and their designated training areas. Because of the checkerboard land management and ownership, many members of the ACs in the Interior Region are also active participants in the federal subsistence RACs, and the National Park Service Subsistence Resource Commissions (SRCs).

General areas of interest: Predominant concerns for most Interior Region communities deal with big game hunting and furbearer trapping. Across the board, many communities are increasingly concerned with salmon and non-salmon stocks in the Yukon and Kuskokwim drainages, and the ability of salmon to make escapement while meeting resident subsistence needs. Nearly all the ACs show an interest in marine waters fisheries, especially intercept fisheries and pelagic trawl salmon bycatch. Many discussions at meetings, and nearly all proposals brought before the boards, share the common themes of declining resources, nonlocal and nonresident users, and meeting local needs. Rural residents in the Interior Region have limited employment prospects, and maintaining a subsistence lifestyle of hunting, fishing, and trapping is a necessity to many. This area is home to a diverse population, with both consumptive and nonconsumptive user groups. The Interior Region also hosts thousands of nonlocals and nonresidents who visit to hunt, fish, recreate, and sightsee every year.

Region specific proposals: The Joint Board will consider two proposals that affect this region. Proposal 4 seeks to move the regulatory placement for the Stony/Holitna AC from the Western Region to the Interior Region and Proposal 6 seeks to dissolve the Lake Minchumina AC.

### **Central – Bill Glanz, Chair**

The Central AC represents the community of Central, and has nine undesignated seats. The community of Central is located in GMU 25C, and the areas of jurisdiction for game are GMUs 20 and 25, and the Upper Yukon River area for finfish.

Current committee status: The Central AC has nine seats currently filled by members residing in and around Central. This an active committee holding one or two meetings per year.

Areas of interest: Member interests include moose hunting in GMUs 25 and 20B, the Fortymile and the White Mountain caribou herds, trapping, and concerns with dual state/federal management and enforcement on the Yukon River. Members of the AC also participate in the federal subsistence RAC system. This committee is active in the recent international Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Management Coalition and assisted with drafting the 2019-2023 Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan.

### **Delta – Carl Taylor, Chair**

The Delta AC represents the community of Delta Junction, and is comprised of 11 undesignated seats. The community of Delta Junction is located in GMU 20D, and the areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 12 and 20. The area of jurisdiction for finfish is the Tanana River.

Current committee status: The Delta AC has 11 seats filled by residents in and around Delta. The Delta AC is an active, holding monthly meetings during the winter and spring.

Areas of interest: This highly organized, active AC is interested in many statewide and local issues. It is proactive in ensuring moose, predator, and game bird populations and seasons are in line with carrying capacity. Other recent topics managed include the local bison herd, habitat degradation caused by all-terrain vehicles in GMU 20, legislation concerning habitat and game and fish resources, and regional sport fishing issues. This committee is active in the recent international Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Management Coalition and assisted with drafting the 2019-2023 Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan.

### **Eagle – Mike McDougal, Chair**

The Eagle AC represents the community of Eagle, and is comprised of nine undesignated seats. The community of Eagle is located in GMU 20E, and the areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 20 and 25. The area of jurisdiction for finfish is the Upper Yukon River.

Current committee status: The Eagle AC's nine seats are filled by residents from Eagle. Committee meetings typically occur once or twice a year depending on the boards cycle. The Eagle AC designated an alternate seat to represent the Native Village of Eagle.

Areas of interest: This AC is involved with local and statewide issues. The AC represents resident dependence on the Fortymile caribou herd, moose that are in short supply, and fish from the Yukon River. The AC is very active in Yukon River fisheries issues. Resident use patterns are influenced extensively by federal regulations because of their proximity to the Yukon Charley National Preserve and Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge. Members of this AC are involved with the federal subsistence RAC system. This committee is active in the recent international Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Management Coalition and assisted with drafting the 2019-2023 Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan.

### **Fairbanks – Kirk Schwalm, Chair**

The Fairbanks AC has 15 seats with all members residing in the Fairbanks–North Star Borough. These communities are all located in GMU 20B. The areas of jurisdiction for game are GMUs 12, 20, 21, 24, 25, and 26. The area of jurisdiction for finfish is Tanana River.

Current committee status: The AC meets at least once a month from October to May utilizing three subcommittees to address fishing, hunting, and trapping issues.

Areas of interest: This proactive AC remains informed and interested in many game issues, statewide and localized fishing issues, legislation concerning habitat, game and fish resources, and is also involved with the federal subsistence RAC system. This committee is active in the recent international Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Management Coalition and assisted with drafting the 2019-2023 Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan. The AC engages in a number of fisheries regions aside from the Yukon River including the Alaska Peninsula and Prince William Sound.

**Grayling/Anvik/Shageluk/Holy Cross (GASH) – Ken Chase, Chair**

The GASH AC represents the communities of Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk and Holy Cross, for a total of nine seats. These communities are located in GMU 21E and the area of jurisdiction is GMU 21. The areas of jurisdiction for finfish is both the Upper and Lower Yukon River area. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Holy Cross	2 representatives	Shageluk	2 representatives
Grayling	2 representatives	Undesignated	1 representative
Anvik	2 representatives		

Current committee status: All seats are currently filled including the undesignated seat which is held by a member from Holy Cross. The AC meets once or twice a year depending on funding and weather conditions. If unable to meet face-to-face the AC will typically hold at least one teleconference per season.

Areas of interest: The AC’s main concerns are Yukon and Innoko River salmon fisheries, the commercial lamprey fishery in the Yukon, and moose and predator populations in GMU 21. It is very active in continuing efforts to reintroduce wood bison into the Innoko area. This AC is proud of its involvement with drafting and implementing the successful “Innoko Yukon Moose Management Plan.” Residents’ interests are highly influenced by federal regulations because of their proximity to the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge. AC meetings are frequently attended by both state and federal representatives.

**Koyukuk River – Jack Reakoff, Chair**

Koyukuk River AC represents the communities of Allakaket, Huslia, Bettles, Alatna and Hughes. There are three designated seats for Allakaket, Alatna and Huslia, two designated seats for Bettles and Hughes, and three undesignated seats. These communities are located in GMU 24 and the areas of jurisdiction for game are GMUs 21 and 24. The area of jurisdiction for finfish is the Upper Yukon River. The community designated seats for the AC are:

Allakaket	3 representatives	Alatna	2 representatives
Huslia	3 representatives	Bettles	2 representatives
Hughes	2 representatives	Undesignated	3 representatives

Current committee status: The Koyukuk AC is active holding one to two meetings per year focusing on local hunting, trapping, guiding, and fishing concerns on the state and federal levels. Current membership has three vacant seats including the two Bettles seats and one undesignated seat. The two undesignated seats are held by members that reside in Wiseman Village & Allakaket.

Areas of interest: While there is a huge geographic area between the villages, the committee is engaged with concerns of increasing the moose populations in portions of GMU 24 for subsistence uses, as well as the allocation of those moose between local and nonlocal hunters. AC interests are highly influenced by federal regulations given its proximity to the Kanuti and Koyukuk national

wildlife refuges. Meetings are frequently attended by both state and federal representatives. Members of this AC are involved with the federal subsistence RAC system.

**Lake Minchumina – Inactive**

The Lake Minchumina Advisory Committee has 15 undesignated seats. The community of Lake Minchumina is located in GMU 20C, and the areas of jurisdiction for game are GMUs 19, 20, and 21, with no designation for fish.

Current committee status: The Lake Minchumina AC has not met since 1995. According the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Lake Minchumina had a certified population of 11 in 2017, less than the number of seats on the AC. In 2018, community representatives indicated they would like the AC to remain in regulation to allow future work if needed. Additional contact with community members was made with board support in 2019.

Areas of interest: Unknown.

**McGrath – Roger Seavoy, Chair**

The McGrath AC represents the communities of McGrath, Nikolai, Takotna, and Telida. The McGrath AC has 15 seats. These communities are located in GMU 19D. The area of jurisdiction for game is GMU 19. The area of jurisdiction for finfish is the Kuskokwim River. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

McGrath	6 representatives	Takotna	2 representatives
Nikolai	3 representatives	Undesignated	3 representatives
Telida	1 representative		

Current committee status: The AC has 14 filled seats with a vacancy a Telida seat, which has no current permanent residents. The McGrath AC is active with up to two meetings a year.

Areas of interest: The AC is very active in promoting game research projects, especially involving predator–prey relationships and the results and implications of intensive management. Other topics of interest include the Fairwell Bison herd, ensuring the McGrath Alaska Wildlife Trooper is funded and staffed, and the USF&WS returning the Innoko Refuge Headquarters to McGrath. Meetings are typically attended by state and federal representatives. Members of this AC are involved in the state’s Kuskokwim River Working Group, the federal subsistence RAC system, and the National Park SRC.

**Middle Nenana River – Allan Mortenson, Chair**

The Middle Nenana River AC represents the communities of Clear, Ferry, Healy, and McKinley Village with 11 seats. These communities are all located in GMU 20, and the areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 12, 20, and 21. The area of jurisdiction for fish is the Tanana River. The community designated seats for the AC are:

Healy	5 representatives	Ferry	1 representative
Clear	3 representatives	Undesignated	1 representative
McKinley Village	1 representative		

Current committee status: All seats are filled including the undesignated seat held by a member from Healy. The AC typically meets as necessary, from once a month to once a cycle, altering between Anderson and Healy.

Areas of interest: The AC is an active committee holding monthly meetings focusing on both local and statewide issues covering various game, fish, and habitat related topics. While this AC does not have designated user seats, it represents a diverse group of avid hunters, trappers, guides, and non-consumptive users. With lively, respectful debate the AC is interested in wildlife habitat and Interior Region moose management, Dahl sheep, and human-use issues.

**Middle Yukon River -- Benedict Jones, Chair**

The Middle Yukon AC represents the communities of Galena, Koyukuk, Nulato, and Kaltag with a total of 13 seats. These communities are located in GMU 21D. The area of jurisdiction for game is GMU 21. The area of jurisdiction for finfish is the Upper Yukon River. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Galena	4 representatives	Nulato	3 representatives
Kaltag	4 representatives	Koyukuk	2 representatives

Current committee status: This AC meets once to twice a year depending on funding, alternating meeting locations among its four communities. The Middle Yukon AC has 13 seats which are currently filled.

Areas of interest: While the AC's interests lean toward subsistence fishing, hunting, and trapping, recently topics on commercial fishing and transporting are becoming agenda items. This AC is also interested in allocation of game species between locals and nonlocals, as well as nonresidents. The communities that comprise the Middle Yukon AC utilize the Inokko and Koyukuk national wildlife refuges, and meetings are frequently attended by both state and federal representatives.

**Minto/Nenana –Tim McManus, Co-Chair for Nenana, Minto Co-Chair is vacant**

The Minto/Nenana AC represents the communities of Minto and Nenana, for a total of 11 seats. These communities are in GMUs 20B and 20A, and the areas of jurisdiction for game are GMUs 20 and 25. The areas of jurisdiction for fish are the Upper Yukon and Tanana Rivers. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Nenana	5 representatives	Undesignated	1 representative
Minto	5 representatives		

Current committee status: The Minto/Nenana AC is an active committee that holds up to two meetings a year that focus on local game and fish issues. All seats are filled with the undesignated seat held by a member who resides in Minto. The Minto/Nenana AC meets once or twice a year, alternating between the two communities. The AC would meet more frequently if funding allowed. While both communities are on the road system, winter travel by vehicle is less feasible than flying.

Areas of interest: This AC's concerns include moose and access issues in the Minto and Nenana flats areas, northern pike fishing and wildfowl harvest in the Minto Flats area, and commercial and subsistence fishing on the Tanana River. The committee actively pursued introduction of wood bison into the Minto Flats area and enjoys receiving updates on the herd status.

**Ruby – Ed Sarten, Chair**

The Ruby Advisory Committee represents the community of Ruby and is comprised of nine undesignated seats. Ruby is located in GMU 21D, and the areas of jurisdiction for game are GMUs 21 and 24. The area of jurisdiction for finfish is the Upper Yukon River.

Current committee status: The Ruby AC has nine seats, six of which are filled. Five members reside in Ruby and one in Galena. The AC meets as needed, although once or twice a year is typical.

Areas of interest: The AC is concerned with salmon stocks in the Yukon River for subsistence and commercial uses, as well as moose and furbearer populations in GMU 24. The community is recently very active in pursuing release of wood bison in their area. Members of this AC are involved with the federal RAC system.

**Tanana/Rampart/Manley (TRM) – Stan Zuray, Chair**

The TRM AC represents the communities of Tanana, Rampart, and Manley Hot Springs, for a total of nine seats. These communities are located in GMUs 20B and 20F. The areas of jurisdiction for game are 20, 21, 24, and 25, and the Upper Yukon River and the Tanana River for finfish. The community-designated seats listed in regulations for the AC are:

Manley Hot Springs	2 representatives	Tanana	3 representatives
Rampart	3 representatives	Undesignated	1 representative.

Current committee status: The TRM AC is active, holding up to two meetings a year typically in Tanana. All seats are filled with the undesignated seat held by a member from Tanana.

Areas of interest: This active AC concerns revolve primarily around Yukon and Tanana river subsistence and commercial fishing. Recently, the AC is increasingly concerned with moose populations in GMU 20F and the impact on game populations from the new Elliot Highway extension from Manley Hot Springs to Tanana. Members of this AC are involved in the federal subsistence RAC system.

**Upper Tanana/Fortymile – Leif Wilson, Chair**

The Upper Tanana/Fortymile AC has a total of nine members representing the communities of Tok, Northway, Tetlin, Dot Lake, Tanacross, and Healy Lake. These communities are located in GMUs 12 and 20D. The areas of jurisdiction for game are GMUs 12 and 20, and the Tanana River area for finfish. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Tok	3 representatives	Tanacross	1 representative
Northway	1 representative	Healy Lake	1 representative
Tetlin	1 representative	Undesignated	1 representative
Dot Lake	1 representative		

Current committee status: The Upper Tanana/Fortymile AC is active meeting monthly to discuss local and statewide game and habitat concerns on state and federal levels. The AC has nine seats with six currently filled including the undesignated seat by a member from Tok. The seats for Dot Lake, Tanacross, and Healy Lake are unfilled, although Tanacross is indicating interest. That some of the communities choosing not to participate in the committee is a challenge, attributed in part to the physical distance between communities. The AC is not interested in changing the committee makeup in the event the nonparticipating communities want to engage in the future.

Areas of interest: The AC is concerned mostly with hunting and trapping in GMUs 12 and 20. The AC also monitors moose, sheep, and caribou hunting subjects, along with intensive management and guiding issues. The AC is increasingly concerned with habitat degradation caused by

increasing numbers of ATVs in GMUs 12 and 20. This AC is close to the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge, and meetings are frequently attended by state and federal representatives. While no current member currently sits on the federal subsistence RAC or the National Park Service’s SRC, this AC is involved in both systems. This committee has been active in the recent international Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Management Coalition and assisted with drafting the 2019-2023 Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan.

**Yukon Flats – Larry Williams, Chair**

The Yukon Flats AC represents the communities of Birch Creek, Beaver, Chalkyitsik, Fort Yukon, Arctic Village, Circle, Venetie, and Stevens Village. There is a total of 15 designated seats. These communities are spread throughout GMU 25. The areas of jurisdiction for game are GMUs 20 and 25. The finfish area of jurisdiction is the Upper Yukon River. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Birch Creek	1 representative	Arctic Village	2 representatives
Beaver	2 representatives	Circle	2 representatives
Chalkyitsik	2 representatives	Venetie	2 representatives
Fort Yukon	2 representatives	Stevens Village	2 representatives

Current committee status: The Yukon Flats AC is active holding up to two meetings a year. Current membership has ten members representing each of the designated communities except for Stevens Village. Ensuring representation from all communities served by the AC can be challenging.

Areas of interest: As Yukon River king salmon runs fluctuate with increasing frequency, the AC’s concern grows. The AC also remains concerned about predator-related influence on moose densities and the increasing number of predators found in the Yukon Flats. The AC covers a large area reflected in a diversity of dependence between communities. Some are dependent on the Porcupine caribou herd, others on the Fortymile caribou herd, while some harvest no caribou at all and are dependent on moose. All members depend on the Yukon River and its tributaries for fish. The communities that comprise the Yukon Flats AC utilize lands in the Yukon Flats and Arctic national wildlife refuges, and meetings are frequently attended by both state and federal representatives. Members of this AC are involved with the federal RAC system.

### **Southcentral Region Advisory Committees**

The Southcentral Region has 18 ACs. Of the 18 ACs, four are not accessible via the road system (Copper River/Prince William Sound, Mt. Yenlo, Seldovia, and Tyonek). Six of the committees have regulatory designated seats for multiple communities or for having fewer than 15 members (Copper Basin, Mount Yenlo, Tok Cutoff/Nabesna Road, Whittier, Susitna Valley and Seward). The remaining 12 ACs are: Copper River/Prince William Sound, Prince William Sound/Valdez, Anchorage, Kenai/Soldotna, Central Peninsula, Homer, Seldovia, Paxson, Denali, Matanuska Valley, Tyonek, and Cooper Landing. All Southcentral Region ACs have met during this cycle.

Geographic area: The Southcentral Region extends north from Cordova to Slana, west to Cantwell and the Susitna Valley area including Tyonek, and then south to the Kenai Peninsula. The GMUs within this region include 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16. The area includes state and private lands, and a number of national parks, preserves, forests, and refuges. Major rivers and bodies of water for this region include the Susitna, Copper, Kenai, and Russian rivers, Upper and Lower Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound, and the North Gulf Coast of Alaska.

General areas of interest: The ACs in the Southcentral Region are actively involved with fisheries and game management issues. This area encompasses some of the largest and most valuable salmon fisheries in the world and provides many fishing opportunities for residents, including subsistence, sport, commercial, and personal use fisheries. Some of the major issues for ACs include intensive management, subsistence hunting and fishing opportunities, as well as habitat and resource development within the area.

The Joint Board will consider one proposal specific to this region (Proposal 38) requesting a change to the ACs having area of jurisdiction for the Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay area.

### **Anchorage – Kevin Taylor, Chair**

The Anchorage AC has 15 undesignated seats. The areas of jurisdiction for the AC are GMU 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 19, and Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay area finfish.

Current committee status: All seats are currently filled, with two appointed alternates. Current members reside in Anchorage, Eagle River, and Chugiak. The committee meets monthly in Anchorage during the board meeting cycle. The AC enjoys good public participation at its meetings. The AC utilizes a subcommittee process to address fisheries and game proposals which helps the committee organize its workload.

Areas of interest: The committee has strong sport and personal use fishing and hunting interests, and several members have commercial fishing knowledge. This committee represents the largest population group in Alaska with constituents who fish and hunt all over the state. For that reason, they often discuss and comment on proposals outside of the local area.

### **Central Peninsula – David Martin, Chair**

The Central Peninsula AC has 15 seats. The areas of jurisdiction for game are GMUs 7, 15, and 16, and Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay for finfish and Cook Inlet for shellfish.

Current committee status: There are currently 13 members serving and two alternates. Members reside in Ninilchik, Kasilof, Anchor Point and Clam Gulch. Committee meetings occur two to three times per year.

Areas of interest: The committee has strong hunting and fishing interests. The committee has been a strong advocate for intensive management on the Kenai Peninsula and increased brown bear harvest. Declining moose population in Unit 15 from high numbers of wolf and bear predators is of particular interest. With its location on the eastside of Cook Inlet and a strong history in commercial fisheries; Cook Inlet salmon management plans are extremely important.

**Cooper Landing – Jeremy Lewis, Chair**

The Cooper Landing AC has 15 undesignated seats. Areas of jurisdiction for game are GMUs 7, 15, and 16, Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay for finfish, and Cook Inlet for shellfish.

Current committee status: Members currently reside in Cooper Landing. There are currently nine members serving and two alternates. Committee meetings are held 2–4 times per year, as needed.

Areas of interest: The AC is active in local habitat and federal subsistence issues. With its location upstream on the Kenai River, areas of interest are sport, personal use fishing and guiding, as well as hunting, trapping and subsistence.

**Copper Basin – Alysia Hancock, Chair**

The Copper Basin AC has a total of 15 seats, comprised of two undesignated seats and 13 designated seats from Glennallen, Lake Louise, Tazlina, Copper Center, Gakona/Gulkana, Kenny Lake, and Chitina. Areas of jurisdiction for game issues are Units 6, 11, and 13, and Prince William Sound–Lower Copper River and Upper Copper River areas finfish. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Glennallen	2 representatives	Gakona/Gulkana	3 representatives
Lake Louise	1 representative	Kenny Lake	1 representative
Tazlina	3 representatives	Chitina	1 representative
Copper Center	2 representatives	Undesignated	2 representatives

Current committee status: There are currently 14 members serving. The committee meets one to two times per year.

Areas of interest: This committee primarily focuses on hunting issues. It also has interests in trapping, sport, subsistence, and personal use fishing interests. Overcrowding issues with the Tier I and community subsistence caribou and moose harvest hunts are issues of high importance, as limited trail heads off the road system funnel people to the same areas. Proposals regarding subsistence and personal use fishing on the Upper Copper River are important to this AC.

**Copper River/Prince William Sound – Tom Carpenter, Chair**

The Copper River/Prince William Sound AC has 15 members. Areas of jurisdiction for the AC are GMUs 5, 6, and 13, and Yakutat-Yakataga and the Prince William Sound-Lower Copper River areas finfish, and Prince William Sound for shellfish.

Current committee status: The Copper River/Prince William Sound AC has 15 seats. There are currently 15 members and one alternate, all of whom reside in Cordova. The committee meets two to three times per year as needed. Meetings are held in Cordova. The AC chairmanship is shared between a fisheries chair and a game chair to divide the workload.

Areas of interest: Commercial and personal use fishing are strong interests for this AC, as well as hunting, trapping, and subsistence, primarily in the Copper River Delta. The committee actively

participates in the federal subsistence process and the chair serves on the Southcentral RAC. One of their concerns is ensuring the BOF holds the Prince William Sound Finfish meeting in Cordova.

### **Denali – Gordon Carlson, Chair**

The Denali AC has 15 undesignated seats. Areas of jurisdiction for the Denali AC are Game Management Units 13, 14, 16, and 20, and Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay finfish.

Current committee status: Currently, there are ten members all residing in Cantwell. The committee generally meets twice per year.

Areas of interest: The AC concerns are primarily with hunting issues around Denali National Park. The AC has strong subsistence hunting and fishing interests, sport and personal use fishing, and trapping. Ensuring biological management of game in the area is also of primary importance.

### **Homer – Dave Lyon, Chair**

The Homer AC has 15 undesignated seats. The AC meets monthly through the board cycle. Areas of jurisdiction for the Homer AC are Game Management Units 7 and 15, Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay finfish and Cook Inlet shellfish.

Current committee status: Currently, there are 15 members and two alternates, residing in Homer, Anchor Point, and Fritz Creek. The AC meets monthly in Homer from October through April.

Areas of interest: The AC actively participates in both fisheries and game management issues with a regional focus with strong interests in preservation and conservation of local resources. Winter king sport fishing, tanner crab fisheries, expansion of local moose harvest, and management of Cook Inlet sockeye stocks are issues of interest.

### **Kenai/Soldotna – Mike Crawford, Chair**

This Kenai/Soldotna AC has 15 seats. Areas of jurisdiction for the AC are GMUs 7, 15, and 16, Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay for finfish, and Cook Inlet for shellfish.

Current committee status: Currently there are 13 members and one alternate who reside in Sterling, Kenai, Soldotna, and Kasilof. The AC meets monthly in Kenai or Soldotna. Since 1992, the AC has utilized designated seats for various user groups.

Areas of interest: The AC addresses highly diverse uses of the area fisheries and competition for fully allocated fisheries. This committee has sport, commercial and personal use fishing, hunting, subsistence users, and sport fish guiding interests. Allocation of the Cook Inlet fisheries is a highly discussed topic, as well as area moose management. The committee is a strong supporter for healthy fish and game resources and access to natural resources in a sustainable manner. They also have a history of supporting predator management across the state where warranted.

### **Matanuska Valley – Herb Mansavage, Chair**

The Matanuska Valley AC has 15 undesignated seats. Areas of jurisdiction for game are GMUs 13, 14, and 16, and Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay finfish.

Current committee status: Currently there are 15 members, with two alternates. Current members reside in Palmer, Chugiak, Anchorage and Wasilla. The AC meets as needed, but at least once per month, from September through May. Meetings are held mostly in Palmer and occasionally in Wasilla.

Areas of interest: The AC has strong sport and personal use fishing, hunting, subsistence and trapping interests. The committee is very involved in Cook Inlet finfish regulatory issues advocating for increased salmon runs to the Matanuska-Susitna region.

**Mt. Yenlo – Eric Johnson, Chair**

The Mt. Yenlo AC has 15 seats, 9 of which are undesignated. Areas of jurisdiction for game issues are GMUs 14 and 16, and Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay finfish. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Skwentna	4 representatives	Undesignated	11 representatives
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Current committee status: Currently there are nine members, with two alternates. Current members reside in Skwentna. This committee meets on an as-needed basis when travel is possible to address issues that impact the local area. This committee is not on the road system, requiring meeting travel during the winter to occur by snow machine and/or aircraft.

Areas of interest: The AC has strong sport and personal use fishing, hunting, trapping, and subsistence interests.

**Paxson – John Schandelmeier, Chair**

The Paxson AC has 15 seats. Current members reside in Paxson, Gakona, and Meier’s Lake. Areas of jurisdiction for game are GMU 11, 12, 13, and 20, and Upper Copper River finfish.

Current committee status: There are currently five members and two alternates. Current members reside in Paxson, Gakona, Glennallen and Delta Junction. The AC meets as needed in Paxson.

Areas of interest: The AC has expressed concern over the impacts on resources from exploratory development. The AC has strong sport fishing, subsistence, and hunting interests. The Paxson AC is also concerned about hunt quality in high impact areas such as GMU 13B.

**Prince William Sound/Valdez – Hope Upicksoun, Chair**

The Prince William Sound/Valdez AC has 15 undesignated seats. Areas of jurisdiction for game is GMU 6, and PWS–Lower Copper River finfish.

Current committee status: There are currently five members and one alternate. Current members all reside in Valdez. After a number of years of inactivity, the committee began meeting again in 2018.

Areas of interest: The AC has strong sport, commercial, and personal use fishing, guiding, subsistence, and hunting interests. The area is uniquely positioned as a salt-water sport fishing venue for interior residents. There is a large pink salmon hatchery which helps support fish processing and infrastructure.

**Seldovia – Michael Opheim, Chair**

The Seldovia AC has 15 seats. Areas of jurisdiction for game is GMU 15, Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay finfish, and Cook Inlet shellfish.

Current committee status: There are currently seven members and two alternates, all of whom reside in Seldovia. The committee generally meets twice per year and is active with both fisheries and game issues.

Areas of interest: The AC has strong commercial and sport fishing interests, as well as subsistence interests. Expanding the subsistence fishery, the black bear population, and the goat population are concerns AC members have had in the past. The moose hunt on Kalgin Island has been another hunt of concern for the AC.

**Seward – Jim McCracken, Chair**

The Seward AC has 11 undesignated seats. Areas of jurisdiction for the Seward AC are GMUs 6, 7, and 15, Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay and Prince William Sound finfish, and Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet shellfish.

Current committee status: There are currently ten members and one alternate, all who reside in Seward. This AC meets generally two or three times per year and participates in both BOF and BOG regulatory processes.

Areas of interest: The AC has strong interests in sport, commercial, and personal use fishing, as well as hunting. The Seward AC strongly supports habitat retention and revitalization, is proactive in utilization and bag limits in the North Gulf of Alaska Coast waters, sponsoring many proposals aimed at protecting both access and the resource statewide and in Lower Cook Inlet.

**Susitna Valley – Mike Wood, Chair**

The Susitna Valley AC has seven undesignated seats. The areas of jurisdiction for the Susitna Valley AC are GMUs 13, 14, and 16, and Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay area for finfish.

Current committee status: Currently all committee seats are filled with members residing in Trapper Creek, Talkeetna, Willow, and Wasilla. They meet on an as-needed basis and primarily focus on sport and personal use fishing, as well as hunting and subsistence interests.

Areas of interest: The AC has sport and personal use fishing, hunting, and subsistence interests. The AC was established by the Joint Board in October 2007 and has since removed the community-designated seats that proved a challenge for the AC to fill. Ten years of king salmon closures have impacted local communities. Allowing for an adequate recruitment of all species to the Susitna River remains a top issue. Game harvest is sustainable in the areas that surround Talkeetna and the Upper Susitna.

**Tok Cutoff/Nabesna Road – Ernie Charley, Chair**

The Tok Cutoff/Nabesna Road AC has seven seats, with one designated seat each for Mentasta and Chistochina and five undesignated seats. Areas of jurisdiction for game are GMUs 11, 12, 13 and 20, and Upper Copper River and Tanana River area finfish. The community-designated seats are:

Mentasta	1 representative	Undesignated	5 representatives
Chistochina	1 representative		

Current committee status: There are currently seven members and two alternates who reside in Tok, Slana, and Gakona. The AC meets on an as needed basis, typically twice per year.

Areas of interest: The committee has strong interest in moose and caribou hunting regulations and concerns over unsuccessful hunts last season which local residents rely heavily upon.

**Tyonek – Alex Pfoff, Chair**

The Tyonek AC has 15 seats. Areas of jurisdiction for game is GMU 16, Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay finfish, and Cook Inlet for shellfish.

Current committee status: Currently there are nine members and two alternates, all residing in Tyonek. The AC meets as needed. The AC encourages student participation and mentors high-school youth about the board process.

Areas of interest: The issues of highest importance for the Tyonek AC are subsistence, commercial and sport salmon fishing in Cook Inlet, as well as sport and subsistence moose, bear, and waterfowl hunting in 16B. For salmon, all issues in Cook Inlet’s Northern District are of interest to the AC.

**Whittier – Jon Van Hying, Chair**

The Whittier AC has nine undesignated seats. Areas of jurisdiction for game are GMUs 6, 7, and 14, and Prince William Sound-Lower Copper River area for finfish, and Prince William Sound for shellfish.

Current committee status: The Whittier AC currently has eight members and two alternates. Current members reside in Whittier, Girdwood, Anchorage, and Wasilla. The committee generally meets twice per year.

Areas of interest: This committee primarily focuses on fisheries issues. It has strong sport and commercial fishing interests. Black bears and black tail deer populations are monitored closely by the AC, as well as habitat issues in Prince William Sound. A few members are involved in oil spill response.

## **Southeast Region Advisory Committees**

The Southeast Region has 23 ACs. Of those, seven represent larger towns either on the outside road system or with service on a major air carrier: Juneau-Douglas, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Sitka, Upper Lynn Canal, Wrangell, and Yakutat. Those seven ACs all met in the last year. A further four ACs also met last year, or the year prior: Craig, East Prince of Wales, Edna Bay, and Port Alexander. Four more ACs, while not having met for several years, have expressed interest in meeting in the coming year: Angoon, Icy Straits, Kake, and Klawock. The eight remaining ACs have not met for several years: Elfin Cove, Hydaburg, Hyder, Klukwan, Pelican, Saxman Sumner Strait, and Tenakee Springs.

Most Southeast ACs, 17, represent single communities, while six represent multiple communities. The East Prince of Wales, Ketchikan, and Saxman ACs represent communities linked by roads; the Icy Straits, Sumner Strait, and Upper Lynn Canal ACs are comprised of communities that are nearby but lack road connection.

All Southeast ACs share concurrent jurisdiction in Southeastern Alaska Area finfish, except the Yakutat AC, which has jurisdiction in Yakutat-Yakataga Area for finfish. All Southeast ACs have concurrent jurisdiction in Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area shellfish. In the interest of brevity, just the GMU jurisdictions are listed in each AC's profile below.

Geographic features: The Southeast panhandle is comprised of coastal communities, located on both islands and mainland, connected by air and water. The Southeast Region covers all communities from Dixon Entrance to the south up to Yakutat in the north. It covers GMUs 1 through 5, though Southeast lands are predominantly federal. The area includes the Tongass National Forest, Glacier Bay National Park, the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, and a portion of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

State and private lands make up nine percent of Southeast. The Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game have identified Juneau and Ketchikan as non-subsistence areas.

Most communities in Southeast are not on a road system connected to the continental road system (four communities are exceptions: Skagway, Haines, and Klukwan, and Hyder). While some communities are situated on islands, others are on the mainland but are effectively islanded by mountains, glaciers and icefields, and the ocean. Many communities are connected by the Alaska Marine Highway. Some communities on Prince of Wales Island are connected to each other on the island's self-contained, improved logging roads; Ketchikan and Saxman are also connected by road. Private ferries and smaller air carriers serve to connect other communities.

General areas of interest: The ACs in Southeast Alaska spend a majority of time on fisheries issues; Southeast communities are coastal communities. Wildlife issues are also important to Southeast ACs. Southeast ACs and AC members are regularly involved in federal processes.

In addition to commercial salmon and crab fisheries, other important fisheries for the region include herring, groundfish, shellfish, and dive fisheries. Many of these species are important for sport, guided sport, and subsistence fisheries. Important and growing areas include mariculture and ecotourism. Game species of interest include deer, moose, mountain goat, wolf, and wolverine, other furbearers, black and brown bears, and game birds.

Region specific proposals: The Joint Board will consider Proposal 1 for this region, which requests designated seats for the Craig AC. Proposal 39 seeks to correct the omission of Port Alexander Advisory Committee from finfish and shellfish areas of jurisdiction.

**Angoon – Inactive**

Angoon is located on the Southwestern tip of Admiralty Island. It has 15 undesignated seats. The areas of jurisdiction for game are GMUs 1C and 4

Current committee status: The Angoon AC is currently considered inactive last meeting in 1992. The community of Angoon has expressed interest in holding an AC meeting in 2019.

Areas of interest: Unknown.

**Craig – Ellen Hannan, Chair**

Craig is located on the west side of Prince of Wales Island, and is the island’s largest community. The Craig AC has 15 seats and jurisdiction in GMUs 1A and 2.

Current committee status: There are currently 10 members. The Craig AC has designated seats for a variety of user groups, including Hunting (1), Commercial (5), Sport/Charter (2), Subsistence (1), and Trapping/Charter (1). The committee meets two to three times a year.

Areas of interest: The Craig AC discusses local issues, which often include federal management concerns, as well as any regional or statewide issues before the Boards. Issues regularly include wolf and deer populations, management, trapping and hunting; king salmon including Pacific salmon treaty matters, commercial and charter fishing, federal and state regulations and management, and subsistence uses. The Craig AC authored Proposal 1 to limit their membership to Craig and Port St. Nicholas.

**East Prince of Wales – John Ryan, Chair**

The East Prince of Wales (EPOW) AC has 15 seats, 11 undesignated, and one each for the communities of Thorne Bay, Coffman Cove, Whale Pass, and Kasaan. As the name indicates, all communities are located on the east side of Prince of Wales Island. The areas of jurisdiction for the EPOW AC are GMUs 1A, 1B, 1C, 2, 3, and 4. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Thorne Bay	1 representative	Kasaan	1 representative
Coffman Cove	1 representative	Undesignated	11 representatives
Whale Pass	1 representative		

Current committee status: The EPOW AC met in December 2018 for the first time since 2010 and elected 11 members. Since then, the AC has met four times, rotating meeting locations among communities and offering participation by teleconference. Currently, there is no member from Kasaan, and the AC is working to continue their outreach to communities on Prince of Wales Island.

Areas of interest: The EPOW AC discusses local issues, which often include federal management concerns, as well as regional or statewide issues before the boards. Issues regularly include wolf and deer populations, management, trapping and hunting, federal and state regulations and management, subsistence uses, logging and habitat, and other Island-wide concerns.

**Edna Bay – Patrick Richter, Chair**

Edna Bay is located on the northeast side of Prince of Wales Island. The Edna Bay AC has seven seats, all designated for Edna Bay. The AC’s areas of jurisdiction for game are GMUs 2, 3, and 4

Current committee status: There are currently seven members and two alternates serving on the AC. The AC usually meets once a year; in 2018, travel issues prevented holding their annual meeting.

Areas of interest: The Edna Bay AC is primarily interested in fisheries issues. Salmon fisheries, particularly troll, are of importance to the AC. Sustainability related to herring stocks are important as well.

**Elfin Cove – Inactive**

Elfin Cove is located on the North tip of Chichagof Island. The Elfin Cove AC has 15 undesignated seats. The AC’s area of jurisdiction for game is GMU 4.

Current committee status: The Elfin Cove AC is currently considered inactive last meeting in 2008. Elfin Cove is an active fishing community and historically has only met when fishery issues directly impact its region.

Areas of interest: Unknown.

**Hydaburg – Inactive**

Hydaburg is located toward the southern end of Prince of Wales Island. The Hydaburg AC has 15 undesignated seats and jurisdiction for game in GMUs 1A and 2.

Current committee status: The Hydaburg AC is considered inactive last meeting in 2013.

Areas of interest: Unknown.

**Hyder – Inactive**

Hyder is located in the eastern panhandle at the head of the Portland Canal, a 130-mile-long fjord. The Hyder AC has 15 undesignated seats and jurisdiction for game in GMUs 1A and 2.

Current committee status: The Hydaburg AC is considered inactive last meeting in 1999.

Areas of interest: Unknown.

**Icy Straits – Inactive**

The Icy Straits AC represents the two communities of Hoonah and Gustavus. The two communities share the water of Icy Straits between them, but lie on different lands. Hoonah is on the northern coast of Chichagof Island, while Gustavus in on mainland, near the entrance of Glacier Bay. The AC has 15 seats, nine for Hoonah, two for Gustavus, and four undesignated. The AC’s areas of jurisdiction for game is GMU 4 and 1C. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Hoonah	9 representatives	Undesignated	4 representatives
Gustavus	2 representatives		

Current committee status: The Icy Straits AC is currently considered inactive, last meeting in 2014. In 2013, the AC submitted a proposal to the Joint Board asking that the committee be divided into two separate ACs by community. The Joint Board did not pass this proposal and the AC has not met since. The communities of Hoonah and Gustavus both expressed interest in holding an AC meeting in 2019.

Areas of interest: Unknown.



Current committee status: The Klukwan AC is currently considered inactive last meeting in 2009. At its 2009 meeting, the Klukwan AC was primarily concerned with subsistence issues. Klukwan has a community-designated seat on the Upper Lynn Canal AC.

Areas of interest: Unknown.

**Pelican – Inactive**

Pelican is located on the western side of Chichagof Island. The AC has 15 undesignated seats. The AC’s area of jurisdiction is GMU 4.

Current committee status: The Pelican AC is currently considered inactive last meeting in 2014.

Areas of interest: At the 2015 BOF Southeast Finfish meeting the Pelican AC was active in commercial salmon fisheries issues in Icy Straits and Lisianski Inlet.

**Petersburg – Bob Martin, Chair**

Petersburg is located on the north end of Mitkof Island, where the Wrangell Narrows meets Frederick Sound. The Petersburg AC has 15 seats, and jurisdiction for game in GMUs 1B, 1C, 2, 3, and 4.

Current committee status: There are currently 15 members. The committee meets approximately three to four times a year.

Areas of interest: The Petersburg AC is interested in both fish and game issues locally and statewide. Home to one of the largest commercial fishing fleets in Alaska, the AC is very active with commercial fishing issues.

**Port Alexander – Cory Gifford, Chair**

Port Alexander is located on the southeastern corner of Baranof Island. The Port Alexander AC has 15 undesignated seats and jurisdiction for game in GMU 4.

Current committee status: There are currently five members who meet to discuss fisheries issues as needed.

Areas of interest: The Port Alexander AC is interested primarily in fisheries issues. The town is home to a number of summer sport fish lodges and has a salmon troll and longline fleet.

**Saxman – Inactive**

Saxman is located on Revillagigedo Island south of Ketchikan. The Saxman AC has nine seats: six designated for Saxman, two from Ketchikan, and one undesignated. The areas of jurisdiction for game are GMUs 1A and 2. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Saxman	6 representatives	Undesignated	1 representative
Ketchikan	2 representatives		

Current committee status: The Saxman AC is currently considered inactive last meeting in 2010.

Areas of interest: Unknown.

**Sitka – Jon Martin, Chair**

Sitka is located on the western side of Baranof Island and is made up of 15 undesignated seats. The AC has jurisdiction for game in GMUs 3 and 4.

Current committee status: The committee has designated user group seats, and maintains a seat for each of the following: power troll, resident sport fish, conservation, charter, guide, hunting, longline, processor, seine, shellfish, subsistence and trapping. The committee meets three to four times a year.

Areas of interest: The Sitka AC is interested in both fish and game issues locally and statewide. Commercial fisheries is a primary subject matter for the AC with attention to all salmon fisheries, longline, herring, and enhancement issues. Sitka Sound herring is at the center of a long-standing dispute between subsistence and commercial roe harvesters to which the AC serves as a forum for discussion. There is also a strong charter industry in the Sitka area.

**Sumner Strait – Inactive**

Point Baker and Port Protection are located on the north end of Prince of Wales Island. The Sumner Strait AC has 15 undesignated seats with jurisdiction for game in GMUs 1B, 2, and 3.

Current committee status: The Sumner Strait AC is considered inactive last meeting in 2008.

Areas of interest: Unknown.

**Tenakee Springs – Inactive**

Tenakee Springs is located on the eastern side of Chichagof Island. The AC has 15 undesignated seats, with areas of jurisdiction for game in GMUs 1C and 4.

Current committee status: The Tenakee Springs AC is considered inactive last meeting in 1997.

Areas of interest: Unknown.

**Upper Lynn Canal – Tim McDonough, Chair**

The Upper Lynn Canal AC represents the communities of Haines, Klukwan and Skagway, all located in northern Lynn Canal, for a total of 15. The AC’s areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 1C and 1D. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Haines	8 representatives	Klukwan	1 representative
Skagway	2 representatives	Undesignated	4 representatives

Current committee status: The AC has 11 seats filled with at least one representative from each of the three communities. The AC holds two to three in person and teleconference meetings per year.

Areas of interest: Recent issues for the Upper Lynn Canal AC include municipal trapping restrictions in the Skagway area and the effect of the Haines Highway Reconstruction Project on Chilkat River king salmon habitat. The AC is also home to an active drift gillnet fleet that operates largely in Lynn Canal.

**Wrangell – Chris Guggenbickler, Chair**

Wrangell is located on the northwest corner of Wrangell Island between Ketchikan and Petersburg. The Wrangell AC has 15 undesignated seats and jurisdiction for game in GMUs 1B, 1C, 2, 3, and 4.

Current committee status: There are currently 15 members. The AC meets two to four times per year.

Areas of interest: This a very active AC, stemming in part from Wrangell's position as a small but busy fishing port. Wrangell AC members have a strong interest in commercial, sport, and personal use fishing, hunting, and subsistence.

**Yakutat – Casey Mapes, Chair**

Yakutat is located on the northern coast of the Gulf of Alaska, and has 15 undesignated seats. The areas of jurisdiction for game are GMUs 5 and 6, and, unlike other Southeast ACs, the Yakutat-Yakataga Area for finfish.

Current committee status: The AC currently has ten members, and has designated seats representing different user groups. The AC meets approximately four times a year.

Areas of interest: The committee is primarily concerned with subsistence, sport, and commercial fisheries issues. Salmon troll and set gillnet issues are of importance to the AC. Subsistence fishing is also a priority.

## **Southwest Region Advisory Committees**

The Southwest Region encompasses twelve ACs: two in the Kodiak-Chignik area, five in the Alaska Peninsula–Aleutian Islands area, and five in the Bristol Bay area. All ACs within the Kodiak-Chignik and Bristol Bay area represent multiple communities, and all ACs within the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands area represent individual communities. All Southwest Region ACs are composed of 15 seats by regulation.

Geographic area: The Southwest Region is well known for its windswept islands, small rugged mountains, large expanses of tundra, and numerous lake and river systems. The region is home to the Wood Tikchik State Park, Lake Clark and Katmai National Parks, and five National Wildlife Refuges. Accessible mainly by air, with some communities serviced seasonally by the Alaska Marine Highway. Unpredictable weather can make carrying out face to face meetings difficult for those committees representing multiple communities. All ACs in the Southwest Region held meetings during the 2018-2019 meeting cycle.

The Southwest Region ACs are divided into three main commercial fishery subregions for finfish jurisdiction: Registration areas K and L (Kodiak-Chignik); Registration areas M and O (Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Island); and Registration area T (Bristol Bay). Also included in the Southwest Regional jurisdiction is Westward area for shellfish, other than king crab; and for king crab, registration areas K, M, O, and Q. GMUs in the Southwest Region include 8, 9, 10, and 17. As noted, the Southwest Region has many areas where land is federally managed. Some of the ACs submitted comments in recent years to the Federal Subsistence RACs, and there are AC members are also active participants on these RACs

General areas of interest: Commercial fishing is often viewed as the lifeblood of the Southwest Region, although it is not the only lifestyle. Sport fishing is a popular past time and important economic opportunity. Many tributaries boast strong king and coho salmon runs, and resident trout populations. Subsistence is practiced by many area residents. Salmon, and other species of fresh and salt water fish are highly valued for this use. Hunting, trapping, and guiding provide a large amount of household supplementation, both dietary and monetary. Migratory birds and caribou are important food sources across much of the region. Six distinct caribou herds span the Southwest Region: the Mulchatna, Nushagak, Northern and Southern Alaska Peninsula, Unimak, and Adak herds. In the Bristol Bay area moose is an important resource both for subsistence, and for the commercial hunting industry, which also highly prizes the brown bear which are found in the Bristol Bay and Kodiak areas. The region also has abundant marine mammal populations. Of note is the Walrus Island Sanctuary located near the villages of Togiak and Twin Hills, the unique Lake Iliamna freshwater seal population, and the resident beluga population in Nushagak bay.

Some prevalent concerns within the Southwest Region include: the availability of subsistence foods for gathering, hunting, and fishing; commercial fishing for salmon, herring, Pacific cod, King crab and other shellfish, and groundfish; local hunts for bear, moose, caribou, small game, waterfowl, and furbearers; guided activities, including those for sport fishing and hunting purposes; habitat designations, especially within the Bristol Bay area; intensive management; and interception of salmon stocks, including those of conflicting historical fisheries and pelagic trawl.

Region specific proposals: The Joint Board will consider two proposals that would affect this region. Proposal 7 seeks to reduce the membership for the Lake Iliamna AC and to provide seat designations; Proposal 8 requests seat designations for specific communities on the Naknek/Kvichak AC.

**Chignik – Jacob Shangin, Chair**

The Chignik AC represents the communities of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lake, Chignik Lagoon, Ivanoff Bay, and Perryville. These communities are located on the Northeast side of the Alaska Peninsula. The areas of jurisdiction for game is GMU 9, the Kodiak-Chignik area for finfish, Westward area shellfish other than king crab, and king crab registration areas M and Q. The community-designated seats are:

Chignik	3 representatives	Chignik Lake	3 representatives
Chignik Lagoon	3 representatives	Perryville	3 representatives
Ivanoff	3 representatives		

Current committee status: The Chignik AC is very active holding up to five teleconference meetings per year. Current membership is fourteen members with one vacancy for the community of Chignik Lake. Several members reside outside of the region in the winter months.

Areas of interest: Chignik AC members overwhelmingly participate in the salmon purse seine fishery in the Chignik area, but some also participate in Gulf of Alaska pot and jig fisheries, longline for halibut, and Dungeness and Tanner crab fisheries. Members have also noted interest in sport fishing, hunting, subsistence, and personal use activities, but the main economic drivers for these communities are local subsistence for salmon and commercial salmon fishing in Registration area L. With a poor season in 2017, and a disaster season in 2018 issues relating to salmon in area L, and neighboring areas K and M remain the ACs top priority.

**False Pass – Travis Hoblet, Chair**

The False Pass AC represents the community of False Pass which is located on the eastern shore of Unimak island. All seats are undesignated by regulation. The areas of jurisdiction for game are GMUs 9 and 10, the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands area for finfish, Westward area shellfish other than King crab, and King crab areas M and O.

Current committee status: The False Pass AC is cyclically active and holds up to two face to face meetings per year on the years which they meet. These meetings generally include teleconference. Current membership is five members with four residing in False Pass and one residing out of region.

Areas of interest: False Pass AC members participate in a variety of commercial fishing activities including drift gillnet and purse seine for salmon in the Alaska Peninsula area, and long line for other finfish. Members have also noted interest in sport fishing, hunting, processing, subsistence, and personal use activities. The primary area of concern for this AC is commercial fishing for salmon in the South Alaska Peninsula, but the AC also is concerned about, Pacific cod, and crab.

**King Cove – Grant Newton, Chair**

The King Cove AC represents the community of King Cove which is located on the southeast side of the Alaska Peninsula. All seats are undesignated by regulation. The areas of jurisdiction for

game is GMU 9, the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands area for finfish, Westward area for shellfish other than King crab, and King crab areas M, O, and Q.

Current committee status: The King Cove AC is active and holds one or two face to face meetings per year. Current membership is nine members, all of whom reside in the community.

Areas of interest: King Cove AC members participate in a variety of commercial fishing activities including seine, drift and set gillnet for salmon in the Alaska Peninsula area, and pot, jig and long line for other finfish. Members have also noted interest in sport fishing, hunting, trapping, subsistence, and personal use activities. The primary areas of concern for this AC are commercial salmon fisheries on the Alaska Peninsula, and Pacific cod and other groundfish in the South Peninsula and Gulf of Alaska. The AC is also interested in crab.

**Kodiak – Paul Chervenak, Chair**

The Kodiak AC represents the communities of Kodiak, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie, and Port Lions. These communities are located on the island of Kodiak east of the Alaska Peninsula. The areas of jurisdiction for game are GMUs 8 and 9, the Kodiak-Chignik area for finfish, Westward area for shellfish other than king crab, and king crab areas K and Q. The community-designated seats are:

Kodiak	7 representatives	Port Lions	1 representative
Old Harbor	1 representative	Undesignated	5 representatives
Ouzinkie	1 representative		

The Kodiak AC established additional seat designations to ensure representation among the various user groups. Additional seat designations consist of:

1. Kodiak Community- Processor
2. Kodiak Community- Big Game Guide/Outfitter
3. Kodiak Community- Large Boat Crab
4. Kodiak Community- Subsistence
5. Kodiak Community- Small Boat Crab/ Herring/ Salmon
6. Kodiak Community- West Side Salmon Gillnet
7. Kodiak Community- Trawl
8. Undesignated- South End Set Net
9. Undesignated- Small Boat Crab/ Herring/ Salmon
10. Undesignated- Transporter/ Sport Fish Charter
11. Undesignated- Concerned Citizen
12. Undesignated- Concerned Citizen
13. Old Harbor Community
14. Port Lions Community
15. Ouzinkie Community

Current committee status: The Kodiak AC is active meeting up to three times per year face to face and by teleconference. All seats are currently filled, with members who reside on the island of Kodiak.

Areas of interest: The Kodiak AC has a very diverse membership. Members participate in a wide variety of commercial fishing activities as attested to by their seat designations. Members are also involved in sport fishing, hunting, guiding, trapping, processing, subsistence, and personal use activities. The Kodiak ACs primary areas of concern are hunting activities in GMU 8, sport, and

commercial fishing in the Kodiak area, commercial fishing in the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area, and subsistence.

**Lake Iliamna – Randy Alvarez, Chair**

The Lake Iliamna AC represents the communities of Iliamna, Nondalton, Pedro Bay, Kokhanok, Igiugig, Newhalen, Port Alsworth, and Pope Vannoy Landing, which are located on and around lake Iliamna, and lake Clark. The areas of jurisdiction for game are GMUs 9, and 17, and the Bristol Bay Area for finfish. The community-designated seats are:

Iliamna	3 representatives	Igiugig	1 representative
Nondalton	2 representatives	Newhalen	1 representative
Pedro Bay	1 representative	Undesignated	6 representatives
Kokhanok	1 representative		

Current committee status: The Lake Iliamna AC is active holding one to two in-person and teleconference meetings per year. In-person meetings rotate between communities with travel conducted by air charter. Current membership is ten members with one vacancy for the community of Iliamna, and four vacant designated seats. All members reside in the Lake Iliamna and Lake Clark area.

Areas of interest: Lake Iliamna AC members participate in commercial fishing for salmon in Bristol Bay, sport fishing, hunting, guiding, trapping, subsistence, and personal use activities. The primary areas of concern for the Iliamna AC are hunting activities in GMU 9B, sport and commercial fishing on the east side of Bristol Bay, and subsistence.

**Lower Bristol Bay – Mitch Seybert, Chair**

The Lower Bristol Bay AC represents the communities of Ugashik, Egegik, Pilot Point, and Port Heiden, and is located on the southern east side of Bristol Bay. The areas of jurisdiction for game is GMU 9, and the Bristol Bay Area for finfish. The community-designated seats are:

Ugashik	1 representative	Port Heiden	2 representatives
Egegik	2 representatives	Undesignated	8 representatives
Pilot Point	2 representatives		

Committee Status: The Lower Bristol Bay AC is active holding up to three teleconference meetings per year. Current membership is thirteen members representing all of the communities listed in regulation, with one vacancy for the community of Egegik, and one vacancy for the community of Port Heiden. Several members reside outside of the region.

Areas of interest: Lower Bristol Bay AC members participate in the commercial drift and set gillnet salmon fisheries in Bristol Bay, sport fishing, hunting, guiding, trapping, processing, subsistence, and personal use activities. The primary areas of concern for the Lower Bristol Bay AC are hunting activities in GMU 9E, commercial fishing on the east side of Bristol Bay, and subsistence.

**Naknek–Kvichak – William Regan Jr. and Everett Thompson, Co-Chairs**

The Naknek–Kvichak AC represents the communities of King Salmon, Naknek and Levelock, and in the past this AC has also represented South Naknek. These communities are located on the east side of Bristol Bay. All seats are undesignated by regulation. The areas of jurisdiction for game are GMUs 9 and 17, and the Bristol Bay Area for finfish.

Current committee status: The Naknek-Kvichak AC is active holding about two meetings per year in-person and by teleconference. Current membership is ten members all of whom reside in these communities.

Areas of interest: Naknek Kvichak AC members participate in the commercial set and drift gillnet fishery for salmon in Bristol Bay, sport fishing, hunting, guiding, trapping, processing, subsistence, and personal use activities. The primary areas of concern for this committee are hunting activities in GMU 9, commercial fishing on the east side of Bristol Bay, sport fishing on the Naknek river and other rivers in the area, and subsistence.

**Nelson Lagoon – Paul (Butch) Gunderson, Chair**

The Nelson Lagoon AC represents the community of Nelson Lagoon, which is located on the western side of the Alaska Peninsula. All seats are undesignated by regulation. The areas of jurisdiction for game is GMU 9, and the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands area for finfish.

Current committee status: The Nelson Lagoon AC is cyclically active and holds one or face to face meetings on the years which they meet. These meetings generally include teleconference. Current membership is ten members, with two residing outside of the region.

Areas of interest: Nelson Lagoon AC members largely participate in the commercial drift and set gillnet salmon fishery on the North Alaska Peninsula, and have also noted interest in sport fishing, hunting, guiding, processing, subsistence, and personal use activities. The primary area of concern for this committee is commercial fishing in the North Alaska Peninsula.

**Nushagak – Frank Woods III, Chair**

The Nushagak AC represents the communities of Dillingham, Clarks Point, Ekwok, New Stuyahok, Koliganek, Aleknagik, Togiak, Portage Creek, and Manokotak, which are located on the west side of Bristol Bay. The areas of jurisdiction identified for game is GMU 17, and the Bristol Bay Area for finfish. The community-designated seats are:

Dillingham	5 representatives	Aleknagik	1 representative
Clarks Point	1 representative	Togiak	1 representative
Ekwok	1 representative	Portage Creek	1 representative
New Stuyahok	1 representative	Manokotak	1 representative
Koliganek	1 representative	Undesignated	2 representatives

Current committee status: The Nushagak AC is active holding two face to face and teleconference meetings per year. All seats are filled with members who reside in these communities.

Areas of interest: Nushagak AC members participate in the commercial drift and set gillnet fishery for salmon in Bristol Bay. There is a commercial drift fishery for herring in Togiak. Sport fishing, subsistence fishing and hunting, guiding, trapping, processing, and personal use activities are all activities widely pursued in the area. The primary concerns for the committee are hunting activities in GMU 17, commercial fishing on the west side of Bristol Bay, Togiak herring, and subsistence.

**Sand Point – Patrick Brown, Chair**

The Sand Point AC represents the community of Sand Point which is located on Popof island near the east side of the Alaska Peninsula. All seats are undesignated by regulation. The areas of jurisdiction for game is GMU 9, the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands area for finfish, Westward area for shellfish other than King crab, and King crab areas M, O, and Q.

Current committee status: The Sand Point AC is cyclically active and holds up to two face to face meetings per year on the years their region is before the boards. Current membership is seven members, all of whom reside in the community.

Areas of interest: Sand Point AC members participate in a variety of commercial fishing activities including the set gillnet and seine fisheries for salmon in the South Alaska Peninsula, jig, pot, long line, and trawl fisheries for Pacific cod and other groundfish, and the Alaska Peninsula Dungeness crab fishery. Members have also noted interest in sport fishing, hunting, guiding, subsistence, and personal use activities. The primary concerns for the Sand Point AC are salmon in the South Alaska Peninsula, groundfish, and Westward area crab.

**Togiak – Moses Kritz Sr, Chair**

The Togiak AC represents the communities of Togiak, Manokotak, and Twin Hills and is located on the west side of Bristol Bay. The areas of jurisdiction for game is GMU 17, and the Bristol Bay Area for finfish. The community-designated seats are:

Togiak	3 representatives	Twin Hills	1 representative
Manokotak	3 representatives	Undesignated	8 representatives

Current committee status: The Togiak AC is active and holds two face to face and teleconference meetings per year. All seats are currently filled with members residing in the communities listed.

Areas of interest: Togiak AC members participate in the commercial set and drift gillnet fishery for salmon in the Togiak district. Members have also noted interest in sport fishing, hunting, trapping, subsistence, and personal use activities. The primary concerns for the Togiak AC are maintaining their subsistence resources, the local salmon fishery, hunting activities in GMU 17A, and the herring fishery that is prosecuted near Togiak and Twin Hills.

**Unalaska/Dutch Harbor – Frank Kelty, Chair**

The Unalaska/Dutch Harbor AC represents the community of Unalaska on Unalaska island, as well as the portion of Unalaska located on Amaknak island that is commonly known as Dutch Harbor. These islands are part of the Aleutian chain. All seats are undesignated by regulation. The areas of jurisdiction for game is GMU 10, the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands area for finfish, Westward area shellfish other than king crab, and king crab Registration areas O and Q.

Current committee status: The Unalaska/Dutch Harbor AC is very active holding up to 5 meetings per year. Current membership is eleven members all of which reside in the community.

Areas of interest: The economy in Unalaska/Dutch Harbor is heavily reliant on processing. Members participate in a variety of commercial fishing activities including the salmon sein fisheries in the Chignik and Kodiak areas; jig, pot and long line for ground fish; and crab in the Dutch Harbor area. Members have also noted interest in sport fishing, hunting, guiding, subsistence, and personal use activities. The primary concerns for the Unalaska/Dutch Harbor AC are the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands ground fish, and westward area crab fisheries, but the AC submits comments on a variety of relevant fisheries issues.

## **Western Region Advisory Committees**

The Western Region has seven ACs: Stony/Holitna, Central Kuskokwim, Lower Kuskokwim, Bethel, Central Bering Sea, Coastal Lower Yukon, and Mid-Lower Yukon. For the 2018–2019 meeting cycle all ACs held meetings. Six of the seven ACs in this region serve multiple communities. Two out of the seven ACs represent 12 or more communities, covering vast geographic areas.

Geographic features: The Western Region is home to two of largest river deltas in the world, including the lower portions of both the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers. The GMUs within this region are 18 and 19. Bethel is the largest community and serves as the hub for 56 federally-recognized tribal communities with an estimated total population of 25,000 residents. The federal government manages a large portion of the lands and waters in this region. Consequently, there are members from all seven ACs also involved with the federal subsistence RACs. Land is also owned by Native corporations and Native allotments. The Yup'ik and Cup'ik cultures and languages continue to flourish within the Western Region. Yup'ik language interpreters are hired to facilitate communication between Yupi'ik-first language and English-first language speakers for two of the seven meetings

General areas of interest: Historically, commercial fisheries in the region supported the local economy; however, recent declines in king salmon and the absence of interested buyers/processors suspended several of the commercial fisheries resulting in hardships for commercial fishers reliant on this income to meet their needs and supplement subsistence activities.

The Kuskokwim Area commercial salmon fishery consists of four fishing districts, all of which have been inactive since 2015 due to lack of interested processors. Herring fisheries within the Kuskokwim Area have remained inactive since 2013.

The Lower Yukon area consists of three districts in river and one coastal district. Commercial salmon fishing occurs in Districts 1 and 2. Salmon have not been bought or sold from District 3 since 2007 due to a lack of commercial processors in the area. Commercial fishing for herring used to occur in the Cape Romanzof area near the communities of Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay. There was no commercial harvest from 2007–2012 and from 2014–2018. Within the Lower Yukon District 1, a commercial fishery for whitefish occurs in September and October. Arctic lamprey harvests in District 2 are allowed under a Commissioner's permit and subject to harvest quotas. Subsistence fishing, managed under the ADF&G's Commercial Fisheries Division, is essential to the livelihood of the people living in the Western Region. Along with salmon, people subsistence fish for whitefish, sheefish, lush, pike, smelt, blackfish, Arctic lamprey, trout, and grayling. Subsistence fishing occurs year-round.

Moose populations in this region are increasing on the Kuskokwim and Lower Yukon rivers and declining on the Yukon River near Russian Mission. Caribou and muskox are stable or increasing. Furbearers are also abundant in the region and members from all ACs are active in their taking by means of hunting and trapping. The state manages waterfowl in the Western Region during September and October. Those ACs closest to the coast participate in these managed hunts. The subsistence way of life is practiced by a majority of residents in the region. Protecting subsistence hunting and fishing opportunities remains a priority for regional ACs in order for their culture and livelihoods to continue to flourish in rural Alaska.

Each community within the Western Region has a unique set of strengths and challenges making general overviews of issues extremely complex. However, some of the predominant concerns that have surfaced during recent Western Region AC meetings generally related to socioeconomic, fish and game management, and natural conditions. The decline of returning king salmon impacts subsistence fishing throughout the rivers. The reduction in commercial fishing opportunities in the Kuskokwim region in the face of increasing costs of living challenges sustaining the subsistence way of life in rural Alaska. Impacts from climate change continue to alter traditional patterns and ways of life. In addition, ACs find the cultural values and subsistence needs of certain groups often conflict with the state’s regulatory process, which can challenge their ability to fully engage in and advocate for the essential resource needs within the region.

Region specific proposals: The Joint Board will consider three proposals (Proposals 2, 3, and 5) requesting structural reorganization of current ACs, and Proposal 4, requesting the placement of the Stony/Holitna AC from the Western Region to the Interior Region.

**Bethel – Jaimie Kassman, Chair**

The Bethel AC is comprised of 11 undesignated seats. The community of Bethel is located in GMU 18. The areas of jurisdiction for game GMUs 18 and 19, and Kuskokwim Area for finfish.

Current committee status: The Bethel AC holds two to four times in person meetings per cycle. One seat is currently vacant.

Areas of interest: The Bethel AC was created by the Joint Board in 2013. Prior to 2013 the community had one designated seat on the Lower Kuskokwim AC. Declining king salmon stocks in the Kuskokwim River drainage is a high priority for this AC as well as the growing moose population along the Kuskokwim River in GMU 18. In recent years, musk oxen have moved inland and members are interested in increasing this population. The committee is also interested in keeping local caribou populations healthy to sustain future hunts. Members in this area are also active in trapping and waterfowl.

**Central Bering Sea – David Bill, Chair**

The Central Bering Sea AC represents the communities of Chefnak, Goodnews Bay, Kipnuk, Kongiganak, Kwigillingok, Mekoryuk, Newtok, Nightmute, Platinum, Quinhagak, Toksook Bay, and Tununak. There are also two undesignated seats for a total of 15 members. These communities are located in GMU 18. The area of jurisdiction for game is GMU 18, and both the Kuskokwim area and the Lower Yukon area for finfish. The community-designated seats are:

Chevak	1 representative	Newtok	1 representative
Chefnak	1 representative	Nightmute	1 representative
Goodnews Bay	1 representative	Platinum	1 representative
Kipnuk	1 representative	Quinhagak	1 representative
Kongiganak	1 representative	Toksook Bay	1 representative
Kwigillingok	1 representative	Tununuk	1 representative
Mekoryuk	1 representative	Undesignated	2 representatives

Current committee status: The Central Bering Sea AC is active, holding two to three in-person and teleconference meetings per cycle. The AC has 15 seats which are filled except for Platinum and

Kwigillingok. The AC meets in Bethel at least once per meeting cycle with the help of a Yup'ik language interpreter. Due to the vast geographic area that is included within this AC funding is often limited for a second in-person meeting. Difficulties with consistent phone and internet connectivity for these communities make productive teleconference meetings arduous.

Areas of interest: The priorities for this AC are the subsistence use of salmon stocks, groundfish fisheries, Bering Sea marine mammals, Nelson and Nunivak Island muskox herds, and the growing moose population near the coastal communities. Waterfowl, which is managed by both state and federal authorities, are also important to members of this AC.

**Central Kuskokwim – Lisa Feyereisen, Chair**

The Central Kuskokwim AC, with ten seats, represents the communities of Crooked Creek, Aniak, Chuathbaluk, Lower Kalskag, and Upper Kalskag. These communities are located in GMU 19A. The areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 18, 19, and 21, and the Kuskokwim area for finfish. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Crooked Creek	2 representatives	Lower Kalskag	2 representatives
Aniak	2 representatives	Upper Kalskag	2 representatives
Chuathbaluk	2 representatives		

Current committee status: The Central Kuskokwim AC is active, meeting once or twice per cycle in Aniak, as funding allows. Additional meetings are conducted by teleconference. The AC currently has three vacant seats and two alternates.

Areas of interest: This AC is concerned with subsistence fishing in the Kuskokwim River and the GMU 19A moose population that has been in Tier II hunt status since 2006.

**Lower Kuskokwim – Philip Peter Sr., Chair**

The Lower Kuskokwim AC (LKAC) represents the communities of Kwethluk, Napaskiak, Napakiak, Kasigluk, Oscarville, Nunapitchuk, Tuntutuliak, Tuluksak, Atmauthluak, Akiak, Akiachak, and Eek for a total of 14 members. These communities are located in GMU 18 and the areas of jurisdiction for game are GMU 18 and 19, and the Kuskokwim area for finfish. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Kwethluk	2 representatives	Tuntutuliak	1 representative
Napaskiak	2 representatives	Tuluksak	1 representative
Napakiak	1 representative	Atmauthluak	1 representative
Kasigluk	1 representative	Akiak	1 representative
Oscarville	1 representative	Akiachak	1 representative
Nunapitchuk	1 representative	Eek	1 representative

Current committee status: The AC is active holding two to three in-person and teleconference meetings per cycle that focus on fishing and game management issues. The Lower Kuskokwim AC has 14 seats, 12 of which are filled. Challenges conducting meetings for the Central Bering Sea AC are consistent for the Lower Kuskokwim AC.

Areas of interest: Declining king salmon stocks in the Kuskokwim River drainage has been the highest priority for this AC, and there is concern that subsistence needs are not being met. The committee is interested in keeping local populations of caribou, moose, and muskox healthy and

productive. People in this area are also active in the taking of furbearers and the subsistence taking of waterfowl.

**Mid-Lower Yukon – William Alstrom, Chair**

The Mid-Lower Yukon AC represents the communities of Marshall, Russian Mission, St. Mary's, Andreafski, Mountain Village, Pilot Station and Pitkas Point. There are seven seats. These communities are in GMU 18. The area of jurisdiction for game is GMU 18 and the Upper and Lower Yukon areas for finfish. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Marshall	1 representative	Mountain Village	1 representative
Russian Mission	1 representative	Pilot Station	1 representative
St. Mary's	1 representative	Pitka's Point	1 representative
Andreafski	1 representative		

Current committee status: The AC is active holding one to two in-person and teleconference meetings per cycle. All seats are current.

Areas of interest: The AC meets in St. Mary's twice a year as funding allows and also meets via teleconference. The AC was created by the Joint Board in 2013 after they divided the Lower Yukon AC into two ACs. The committee is active in fish and game resource issues within the lower Yukon River and is concerned with subsistence and commercial salmon fishing. With the thriving moose population and increase in hunting in the area, members are concerned regarding appropriate moose harvest methods.

**Coastal Lower Yukon – Raymond Oney, Chair**

The Coastal Lower Yukon AC represents the communities of Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay, Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, Emmonak and Kotlik. The AC has six seats. These communities are located in Game Management Unit 18. The area of jurisdiction for game is GMU 18 and the Upper and Lower Yukon areas for finfish. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Alakanuk	1 representative	Kotlik	1 representative
Emmonak	1 representative	Nunam Iqua	1 representative
Hooper Bay	1 representative	Scammon Bay	1 representative

Current committee status: The AC is active holding one to two in-person and teleconference meetings per cycle. Currently all seats are filled. This AC meets in Bethel due to challenges in travel logistics, but expressed desire to meet in one of its designated communities in the future to increase public participation in the regulatory process.

Areas of interest: The committee is active in fish and game resource issues within the lower Yukon River area. Subsistence and commercial salmon fisheries have been a major issue of concern in recent years with the decline in king salmon. A growing moose population in the coastal area has altered some of their hunting practices in recent years. The AC has expressed concern over the observed decline in the Alaska hare population, which used to be abundant in this coastal area. Waterfowl are also important to members on this committee.

**Stony/Holitna – Doug Carney, Chair**

The Stony/Holitna AC represents the communities of Sleetmute, Lime Village, Stony River, and Red Devil. The Stony/Holitna AC has eight seats. The communities are located in GMU 19A. The

areas of jurisdiction for game are GMU 18, 19, and 21 and the Kuskokwim area, Lower Yukon and Upper Yukon area for finfish. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Sleetmute	2 representatives	Stoney River	2 representatives
Lime Village	2 representatives	Red Devil	2 representatives

Current committee status: The committee typically meets twice a year which are often conducted via teleconference due to challenges in travel logistics. Currently all seats are filled.

Areas of interest: This committee is interested in game management, especially intensive management in GMU 19. King salmon declines are a significant concern in recent years. Subsistence hunting, fishing, and trapping activities are important issues for the AC.

**APPENDIX A: ZAHN REPORT TO THE JOINT BOARD, 1981**

## ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A Report to  
The Boards of Fisheries and Game  
by Mil Zahn  
Executive Director  
November 18, 1981

### Synopsis

This report gives a constructive evaluation of Fish and Game Advisory Committee and Regional Council structure and effectiveness. Issues and problems are identified and various options for improvement are suggested. This review originated at the request of the Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game during the spring 1981 meeting.

Advisory Committees and Regional Councils provide a forum for public participation in Boards of Fisheries and Game deliberations on regulation and policy governing fish and game management in Alaska. The system is effective as a mechanism for public involvement but is exhibiting some organizational problems related to growth. The more active committees are quite productive but others have lapsed into oblivion. Public scrutiny of the process is intensifying under the impetus of ANILCA implementation. The public and the Boards both need to know that the system is working.

### Background

In general, the committees fall in to three basic categories, to wit:

1. Rural Advisory Committees - membership is drawn from small remote communities. Communication and transportation are cumbersome and the associated costs exceed, by far, those of other Committees.
2. Railbelt/Roadsystem Advisory Committees - members tend to have ready access and communication for committee functions.
3. Urban Advisory Committees - Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Juneau typify this group. Anchorage in particular, with its large population base, has high volume participation with an attendant large work load related to meetings and correspondence.

There are 67 Advisory Committees authorized by the Boards, with an aggregate membership of about 665. The attached chartlet shows committee locations. The geographic distribution clearly is not uniform but the per capita distribution indicates that most citizens have reasonable access to a committee. The per capita representation, however, is much higher in rural areas than in urban ones. One notable disparity in per capita

representation is that three committees represent some 200,000 people in the Anchorage area while three committees represent perhaps 12,000 people on the Kuskokwim and Yukon Delta.

The Boards provide direction and support to the Committees through travel funding, procedural guidelines and communications on Board meeting activities and schedules. New funding for ANILCA implementation will support more committee travel but the extent of demands for funding are not known at this time.

### Issues and Trends

Committee effectiveness varies widely and, not surprisingly, is dependent on local initiative by key individuals. Activity in a given area tends to reflect the bias of personal, industry or social influence. Board records indicate that about 60% of the committees are active. More particularly, 28 committees have not submitted meeting minutes to the Boards in 1981 and 17 of those have failed to reveal their presence in any manner. The appended table provides relevant data.

In addition to local community motivation, the level of Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff rapport with area residents determines the effectiveness of the committee process. When staff interest or involvement dwindles, the system breaks down.

Common complaints received by the Boards include:

1. Committee membership not a representative cross section of user groups within a community.
2. Committee biased toward gear groups, racial groups, or political, subsistence, sport or commercial interests. It is a fact, however, that some communities are oriented to narrow interests.
3. Meetings conducted unfairly or illegally, such as in alleged secrecy.
4. Lack of a quorum results in no action.
5. Committees will not willingly accept members from neighboring towns. Feuds between communities result in requests for additional committees.
6. Committee not active.
7. Chairman not providing leadership or information.
8. Members demand full per diem as a condition of holding meetings.
9. Special interest groups control meeting direction.

10. Questionable election of officers. Little turnover in membership.

From the Boards' perspective there is very poor communication from the committees. In particular, minutes of meetings are received sporadically and Boards are not notified of impending travel needs. A memo to all 665 committee members this fall requesting information for this report to the Boards has not received a single reply. The Boards do receive calls for money. There is some tendency for committees to expect Board monitoring of member behavior at meetings to ensure fair dealings. There is little apparent thought to committee member responsibilities for self government.

To a large extent these types of problems are expected in the course of trying to coordinate and support broad public involvement. It is essential, however, to progress toward the original goal of meaningful public involvement without diverting into a morass of intra-group squabbles. As a democratic process, the Advisory Committee tends to reflect community strengths and weaknesses. Several committees are outstanding examples of participatory democracy and provide carefully considered testimony to the Boards. The effective committees emerge through active, local involvement and are not a product of either fragmented public participation or force feeding by State agencies. The issue is analogous to a citizen's voting responsibility.

As a source of proposals to the Boards, Advisory Committees submitted the following approximate percentage of recent proposals:

- 1980 - 21% of all game proposals
- 1981 - 36% of all game proposals
  
- 1981 - 23% of all March fish proposals
- 1981 - 40% of all December fish proposals

The recent Board practice of funding committee chairmen travel to Board meetings appears to be an educational process of considerable potential. Currently, there is no ready measure of its effectiveness but it would seem most useful where strong leadership conveys information and perceptions back to the committee.

The entire Advisory Committee and Regional Council process is increasingly cumbersome and perhaps would benefit by limiting growth. Expenditures have increased significantly in recent years but it is difficult to identify a commensurate increase in public participation. Board funding since 1974 is shown below:

1974	.....	30.0	1979	.....	312.8
1975	.....	36.2	1980	.....	249.3
1976	.....	78.7	1981	.....	452.8
1977	.....	158.4	1982	.....	1,419.6
1978	.....	158.3			

Board staffing that once was an auxiliary duty of one or two Department staff people has grown to a permanent Board staff of four at present. Immediate plans for this fiscal year include the addition of an Assistant Executive Director plus six coordinators for Regional Councils plus six part time secretarial positions. In addition, the Boards continue to be dependent on Department staff for assistance.

It should be noted that the present demands on Boards and Department relative to committees derives from a small but active fraction of committee potential. If all 67 committees were to hold the required four meetings per year there would be a minimum of 268 meetings needing some kind of Board or Department interface. Regional Council meetings would add to that total.

Inevitably, the Boards are part of the phenomenon of expanding bureaucracy. Board members need to consider the implications of this trend. This expansion has been most evident since the Boards first separated into two groups in 1975.

Board staffing of coordinators for Regional Councils will help resolve existing problems. This new staff role, however, presents some challenges in order to mesh properly with existing Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff functions. Board staff will need to develop good community relations without displacing Department management staff in its public contact. The Department resource managers cannot work effectively without community support. The public, however, will tend to support whichever element of government they believe best conveys their concerns to the Boards. This could lead to appearances of Board advocacy. The considerable potential for competition or friction will need to be resolved by clear policy from the Boards and Commissioner.

A number of questions emerge for Board consideration. In particular, Board members should ask:

1. Would an overall limit on the number of committees be useful? There are about five petitions for new committees before the Boards at this meeting.
2. Should closely adjacent communities have separate committees? A policy of fewer committees could encourage neighboring towns to work together.
3. Is racial balance on committees an issue within Board purview?
4. Would separate committees for fisheries and for game be more effective? Could this apparent need in some communities be better served by the committee splitting its two functions on a local sub-committee basis rather than by Board action?

5. Should the present committee and regional council format be retained or changed? Committees, for example, could merge entirely into the council structure by allowing each town to have a single representative on the appropriate Regional Council.
6. Should inactive committees be dissolved?
7. Is there a point of diminishing effectiveness in the public forum process? If so, what is it? An often heard complaint is that people have too many meetings to attend and issues to consider. Does the number of inactive committees indicate a saturation point?
8. Should Emergency Closure authority be revised?
9. Should Boards expect to settle intra committee disputes regarding conduct at meetings?
10. Should some existing Advisory Committee regulations be repealed in favor of regulations more clearly addressing Regional Council needs? Several pages of concurrent jurisdiction regulations, for example, could be replaced with umbrella language clearly stating the obligation of Committees or Councils to solicit input from adjacent groups.
11. What is the optimum size of field staff assigned directly to the Boards?
12. How far do the Boards wish to become involved in field level council coordination? There is a discernable drift from an exclusively policy role to one of on-scene management. The next step involves the small but important distinction between arranging support services and doing actual research or report writing for a group.

### Conclusions and Recommendations

The present structure is of known effectiveness and should remain as the nucleus for the intended public forum. Refinements are needed and the overall subject should receive the benefit of ongoing review.

Immediate or short term actions recommended are:

1. Place an informal freeze on creating new committees, pending identification of key issues and goals.
2. Set a maximum number of Advisory Committees at specified locations.
3. Dissolve inactive committees.

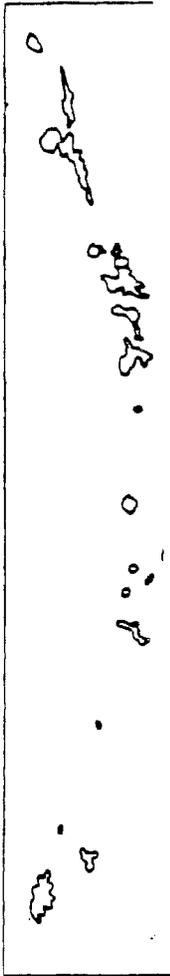
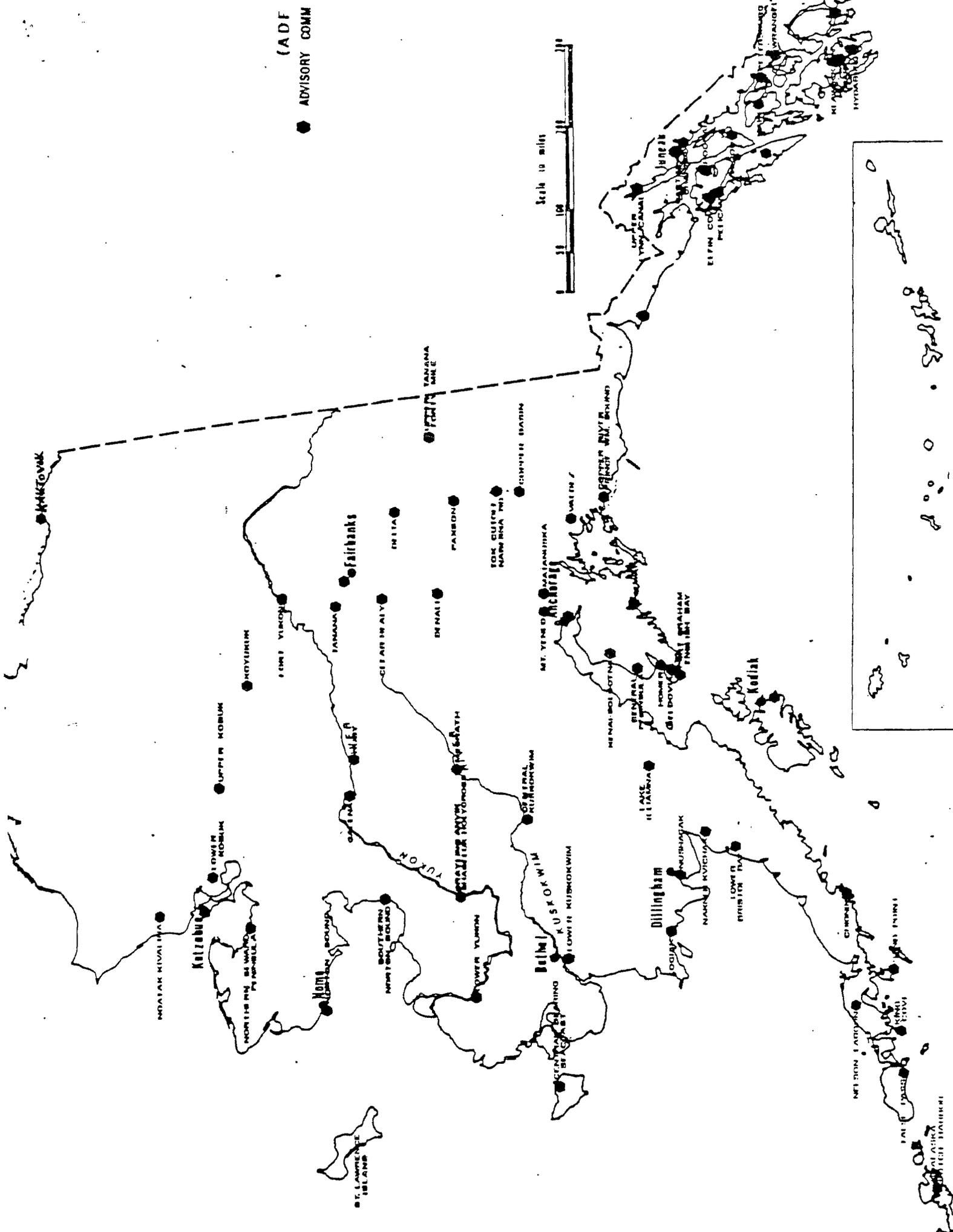
4. Insist on realistic communication from Committee chairmen. The Board staff, for example, is implementing a policy of releasing travel funds only upon a chairman's request prior to meetings. The prior notice provision has existed for some time in the Board regulations. There is no progress to report in this regard.
5. The Boards should develop policy or position statements addressing the 12 questions outlined above. Board resolution of seemingly minor points, such as inactive committees, would demonstrate Board expectations to the public.
6. Continue the practice of funding committee chairmen, or designees, attendance at Board meetings. This is an expensive exercise but can be educational for all involved parties.

(ADF)

ADVISORY COMM



Scale in miles



MOATAK NIWA IHI IHI

Kilauea

LOWE II KUIKOKWIM

UPPER HONOLULU

KOYUKIM

LOWER HONOLULU

YANAMA

Sailboats

INITA

CLEAR WATY

DE NALI

PAREON

LOW QUICKY  
KAWA NIWA IHI

CAMPUS II SHARIM

MT. YENI D

ARCHIWI

WALIN

UPPER  
YUNYUNAN

BEFANI CO  
PELIND

JURON

HE NAI BOLI  
KOTINA

BE NAI BOLI  
KOTINA

MOHON

DEI DOVU

TAHAI  
FINAI IHI BAY

KODIAH

ST. LAWRENCE  
ISLAND

SOUTHERN  
ISLAND

NORTHERN  
ISLAND

UPPER  
YUNYUNAN

YUNYUNAN

BE NAI BOLI  
KOTINA

MAKTOVAK

YANAMA  
ISLAND

NETIUN I  
ADUWAK

## Activity by Advisory Committees

The following table provides some indicators of activity by committees. Two important elements NOT shown are the number of proposals submitted via committees and the long-term impact of committee representatives attending and participating in Board meetings. The active committees do submit a significant percentage of all proposals received. The impact of attending Board meetings should be assessed during future reviews.

These figures for calendar year 1981, through mid-November, derive from existing Board records.

<u>Committee</u>	<u># of Members</u>	<u>Attended Regional Boundary Meeting</u>	<u>Minutes Received</u>	<u>Other Corres.</u>
Anchorage	17	Yes	3	Yes
Angoon	12	Yes	0	No
Barrow	4	Yes	0	No
Central Bering Sea Coast	11	Yes	0	Yes
Central Kuskokwim	8	No	0	No
Central Peninsula	11	Yes	1	No
Chignik	17	No	0	Yes
Clear-Healy Valley	10	No	0	No
Copper Basin	9	Yes	0	No
Copper River - Prince William Sound	15	Yes	0	Yes
Craig	5	Yes	0	No
Delta	7	Yes	5	Yes
Denali	10	Yes	0	No
Elfin Cove	9	No	3	Yes
English Bay - Port Graham	6	No	1	No
Fairbanks	10	Yes	2	Yes
False Pass	5	No	0	No
Ft. Yukon	9	No	2	Yes

<u>Committee</u>	<u># of Members</u>	<u>Attended Regional Boundary Meeting</u>	<u>Minutes Received</u>	<u>Other Corres.</u>
Galena	13	Yes	1	No
Gastineau Channel	16	No	1	Yes
Grayling-Anvik-Shageluk- Holy Cross	9	Yes	1	Yes
Homer	13	No	0	No
Hoonah	13	No	0	No
Hydaburg	12	Yes	1	No
Kake	9	No	0	Yes
Kaktovik	5	No	0	No
Kenai-Soldotna	5	No	0	No
Ketchikan	7	No	2	No
King Cove	7	No	0	No
Klawock	4	No	1	No
Kodiak	12	Yes	2	Yes
Kotzebue	11	No	0	No
Koyukuk	12	No	1	No
Lake Iliamna	8	No	2	No
Lower Bristol Bay	5	No	0	No
Lower Kobuk	5	Yes	1	No
Lower Kuskokwim	14	No	0	No
Lower Yukon	14	Yes	2	Yes
McGrath	14	Yes	2	No
Matanuska	10	No	3	Yes
Mt. Yenlo	10	No	1	No
Naknek-Kvichak	13	No	2	No
Nelson Lagoon	5	No	0	No

<u>Committee</u>	<u># of Members</u>	<u>Attended Regional Boundary Meeting</u>	<u>Minutes Received</u>	<u>Other Corres.</u>
Noatak-Kivalina	5	Yes	1	No
Northern Seward Peninsula	6	No	2	No
Norton Sound	4	No	1	No
Nushagak	14	Yes	2	Yes
Paxson	11	No	0	No
Pelican	11	Yes	0	No
Petersburg	15	No	2	Yes
Ruby	15	Yes	2	No
Sand Point	8	Yes	0	No
Seldovia	7	No	4	Yes
Seward	14	Yes	2	Yes
Sitka	13	Yes	2	No
Southern Norton Sound	6	No	0	No
St. Lawrence Island	11	No	0	No
Tanana	11	No	3	No
Togiak	8	No	0	No
Tok Cutoff-Nebesna Road	8	No	2	No
Unalaska-Dutch Harbor	12	No	3	No
Upper Kobuk	3	Yes	1	No
Upper Lynn Canal	6	Yes	3	No
Upper Tanana-Forty Mile	14	No	0	No
Valdez	7	Yes	2	Yes
Wrangell	7	No	0	No
Yakutat	9	No	1	Yes

**APPENDIX B: STATUS REPORT ON JOINT BOARD TASK FORCE ON  
ADVISORY COMMITTEES, 2002**

# STATUS REPORT ON JOINT BOARD TASK FORCE ON ADVISORY COMMITTEES DECEMBER 2002

## Overview

The Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game identified the need for a broad, comprehensive review of the state's advisory committee system after identifying several issues. A committee of the joint board noted that some groups feel disenfranchised from both the advisory committee and board process, and that there is a sentiment among various user groups that the membership of the local advisory committees does not adequately reflect the full range of users and values that exist in Alaska. The boards have heard of problems in election process used by some advisory committees. At the same time, the boards have repeatedly heard from advisory committees that their recommendations are given proper deference. Another problem area identified comes from an inadequate budget to support the advisory committee system, limiting many committees to a single annual meeting and limiting their attendance at Board of Fisheries and Board of Game meetings.

The joint boards' committee developed a tentative timeline and process for addressing these issues. A problem statement was developed in October 2001 (Appendix 1), and task force members were selected in January 2002 (Appendix 2). The task force met on two occasions, April 6 and April 29, 2002, in Anchorage to create a scoping document that will examine the statewide structure and provide alternatives to strengthen the system. At this point, summaries from those meetings need review by the task force members and should lead to a scoping document. Meeting summaries are contained in Appendix 4 and Appendix 5. It was the intent of the joint boards to use the scoping document as an options paper for advisory committees and the public to use in developing proposals. Given the lack of continuity in board membership in 2002, both boards have chosen to delay the scheduling of a regulatory process.

At the initial task force meeting April 6, 2002, the task force members identified weaknesses of the current advisory committee system and causes in the following areas: process, timing/organization, public input, training, elections, funding, and interaction.

Many problems were identified in the area of advisory committee interaction with the board at board meetings, such as being able to attend only portions of meetings and not feeling that the boards fully utilize the expertise offered by advisory committees.

The task force also identified problems stemming from incompatible or conflicting meeting schedules between the state and federal systems. These centered on lack of time for completing proposal reviews, lack of department recommendations, timely receipt of minutes to the boards, and the high volume of proposals.

The group explored ways for increasing the public awareness advisory committee meetings and their role in advising the boards. Specific steps that could be taken were identified.

Training needs for new and current members were seen as a priority. Written materials were specified, as well as getting members and officers from several committees together, mentoring programs, getting education on biological topics.

The task force spent considerable time discussing advisory committee elections and how problems with elections can impact the makeup and balance of committees. Many problems were in the area of process such as proper notice for elections, confusion over who can vote, and difficulty in holding elections in some outlying communities. Use of designated seats was explored.

Funding problems were identified with the timely reimbursement of travel claims and inadequate funding for travel to board meetings and holding advisory meetings. The task force recognized that funding is primarily a legislative issue and developed a letter to express concerns to the legislature. At least two meetings per year for committees is seen as a minimum for effective participation.

The final category of problems pertained to the interaction between the advisory committee, department staff, and board members. Some suggested advisory committees should be used as a feeder system for board appointments in order to increase board knowledge of the advisory committee system. Others encouraged more feedback from board on the reasons for board actions. Limits in participation to the federal regional council system were seen as tied to federal support.

Positive features of the advisory committee system were also identified. Members noted how the advisory committees and boards allow individuals to effect regulatory change and how it allows for maximum public participation, particularly from different geographic areas. There was general agreement that it is a sound solid system in need of adjustments more than wholesale change.

A follow-up meeting on April 29-30, 2002, task force members reviewed a summary of the first meeting, identified additional problem areas, and categorized problems into four arenas for change:

- Legislative (Statute)
- Joint Board (Regulatory)
- Joint Board (Policy)
- ADF&G/Boards Section procedures (Internal Policy)

The group also reviewed possible alternatives to structuring the advisory committee system. They reviewed a draft listing of seven alternatives developed by staff for discussion purposes (Appendix 6). An eighth alternatives was considered as were alternatives in combination with each other.

*Alternative H*, board use of a "super subcommittees" was suggested by the task force. Here subcommittees would be formed by a board to work on a specific issue, such as Upper Cook Inlet finfish. Here the board would appoint members, with the involvement of advisory committees. This would not replace but rather enhances the advisory committee system.

The alternative of reducing the number of advisory committees (*Alternative F*) drew some interest in instances where membership make-up could be reviewed by committee for balance and for background on the initial composition when first formed. Some saw a problem with too many advisory committees on the highway system, such as the eight committees within 60 miles of each other on Kenai Peninsula, but in general there was support for a review on case-by-case basis rather than arbitrary limits. Analysis should consider similarity of use and cost effectiveness.

*Alternative D*, forming separate fishery-only and wildlife only advisory committees was determined as undesirable at this time because it would be difficult to choose which to join for a person concerned with both areas, potential workload problems, and loss of strength from not meeting regularly. It could be redundant with the subcommittee approach taken by some committees already.

The group discussed a combination of *Alternatives B and F* which would add regional committees and reduce the current number of advisory committees. Regional committees could be appointed by the boards from current advisory committee membership to consider regional issues and try for consensus. Here positions taken could go back to individual advisory committees for support. Some saw advantages if a board member also attended and if meetings were held the day prior to board meetings.

There was general support for adding regional committees or meetings for advisory committee chairs within a region. The concept of a regional Board of Fisheries was resoundingly rejected. Specific suggestions for procedures in meetings were also discussed.

### **SYNOPSIS**

The task force members will receive a copy of the draft summaries from the April 6, 2002 and April 29-30, 2002 meetings. Their review of these summaries will help insure that all issues identified during the meetings are included. These will form the basis of a scoping document to be made available to each board and the public by March 1, 2003. This allows each board to consider during their March 2003 meetings the best approach to addressing advisory committee topics.

The boards will use this background to establish a schedule for a regulatory process. Steps in the regulatory process include issuing a call for proposals by the boards, publishing a proposal booklet, offering public comment period, compiling written comments, and holding a Joint Board regulatory meeting. The steps could take place during 2003-2004 regulatory cycle.

**JOINT BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT  
October 2001**

*SUMMARY*

The Joint Board Committee recommends the joint boards adopt the following statement of work:

The Joint Boards of Fish and Game will conduct a review of the state's advisory committee system. The boards will use a task force to create a scoping document that will examine the statewide structure and provide alternatives to strengthen the system. The scoping document will be distributed widely for public comment, culminating in a statewide regulatory meeting in the 2002/2003 board cycle.

*PROBLEM STATEMENT*

The joint boards have never performed a broad, comprehensive review of the state's advisory committee system. Some publics feel disenfranchised from both the advisory committee and board process.

There is sentiment among various user groups that the membership of the local advisory committees does not adequately reflect the full range of users and values that exist in Alaska. The current election process allows opportunity for biased results in the representation on advisory committees.

There is sentiment among some advisory committees that their recommendations are not followed by the board(s) and that their input is not given proper deference by the board(s).

Finally, the current budget for the advisory committee system is inadequate. There is not enough funding for each AC to meet twice per year as the current regulation requires in order to remain active. In addition, there is not enough funding for each AC to attend the respective board meetings in their regions each year.

*GOAL/STRATEGY*

Ensure the state has an effective advisory committee system. Ensure that the public is enfranchised in the advisory committee process.

Design and implement a process that enables the joint boards to revitalize the current advisory committee system structure. That process will include input from the local advisory committees and the public.

Maximize the ability of the boards, working separately and together, to gain a budget increase to maintain the advisory committee system, rather than trying to do more with less.

## *BACKGROUND*

The boards have not met jointly for over three years, however the regulations envision an annual joint board meeting (5 AAC 96.600). A Joint Board Committee, consisting of two board members from each board, recently met with staff from ADF&G and Dept. of Law to identify issues for a joint board meeting, and recommend to the joint board a process and timeline to address the issues. Board members include Ed Dersham and Russell Nelson from the Board of Fisheries, and George Matz, Greg Roczicka, and Greg Streveler from the Board of Game. The committee discussed the areas of jurisdiction for the joint boards, the workload of the individual boards for the 2001/2002 meeting cycle, budget issues, and timelines as well as coordination of schedules.

There are a number of regulatory topics for the joint boards to schedule and consider. The Joint Board Committee prioritized these areas of work, with a recommended schedule, as follows:

1. Advisory Committee System: Begin addressing this cycle (2001/2002)
2. Nonsubsistence Use Areas: Begin addressing upon receipt of pending court decision
3. Regulatory Procedures: Address in a future cycle, possibly 2002/2003, after preliminary work by the Department of Law and Boards Support Section of ADF&G.

1. The Joint Board Committee focused on the review of the advisory committee system as a priority for the joint boards' agenda. The committee discussed and designed a process to suggest to the full boards that enables a thorough review of the state's advisory committee system and engages the public in that review. The method for this review is discussed below.

2. It has been almost ten years since the boards have performed a regulatory review of the state's nonsubsistence use areas. The Joint Board Committee recommends the joint boards schedule a review of these regulations soon. However, at the time of this committee meeting, the issue was still in court (*Kenaitze v. State*) and the committee suggested that it would not be advisable to do further work until the court has rendered a decision and until the full boards have had the opportunity to discuss any court decision with the Attorney General's office. [Subsequent to the committee meeting, a decision came in. The Department of Law will brief both boards this fall and may recommend a joint board meeting be scheduled soon in response to the decision. More detail will be provided at each board's first fall 2001 meeting.]

3. "Regulatory Procedures" include areas of the fish and game code such as the Subsistence Proposal Policy, the Joint Board Petition Policy, etc. In general, these regulations are working well for the public and the board, but may need some housekeeping work to clarify portions of the procedures within the regulations.

## *METHODOLOGY*

In order to meet the objective of ensuring that the state has an effective advisory committee system, the Joint Board Committee recommends the following process:

- Appoint a 12-member task force, made up of advisory committee members and interested members of the public. Each board names 6 members. (Fall 2001)
- The task force composes a scoping document that provides a wide range of alternatives for an effective state advisory committee system, including recommendations for statute and regulatory changes. (Fall/Winter 2001-2002)
- Distribute the scoping document for full advisory committee and public review. (Early 2002)
- The joint boards review the scoping document at a work session. (April 2002)
- A "Call for Proposals" is issued, with the proposal deadline set for late fall 2002.
- Joint boards regulatory session is scheduled for spring 2003.

#### *ACTION NEEDED*

The Joint Board Committee recommends:

- Each board reviews this report and approves the approach described within.
- Continue to use the Joint Board Committee as the boards' working members on this project.
- Each board names six members to a task force.
- Request the Boards Support Section begin the process for scheduling a spring 2002 joint board work session.
- Each board work, both individually and collectively, to gain an adequate budget for the state's advisory committee system.

**Appendix 2. List of panel members selected by the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game**

**Panel Members of the Joint Board Task Force**

Roy Ashenfelter (former AC chair), Nome  
David O. David (Central Bearing Sea AC), Kwigillingok  
Tim Evers (sport fish charter; Cen. Pen AC), Ninilchik  
Bob Galloway (Fairbanks AC), Fairbanks  
Robert Heyano (former chair Nushagak AC), Dillingham  
Bill Paden (former chair, Sitka AC), Sitka  
Randy Alvarez (chair, Lake Iliamna AC), Igiugig  
Bob Churchill (former chair, Anchorage AC, former Board of Game member), Anch.  
Cliff Judkins (Matanuska Valley AC), Wasilla  
Royce Purinton (chair, Middle Yukon R. AC), Nulato  
Tom Sparks (Northern Norton Sound AC), Nome  
David van den Berg (tour operator), Fairbanks

**Participating Board members**

Russell Nelson (Board of Fisheries), Dillingham  
Virgil Umphenour (Board of Fisheries) Fairbanks  
George Matz (Board of Game), Anchorage  
Dana Pruhs (Board of Game), Anchorage

### **Appendix 3. Letter to Task Force Members**

March 1, 2002

Dear Joint Board Task Force Members:

First of all, thank you for agreeing to serve on the joint board task force. I appreciate your donation of time and effort to this important process.

In the letter soliciting nominations for this task force, we noted that the joint boards have never performed a broad, comprehensive review of the state's advisory committee system. Some members of the public feel disenfranchised from both the advisory committee and board process. There is sentiment among various user groups that the membership of the local advisory committees does not adequately reflect the full range of users and values that exist in Alaska. Some advisory committees believe that the boards do not follow their recommendations and that their input is not given deference by the boards. Finally, the budget for the advisory committee system is inadequate. The Joint Board Committee recommended a task force approach to conduct the review of the advisory committee system.

The charge to the task force is to serve a "scoping" function and develop a wide range of alternatives for discussion prior to a Joint Board work session (tentatively scheduled for early May 2002). A scoping document is envisioned, providing a wide range of alternatives to ensure that the state has an effective state advisory committee system, including recommendations for statute and regulatory changes. Based on this input, the Joint Board plans to issue a public "Call for Proposals" for a late Fall 2002 deadline and schedule a regulatory meeting for Spring 2003.

In order to begin the work, I am enclosing a few documents for your review and use. Along with a list of participants to this task force, a recent history of joint board meetings and topics is enclosed. The October 2001 Joint Board Committee Report is included, and a draft "Comparison of Alternatives on Advisory System Changes" is the last piece. This comparison was provided to the joint board committee as a tool to begin composing a scoping document. I hope you find these useful as you begin your work.

Currently, we have scheduled a joint board task force meeting in Anchorage on April 6, beginning at 10 a.m. The location is being secured and my office will contact each of you when it is known. We plan to adjourn at 5 p.m., and at that time will assess whether another meeting of the task force is needed. The state will pay each member's airfare (or mileage), hotel if needed, and per diem; please make your own arrangements for travel. If you are not currently an advisory committee member, please contact my office to provide your social security number and home address. The contact person is: Lori VanSteenwyk, Administrative Assistant, at (907) 465-6096 or email at: [lori\\_vansteenwyk@fishgame.state.ak.us](mailto:lori_vansteenwyk@fishgame.state.ak.us).

Thanks again for participating in this task force. I look forward to meeting each of you.

Sincerely,

Diana Cote, Executive Director  
Alaska Boards of Fisheries and Game

**Appendix 4. Summary of April 6, 2002 Task Force Meeting**

**Draft  
JOINT BOARD TASK FORCE MEETING SUMMARY  
April 6, 2002  
Millennium Hotel, Anchorage**

Panel members present: Roy Ashenfelter, David O. David, Tim Evers Bob Galloway, Robert Heyano, Bill Paden, Randy Alvarez, Bob Churchill, Cliff Judkins Royce Purinton, Tom Sparks

Panel members absent: David van den Berg

Joint Board committee members present: George Matz (BOG), Dana Pruhs (BOG), Russell Nelson (BOF), Virgil Umphenour (BOF)

Facilitator: Teri Arnold

Staff present: Matt Robus (WC), Geron Bruce (CF), Kelly Hepler (SF), Susan Bucknell (Boards), Joe Chythlook (Boards), Justin Crawford (Boards), Trim Nick (Boards), Sherry Wright (Boards), Jim Marcotte (Boards)

Meeting Objectives

- To form as a team for reviewing the AC system
- To review the strengths and weaknesses of the current system
- To determine the characteristics of a good/desired AC system
- To build a list of criteria for evaluating options for a new/revised AC system
- To begin developing options for a new/revised AC system

Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Roles of facilitator, report writer, recorder, resource people, participants and observers
- Task Force introduction - Name, affiliation and where from
- Housekeeping - travel reimbursement
- Agenda Review
- Ground Rules, Task forces charge from Joint Boards, Guidelines for reaching consensus
- Problem Identification
- Weaknesses of current system - discussion of weaknesses and causes
- Strength Identification
- Develop characteristics of a good/desired AC system (brainstorming without evaluating). Use lists generated as launching point for discussion.
- Develop Criteria for evaluating a new/revised system
- Sideboards from the state (if any)
- Decide how to move forward into the final step of developing options, including a review of the Comparison of Alternatives on AC system changes.
- Meeting Evaluation

- Adjourn

### Ground Rules

- Be candid and open to others point of view in a positive spirit of wanting to help.
- Focus on group interests not special interests.
- Show mutual respect be sensitive to others feelings; especially when in disagreement.
- It's OK to disagree Everyone doesn't have to buy in to everything said. A discussion is preferable to ignoring an issue. Remember conflict is good. It is inevitable and necessary for reaching effective and creative solutions to problems.
- Listen One person speaks at a time. Look to your facilitator for your opportunity to speak.
- I statements Speak for yourself, owning your concern, idea or problem. Don't speak for others.
- Don't interrupt Listen carefully to understand others point of view.
- Be open to learning.
- Please - no side conversations.
- Be flexible
- Share your sense of humor.
- Every person needs and deserves two things - to be valued and to be understood.

### Joint Board Task Force Charge

To review the State's Advisory committee system and develop a wide range of alternatives to submit to the Joint Boards to be used as a basis to launch a full regulatory review.

### Guidelines for Reaching Consensus

- Make sure everyone is heard from and feels listened to.
- Do not vote; your aim is to talk through the issue until you've reached an agreement everyone can support.
- Consensus may not mean that you are in 100% agreement; BUT you've been heard, and you'll support the team or group's decision.
- Do not give in just to reach agreement – view conflict and differences of opinion as good.
- Be open. Strive for a creative solution.
- Think outside the box
- Ask questions and make sure you understand everyone's opinion before you make up your mind.

### Identification of Weaknesses and Causes

#### **1) Process**

AC not present at Board meeting during deliberations - Boards should allow AC testimony (funding needed). AC forced to be present first 2 days of meeting to sign up

for public testimony, but only allowed 5 days per diem maximum. Boards not fully using people in attendance at meetings as a resource.

- Change in agenda during the meeting and the order of proposals that don't seem to have the AC or public participation or economics in mind
- BOF need 2-3 AC members covered for travel to cover committee work that is held concurrently
- Committee work creates proposals that lack full public review process
- Difference in BOF and BOG process - committee work
- Frustration as audience member during the meeting - lack of ability to participate
- AC hinges on adequate funding - need to be present at entire meeting
- Lack of communication

AC don't have enough say in concerns and issues of their own areas

- Should have more say in the area they represent, don't feel valued.
- Not able to participate during deliberations
- Board needs to understand why AC came to decision
- Board should utilize authority to question the AC during deliberations and may not realize that they have the option to do that. Boards may not understand what they can or can't do as far as communication
- Adequate notice for AC participation is needed

Agenda Change Requests process primarily used successfully by ADF&G. Should be more accessible to ACs.

- Board has criteria to accept or reject an ACR. Resource versus allocation criteria or to correct an unforeseen effect.
- Lack of education on what ACR should be used for
- This issue was withdrawn - although there was agreement that there is abuse in the use of ACR's.

AC minutes - organized and legible reports

- AC secretaries may be unsure what the Board wants or needs, but need to incorporate the requested information. Need better instruction.
- AC minutes should include maps of the geographic location that comments are dealing with
- Standardized format is lacking
- Secretaries are volunteers - organize proposals like the Board roadmap
- Lack of funding for sufficient secretarial support

## 2) Timing/Organization

Schedule of meetings - BOF/BOG/Federal RAC and AC meetings scheduled back to back requiring AC and public input. Too much on the agenda - sheer volume of proposals - not enough time to complete the work. The other aspects of this were timely receipt of ADF&G recommendations to the AC, timely receipt of AC minutes to the Boards, timely receipt of workbooks to the Boards.

- Board is flooded with information. Organization improvements are needed for the Board workbooks. Board doesn't receive the information early enough to adequately review it.

- ADF&G is trying to streamline their recommendation process and agree it's a problem
- Comment deadline generally two weeks prior to the Board meeting, Board support puts book together - Cut off dates, whole proposal process timeline needs to be reviewed and improved.
- AC meetings are sometimes postponed because of travel/winter weather.
- Sheer volume of proposals - overload.
- Schedule of meetings and order of proposals not done with AC/public participation in mind.
- ACs limited by funding on what issues they can/should address
- Schedule based on Board's ability to attend

### 3) Public Input

Publicity/awareness of Boards and AC meeting schedules - advertisement of meetings. Board summary of actions. Public participation at AC meetings.

- "Unofficial" duty of the chair is public notice of meeting - goes unnoticed or undone.
- Lack of general public participation at AC meetings - varies by area
- Lack of recreational user participation
- Issue driven participation ( usually divisive issues - makeup of AC)
- AC can't make public participate
- Bad decisions usually draw a crowd

### 4) Training

AC members - new and current - systematic training of new chairs needed.

- No training, other than written manual - insufficient preparation for meaningful participation
- Lack of statewide meeting where annual training could occur
- Lack of mentoring program of experienced chairs with new chairs
- Concern of chairs lacking a broader vision of the process

Lots of technical information that's hard to digest - biological education of the issues.

- Complexity and volume of issues addressed
- Lack of availability of the information in advance of the AC meeting or Board meetings.
- Request for biological data prior to proposals written.

### 5) Elections

Process

- Lack of election meeting notice (2 week prior - rules not always being followed)
- Too many AC's in concentrated area
- Lack of definition of the "area" in elections - who can vote. Members of the region can move around to vote in the region -sometimes affecting the outcome of the vote.
- Elections held only in the "hub" community - disenfranchises other villages who may not be able to afford to travel to the election meeting.

- Good diverse input needed by Boards not being met due to lack of diversity
- Only those who show up get elected. If all bowhunters show up, they vote in a bowhunter.
- Statutory system supports a democratic process
- Disenfranchises user groups with a minority view or range of value

#### Designated Seats

- Solution suggested holding election for designated seat in the appropriate village and allowing only that village to elect that seat.
- Designated seats are community, not user group based
- Lack of participation by user groups - disenfranchised user groups
- Holding election in the same community repeatedly creates potential to pit village against village where multiple communities serve together on the AC
- Minority view under or not represented by user group not in regulatory language (current regulations specify minimum of three user groups must be represented)

#### Long term chairs on AC

- Lack of people who want to serve, lots of work involved
- Many do not see this as a problem
- Lack of understanding of the responsibilities of AC chair
- Lack of turnover may create perception of biased AC by Board - making them ineffective

### 6) Funding

AC per diem travel claims reimbursement needs to be timely. Adequate funding for AC travel to board meetings, coordinator travel to AC meetings, appropriate length of time for attendance regionally for board and community meetings. ADF&G do not put the AC system as a high priority. AC funding should be independent of ADF&G. One AC meeting per year is not enough to tell the Boards what the public wants - need funding for appropriate number of meetings. Need funding to allow for additional time needed for interpretation of the proposals to cross cultural participants.

- Funding is a legislative issue, but without adequate funding all other resolutions may or may not be accomplished.
- Frustration of what AC can do regarding funding.
- AC needs to go on record to support more funding, so it was determined that Bill Paden and Bob Churchill would draft a letter to the Joint board (with a cc to the legislators) from the task force lobbying adequate funding of the AC system. Letter draft will be done by April 13.
- At least two meetings per year are needed.
- Funding should be independent of ADF&G to eliminate potential "payback" on AC positions that are not in line with the department.
- Actual budget figures are needed for discussion on this issue.
- ADF&G concern of budget cuts to Department rather than increase to cover Boards/AC cost. This would mean cuts in current programs or research.

### 7) Interaction

Staff proposals are not reviewed by AC.

- Lack of interaction by the Department with the AC when writing proposals
- Issue varies by area (not all areas have this problem)
- Idea is desirable - not typically done

New board members lack knowledge of how AC system works/can be used

- Governor currently appoints someone to BOF/BOG. Board members who are not familiar with the AC process affect that process - suggested Governor use ACs as a feeder system for Board appointments
- Value of AC members affected
- Level of interaction affected

Lack of feedback from Board to ACs on decisions made

- Lack of communication between Boards/ACs
- Lack of real time interaction with boards during public testimony

AC/Fed RAC systematic interaction with urban areas is lacking

- Historical lack of interaction
- Lack of federal funding to participate in the Fed RAC system.
- Lack of communication between AC and Fed RAC in some areas
- Dual management issue - not a Joint Board issue
- Lack of information about the MOA process occurring
- Comment to Joint Board - interagency meeting

Coordination between chairs on regional and statewide basis

- Lack of effective communication between ACs. (cost effective/prohibitive)
- Lack of statewide/regional AC chair meetings

### **Strengths of the Advisory Committee System**

- Individuals can effect regulatory change
- Sound, solid system - needs a few tweaks
- Allows maximum public participation
- Expected improvements to current system
- AC system allows geographic area meaningful input
- Boards recognize importance of ACs - weigh good information heavily
- Educational for all users - access to ADF&G staff
- Offers communities meaningful participation in resource management
- Need for more regular Joint Board work

**Appendix 5. Summary of April 29 Task Force Meeting**

Draft  
**JOINT BOARD TASK FORCE MEETING SUMMARY**  
**April 29-30, 2002**  
**Marriott Hotel, Anchorage**

Categories of Weaknesses Identified at Previous (April 5, 2002) Meeting

(NEW items added are below; previous weaknesses are included in April 5 Summary)

- Budget
  - Stipend for AC members is needed
  - Consider purchasing teleconference system for AC use
- AC Influence
  - Ability for AC chairs to vote with board members
  - Large interest groups
- Training
  - AC use of subcommittees, task forces allowed
- Workload/Timeline
  - Require AC approval of proposals prior to publishing
  - ADF&G should consider traditional knowledge/experience within data provided to boards
- AC/Public Interaction
  - Homogenous thinking on some ACs
  - Alternative election systems should be explored; e.g., "instant run-off system"
  - Using elections to "work issues" then the new member does not return for other business
  - Feedback loop from board(s) could be strengthened (e.g., problems w/elections, chair, etc.)

*Arenas for Change*

- Legislative (Statute)
- Joint Board (Regulatory)
- Joint Board (Policy)
- ADF&G/Boards Section (Internal Policy)

**Comments of possible alternatives**

(Refer to "Comparisons of Alternatives" draft document dated 8/4/01)

**New Alternative H: "Super Subcommittee"**

**Summary:** Short-term, issue-specific "AC" formed by a board to work an issue (e.g., Upper Cook Inlet finfish)

- Board appoints members, with AC involvement
- Urban/road-connected ACs may be able to use better than rural ACs
- Does not replace AC; enhances the system
- Tap other funding sources, including match money
- Downside to tapping other funding: decisions may be viewed as biased toward entity that provided funds; legislature may reduce funding by the amount received
- Timing: Need ADF&G comments on proposals prior to this group convening; is this doable?

**Alternative F: Reduce current number of ACs (see also Alternatives B & F below)**

**Summary:** Review AC membership make-up committee by committee for balance, including number of seats

- Look into history of why ACs are combined instead of just combining
- Number of seats in ACs w/multiple community reps (e.g., some 15, some 9 members)
- Nome example: majority of seats are designated for Nome, remaining are from villages. Sets up possibility of running meeting just on Nome membership.

**Alternative D: Fish-only and Wildlife-only advisory committees**

**Summary:** Undesirable at this time

- Hard to choose which one to be a member of
- Workload problems
- Person becomes "expert" through knowledge and experience gained with general AC membership so would have to train and educate more people
- Game ACs would have to only meet every other year; Fish ACs only every 3 years
- Some of this specialization is already happening within committees; including thru subcommittees on fish, game
- Some areas of state may not have enough issues to split up (e.g., Southeast)
- Could end up with same members on each fish/game AC

**Blend Alternatives B and F: Add Regional Committees/Reduce Current Number of ACs**

**Summary:** Regional committees appointed by board(s) from current AC membership that consider regional issues and try for consensus; positions/results go back to individual ACs. One board member from pertinent board attends meeting; meetings held day prior to board meeting

Adding Regional Committees:

- Discussed Fran Ulmer's concept of regional boards and resoundingly rejected
- Keep localized representation and add to it with board-appointed regional committees
- Allow for statewide meeting of AC chairs
- Allow for regional meetings of ACs and/or AC chairs
- Regional meetings of chairs only work if AC represents ALL stakeholders
- Regional meetings work for specific issues (e.g., WACH, but not moose in NW Alaska)

- Use as problem-solving group—not making decisions for ACs but getting together on “burning issues” then go back to ACs to get concurrence
- Regional committees would be appointed by a board from current AC membership (not just automatically the chairs of ACs)
- At times ACs go to board meetings without knowledge of positions of neighboring ACs
- Rep needs to be able to represent AC vs. personal interest
- Where does this fit into Workload/Timeline?
- Even if group does not reach consensus it still strengthens and allows system to be proactive instead of reactive
- BOF prepares in-meeting committee structure early; need roadmap earlier from BOG
- Regional committees could get together the day prior to a board meeting
- Would need facilitator if regional committees operate on consensus basis
- Cost effective? Information gained worth effort? Does it get public involved? Will it help solve conflicts between user groups?
- ACs would choose issues that go to regional committees
- Position of regional committee would not go directly to board; rather, would go back to individual ACs
- Ask one board member to attend regional committee meeting; board members are overworked, however if meeting held day prior to board meeting it could be easier
- Board member attendance is cost-effective because group can get board feedback earlier rather than later, especially “global” input (e.g., winter king issue: AC members may not know what’s going on in Canada whereas board member probably does)

Reducing Number of ACs: (see also Alternative F discussion above)

- Too many ACs on highway system (e.g., 8 ACs within 60 miles of each other on Kenai P)
- What criteria to use to consolidate/eliminate/combine ACs?
- Consolidation can increase cost in some regions
- Can reduce public input if some ACs are eliminated, especially in rural areas
- Not recommending a certain number of ACs—review on case-by-case basis
- Consider how resources are used: similar patterns of use or use of same fish/game resource, and consider cost effectiveness (e.g., travel)

The group discussed use of an “instant run-off ballot” method of voting for members and whether it would help include minority views on committees.

**General Discussion on Teleconferencing**

- Teleconferencing supplements, does not replace, face-to-face meetings
- Difficulties with technology, inconsistent quality of phone calls in some areas
- Discussion of new issues does not work well on teleconference
- Videoconferencing could be looked at in future to expand interaction
- Example of YRDFA teleconferences was given; keeps people informed on management

## **Appendix 6. Alternatives provided to Task Force for Discussion Purposes**

These were options developed by staff for the purpose of encouraging the exploration of advantages and disadvantages to various structural changes to the existing system. These were not developed by the task force. The task force reviewed these alternatives during the April 29, 2002 meeting made recommendations which refer to these. They are included here for background.

**Alternative A – Maintain status quo.** This alternative would continue the existing system of 81 local fish and game advisory committees. Specific committees could be continued to be added, modified, or combined on a case-by case basis in response to specific proposals.

**Alternative B – Add regional advisory committees to existing advisory committee system.** This alternative would add state regional committees to the existing local advisory committee system. State regional councils are already provided for in regulation but have not been funded or activated since the early 1990s when the state lost ANILCA compliance. Variations could include use of either six regional committees, as was used in the 1980s, ten regional committees to mirror the ten regions currently used in the federal regulatory system, or more such as those identified in Alternatives D and E.

**Alternative C – Switch to regional advisory committees.** This alternative would replace the local advisory council system with a smaller number of regional advisory committees. Variations could include use of either six regional councils, as was used in the 1980s, or ten regional councils to mirror the ten regional areas as currently used in the federal regulatory system.

**Alternative D – Switch to regional advisory committees with fish or wildlife specialty.** This alternative would replace the local advisory council system with a regional advisory committees each dedicated to either fishing topics or wildlife use topics for each of 6 or 10 regions.

**Alternative E – Switch to regional advisory committees for each regional management area.** This alternative would establish regional advisory committees for each of the broad regional management areas as used by the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game. Regional *fishery* committees: Southeast, Yakutat, PWS/Copper River, Arctic, Yukon River, Kuskokwim River, Bristol Bay, Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian, Cook Inlet (Upper and Lower or just one?), Kodiak, Chignik, Crab/shellfish, Statewide. Regional *game* committees: Southeast (Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5), Arctic and Western (units 18, 22, 23, 26A), BB (Units 9A, 9B, 9C, 9E, 17), Kodiak/Aleutians (Units 8, 9D, 10), Southcentral (Units 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16), Eastern Interior (Units 12, 20, 25, 26B, 26C), Western Interior (Units 19, 21, 24), Statewide. This would result in 13 fishery-based advisory committees and 8 game-based advisory committees for a total of 21. Note the possible inclusion or exclusion of committees for the “statewide” sections of the regulations

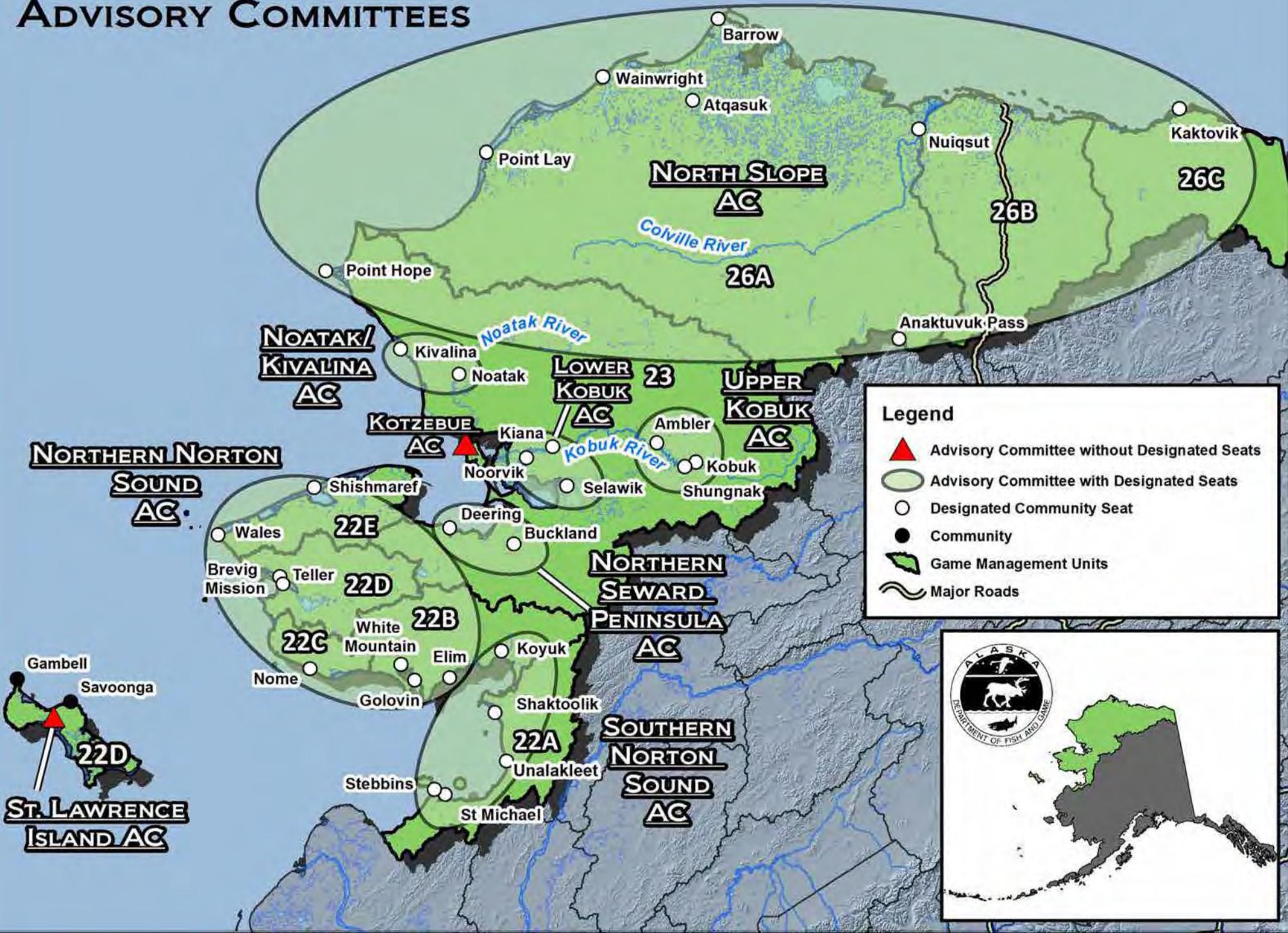
**Alternative F – Retain existing local advisory committee system but reduce or combine committees on a case-by-case basis.** This alternative would continue the existing system of 81 local fish and game advisory committees but would reduce

the number of committees by combining similarly situated committees and elimination of inactive committees. Also, the Joint Board could change the number of seats, community representation, and specify user group representation on specific committees on a case-by case basis to address identified problems.

**Alternative G – Establish charter committees for specific management issues or for specific geographic areas** In this alternative, the boards could establish new committees on a charter basis for specific management issues. These charter committees could also be for a specific geographic area. The charter would provide basic guidelines such as fair and open public meetings but leave specifics on committee structure, membership, meeting planning, and travel coordination to the chartering group. These charter committees could be funded through ADF&G within budget constraints on a cooperative agreement basis with periodic review. A model for this is the North Slope Borough's fish and game committee, which operates independently of ADF&G. They are self funded however. Existing local advisory committees may choose to operate independently under a charter arrangement. For example, local village councils could operate the Yukon Flats advisory committee under a charter agreement. Native non-profit corporations would likely be interested in other areas as well. Committees could also be chartered to represent non-consumptive uses.

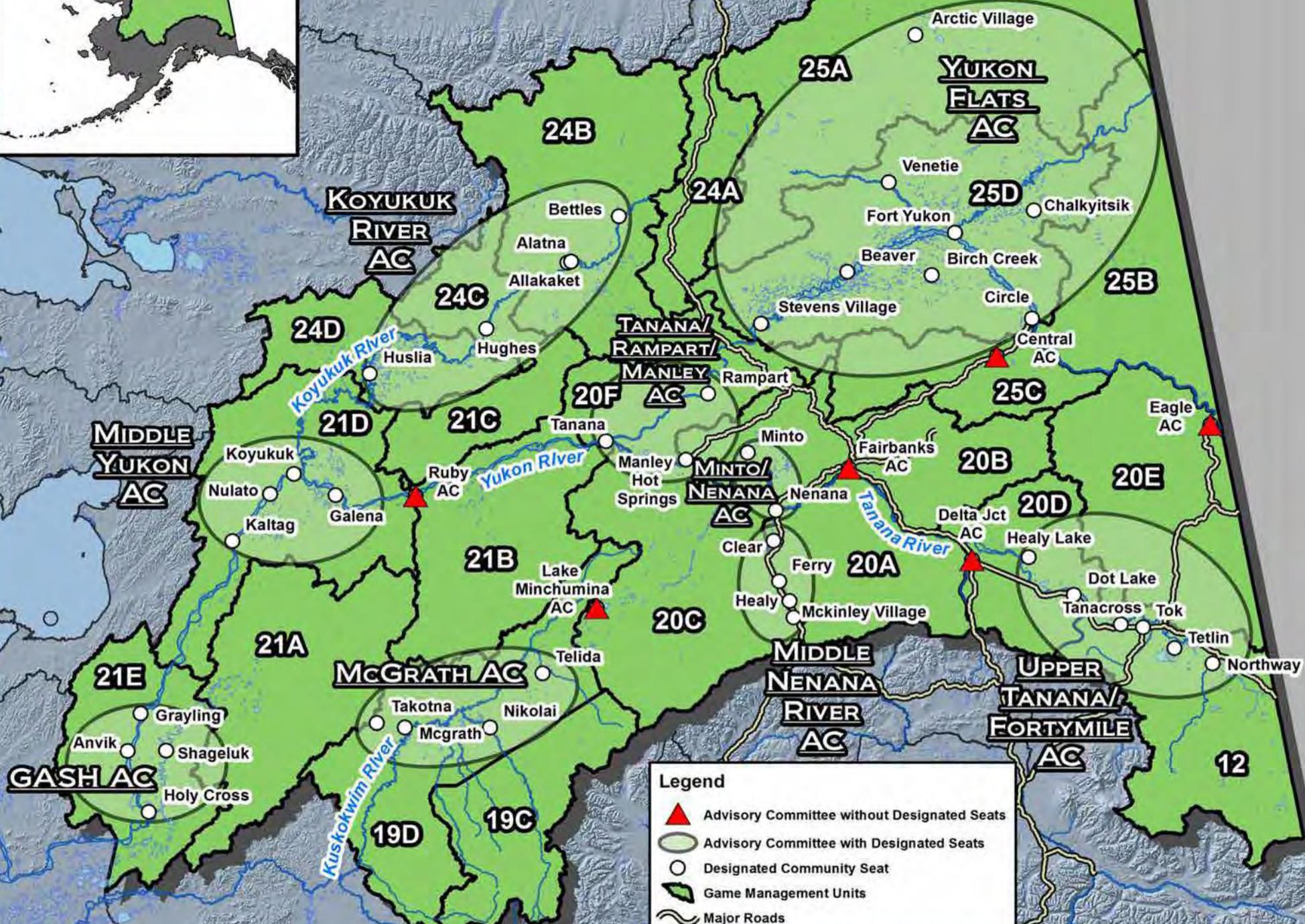
**APPENDIX C: REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MAPS**

# ARCTIC REGION ADVISORY COMMITTEES



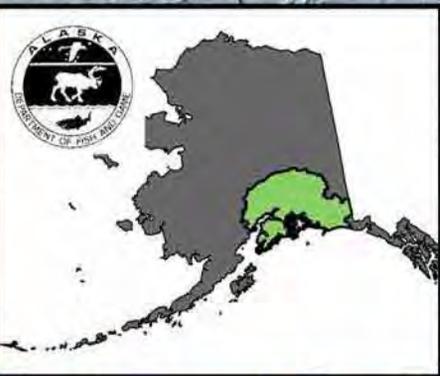


# INTERIOR REGION ADVISORY COMMITTEES

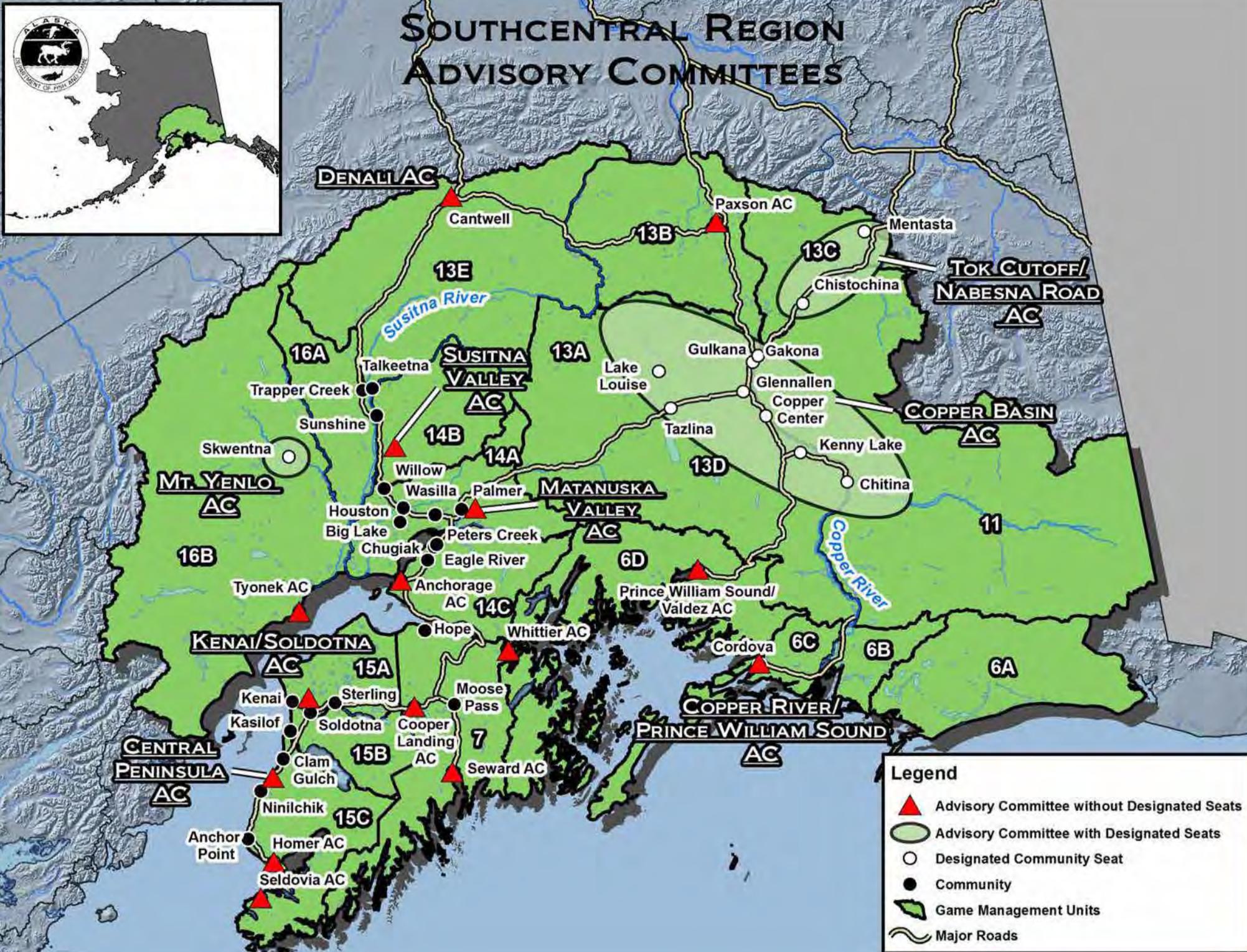


**Legend**

- ▲ Advisory Committee without Designated Seats
- Advisory Committee with Designated Seats
- Designated Community Seat
- Game Management Units
- Major Roads



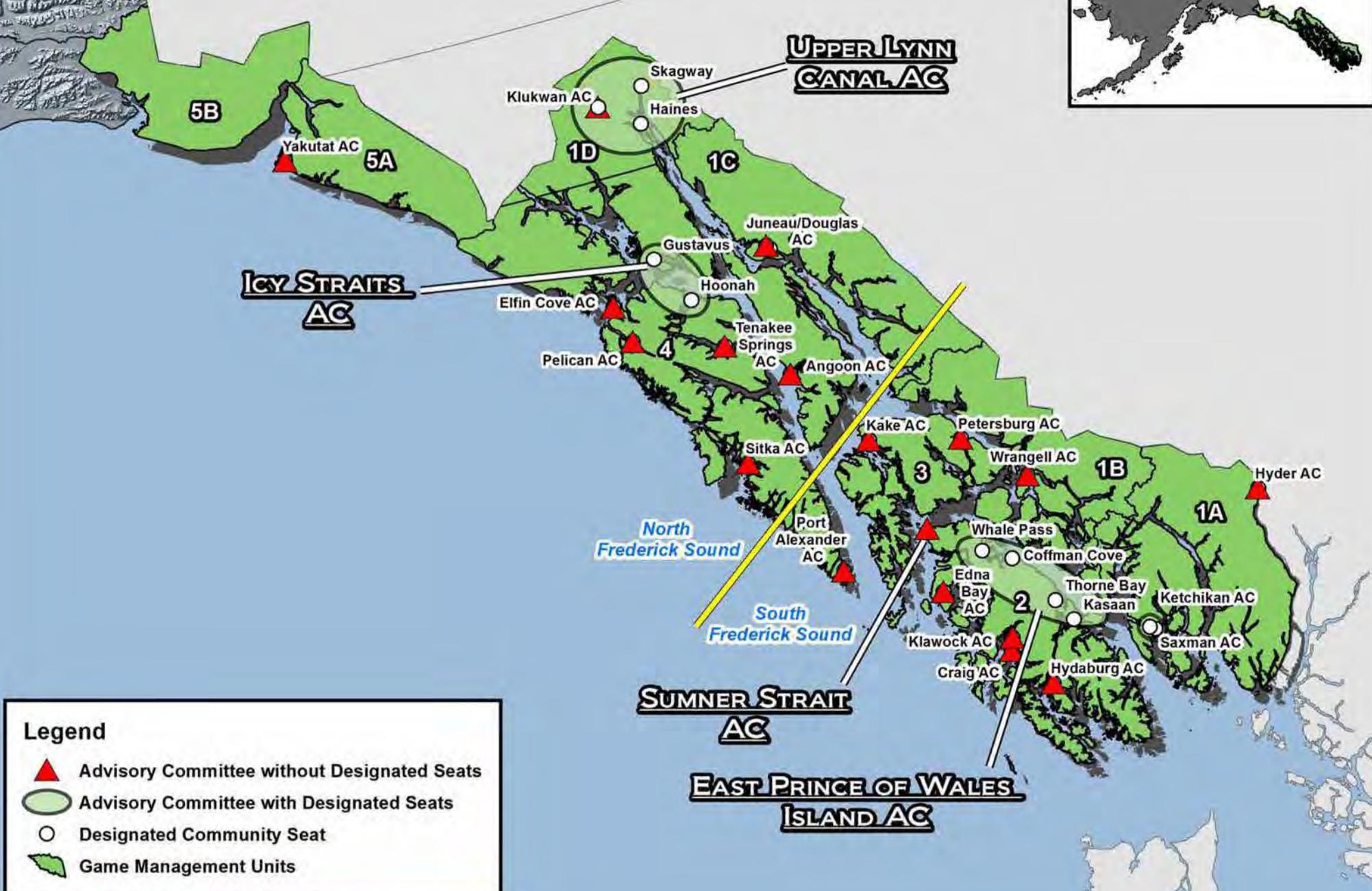
# SOUTHCENTRAL REGION ADVISORY COMMITTEES



**Legend**

- ▲ Advisory Committee without Designated Seats
- Advisory Committee with Designated Seats
- Designated Community Seat
- Community
- Game Management Units
- Major Roads

# SOUTHEAST REGION ADVISORY COMMITTEES



**Legend**

- Advisory Committee without Designated Seats
- Advisory Committee with Designated Seats
- Designated Community Seat
- Game Management Units



# SOUTHWEST REGION ADVISORY COMMITTEES

**Legend**

- Advisory Committee without Designated Seats
- Advisory Committee with Designated Seats
- Designated Community Seat
- Community
- Game Management Units
- Major Roads

**NUSHAGAK AC**

**LAKE ILIAMNA AC**

9B

9A

17B

17A

17C

**NAKNEK/  
KVICHAK AC**

9C

**TOGIAK AC**

**LOWER BRISTOL BAY AC**

**KODIAK AC**

8

9E

**CHIGNIK AC**

Nelson Lagoon AC

Chignik Lake  
Chignik  
Chignik Lagoon

Port Moller

Sand Point AC

King Cove AC

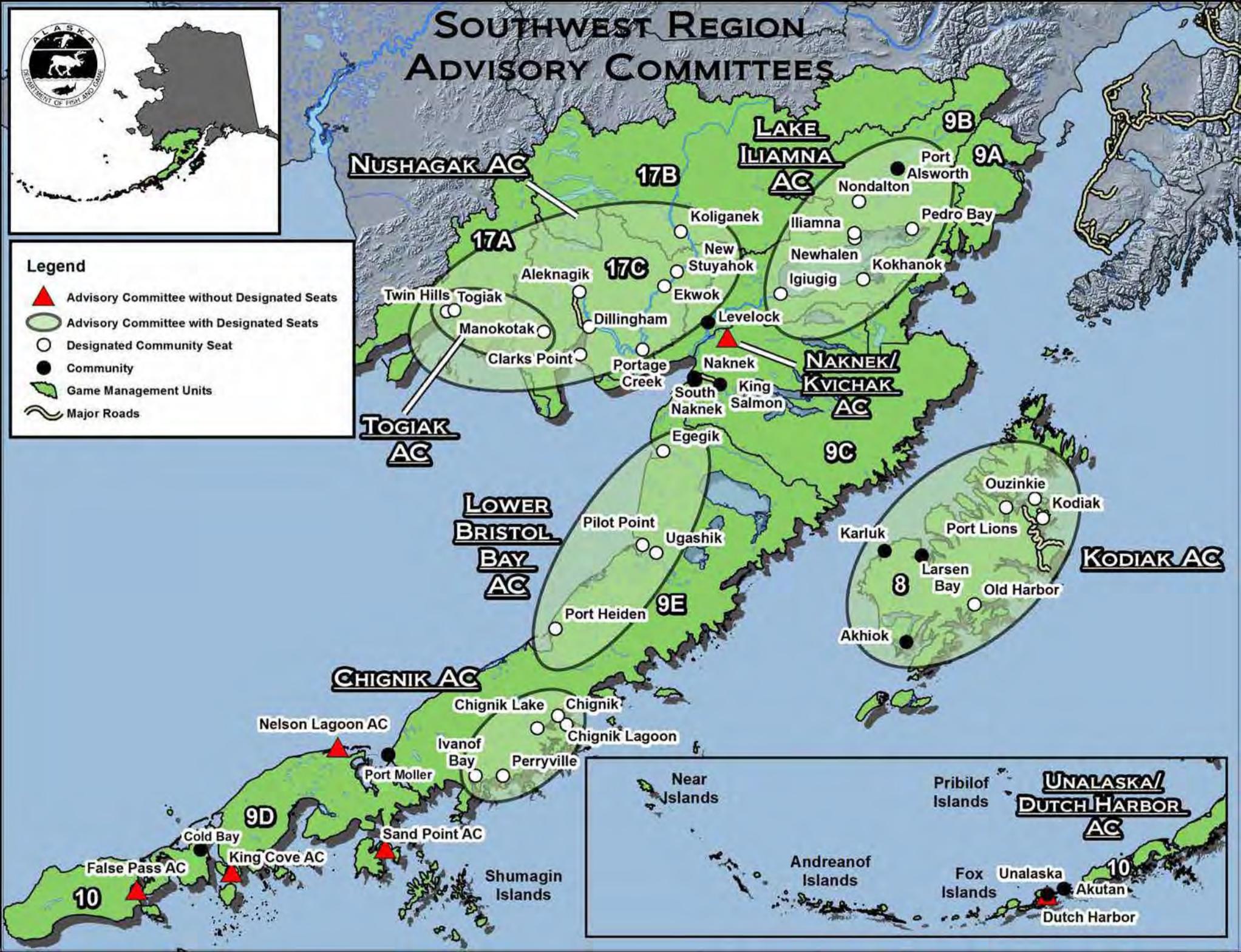
False Pass AC

10

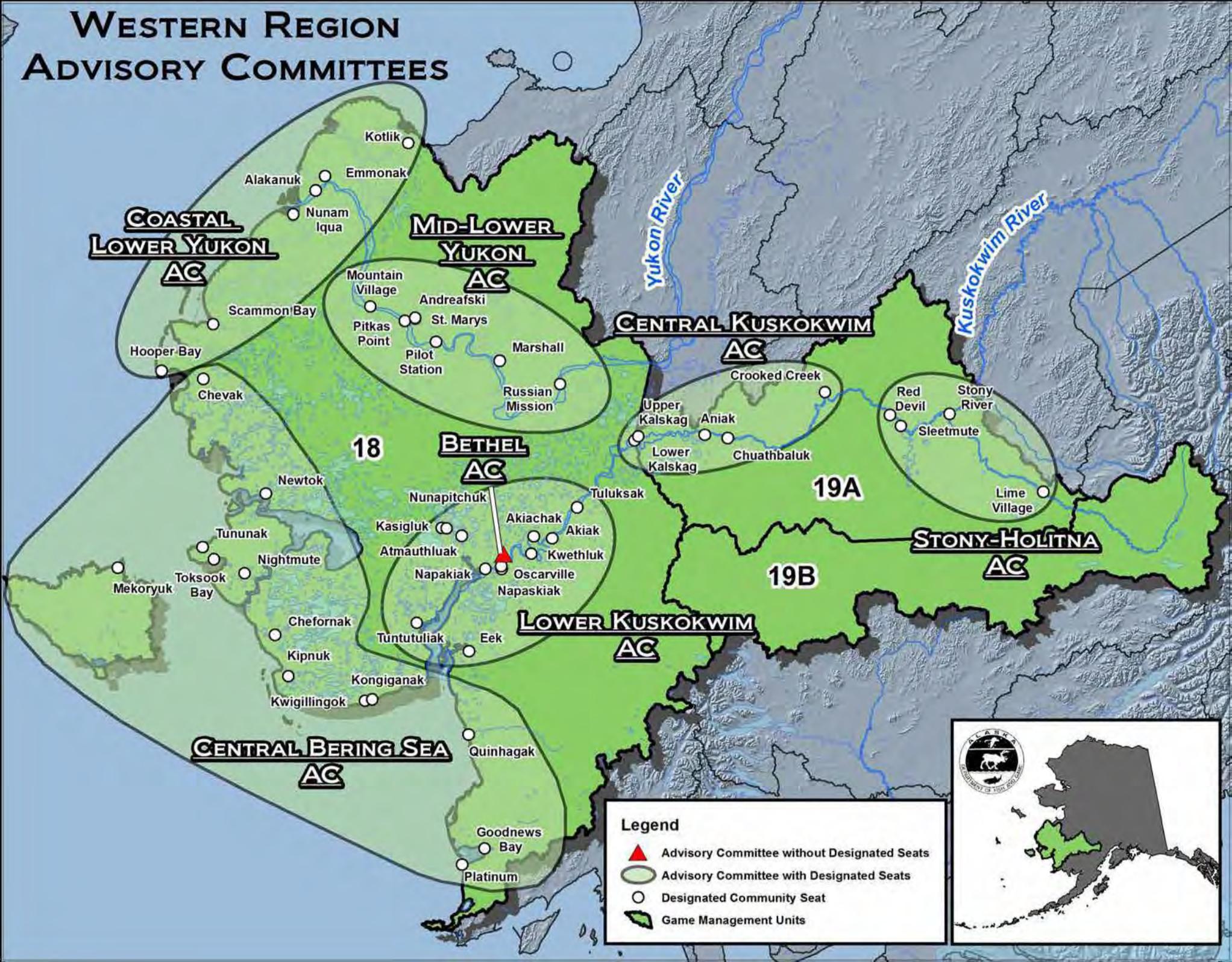
**UNALASKA/  
DUTCH HARBOR AC**

10

Near Islands  
Pribilof Islands  
Andreanof Islands  
Fox Islands  
Unalaska  
Akutan  
Dutch Harbor



# WESTERN REGION ADVISORY COMMITTEES



**COASTAL  
LOWER YUKON  
AC**

**MID-LOWER  
YUKON  
AC**

**CENTRAL KUSKOKWIM  
AC**

**BETHEL  
AC**

**LOWER KUSKOKWIM  
AC**

**CENTRAL BERING SEA  
AC**

18

19A

19B

**STONY-HOLITNA  
AC**

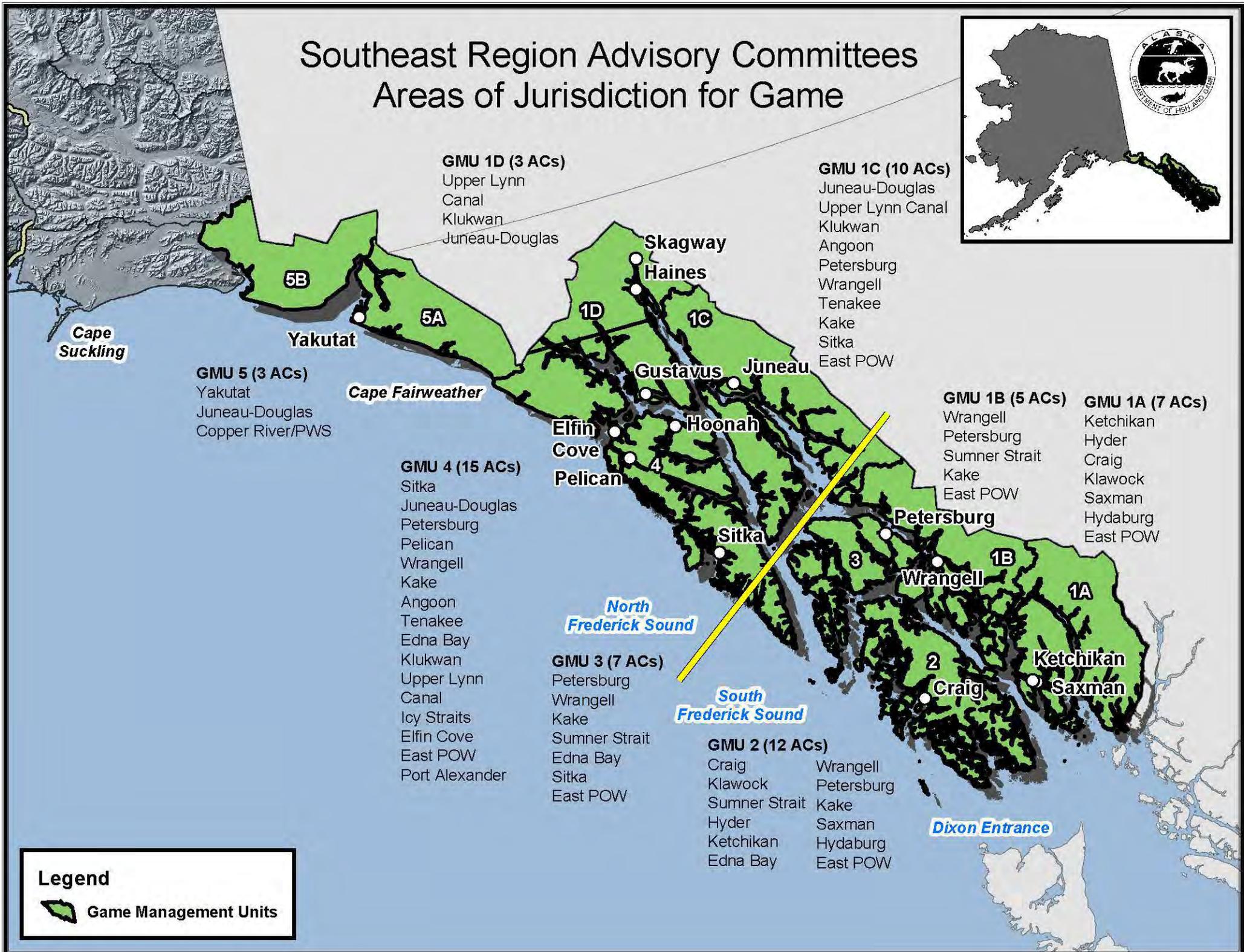
**Legend**

-  Advisory Committee without Designated Seats
-  Advisory Committee with Designated Seats
-  Designated Community Seat
-  Game Management Units



**APPENDIX D: AREAS OF JURISDICTION MAPS FOR THE  
SOUTHEAST AND SOUTHCENTRAL REGIONS**

# Southeast Region Advisory Committees Areas of Jurisdiction for Game



**GMU 1D (3 ACs)**  
Upper Lynn Canal  
Klukwan  
Juneau-Douglas

**GMU 1C (10 ACs)**  
Juneau-Douglas  
Upper Lynn Canal  
Klukwan  
Angoon  
Petersburg  
Wrangell  
Tenakee  
Kake  
Sitka  
East POW

**GMU 5 (3 ACs)**  
Yakutat  
Juneau-Douglas  
Copper River/PWS

**GMU 1B (5 ACs)**  
Wrangell  
Petersburg  
Sumner Strait  
Kake  
East POW

**GMU 1A (7 ACs)**  
Ketchikan  
Hyder  
Craig  
Klawock  
Saxman  
Hydaburg  
East POW

**GMU 4 (15 ACs)**  
Sitka  
Juneau-Douglas  
Petersburg  
Pelican  
Wrangell  
Kake  
Angoon  
Tenakee  
Edna Bay  
Klukwan  
Upper Lynn Canal  
Icy Straits  
Elfin Cove  
East POW  
Port Alexander

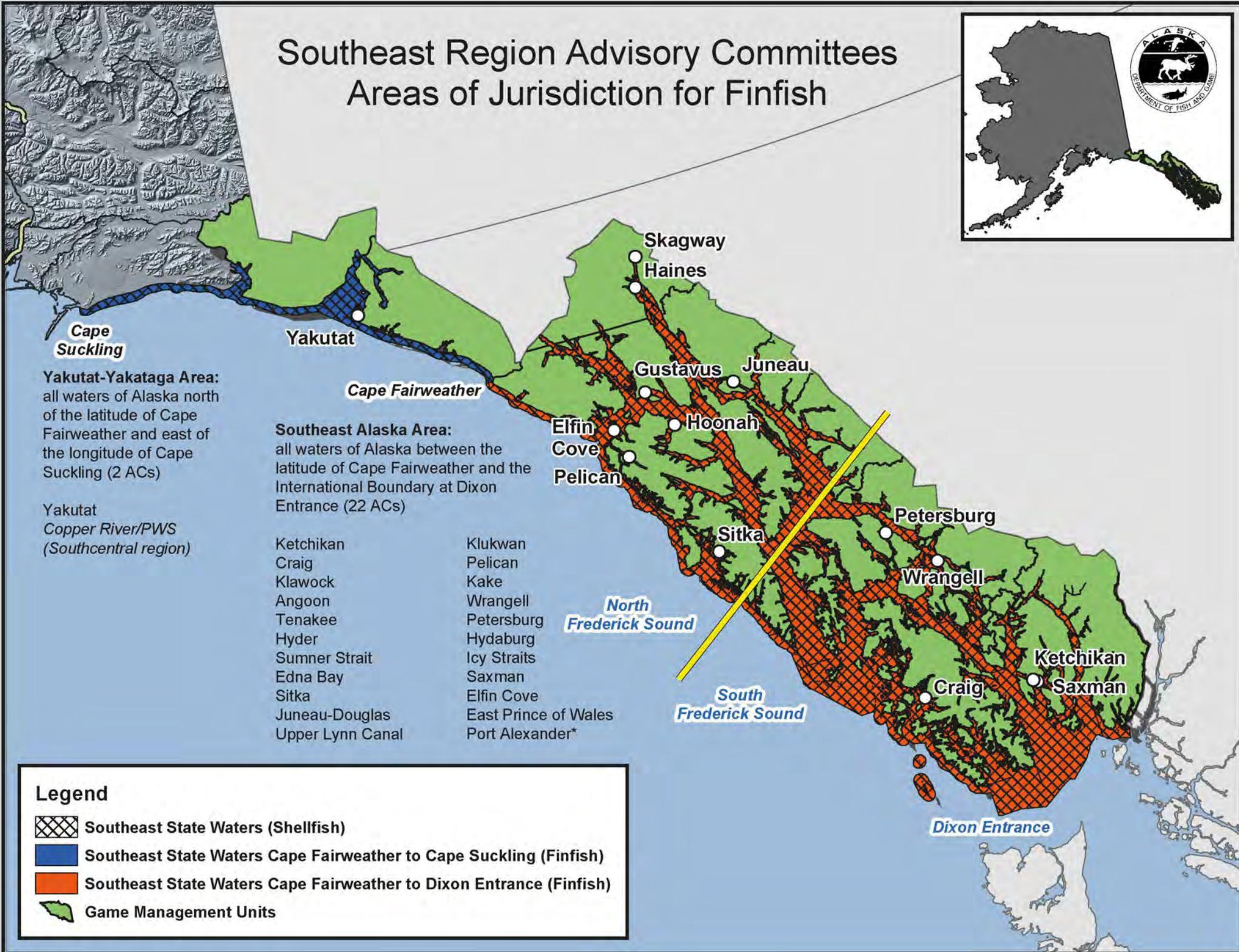
**GMU 3 (7 ACs)**  
Petersburg  
Wrangell  
Kake  
Sumner Strait  
Edna Bay  
Sitka  
East POW

**GMU 2 (12 ACs)**  
Craig  
Wrangell  
Klawock  
Petersburg  
Sumner Strait  
Kake  
Hyder  
Saxman  
Ketchikan  
Hydaburg  
Edna Bay  
East POW

**Legend**

Game Management Units

# Southeast Region Advisory Committees Areas of Jurisdiction for Finfish



**Cape Suckling**

**Yakutat**

**Cape Fairweather**

**Skagway**

**Haines**

**Gustavus**

**Juneau**

**Elfin Cove**

**Hoonah**

**Pelican**

**Sitka**

**Petersburg**

**Wrangell**

**North Frederick Sound**

**South Frederick Sound**

**Dixon Entrance**

**Yakutat-Yakataga Area:**  
all waters of Alaska north of the latitude of Cape Fairweather and east of the longitude of Cape Suckling (2 ACs)

**Southeast Alaska Area:**  
all waters of Alaska between the latitude of Cape Fairweather and the International Boundary at Dixon Entrance (22 ACs)

Yakutat  
Copper River/PWS  
(Southcentral region)

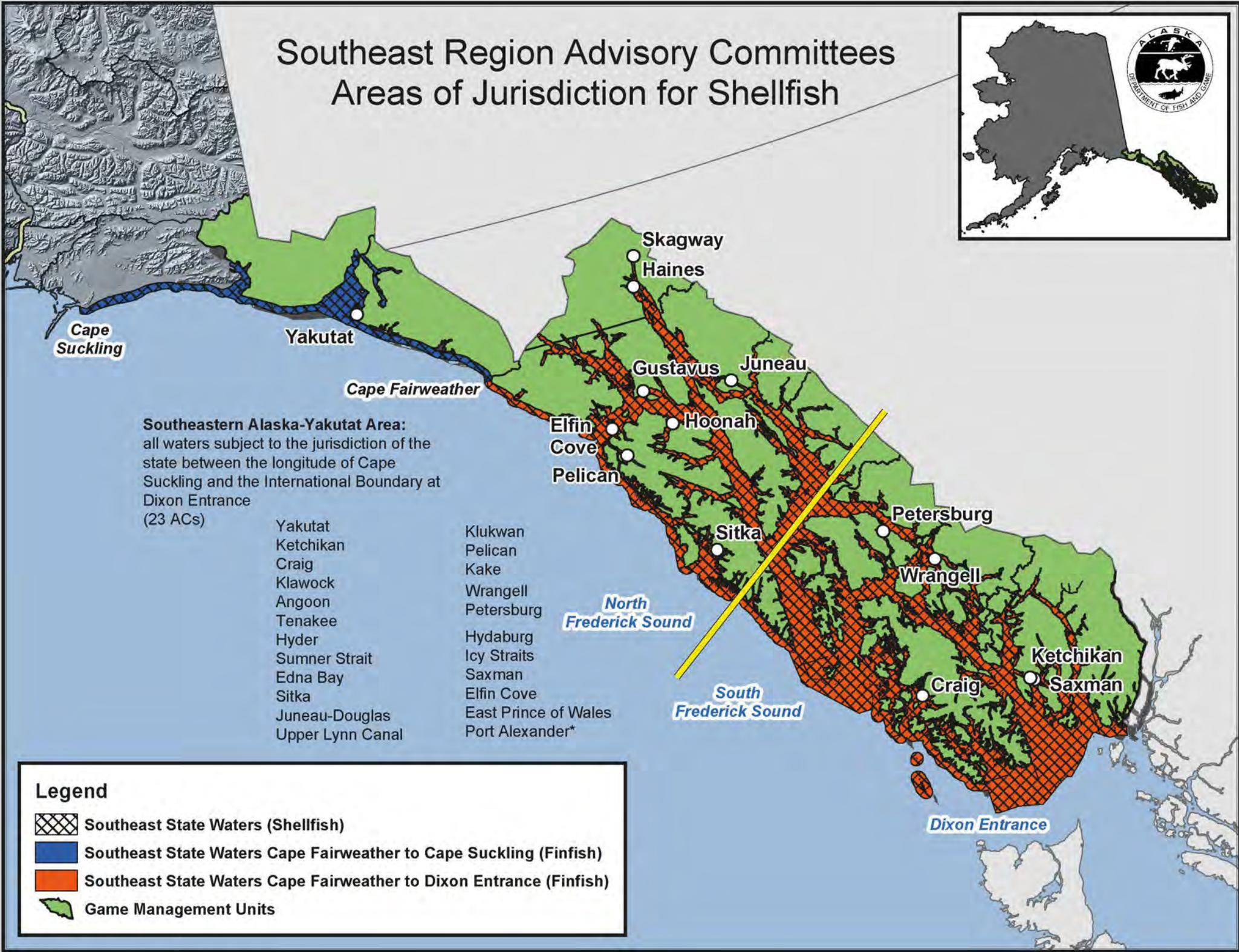
Ketchikan  
Craig  
Klawock  
Angoon  
Tenakee  
Hyder  
Sumner Strait  
Edna Bay  
Sitka  
Juneau-Douglas  
Upper Lynn Canal

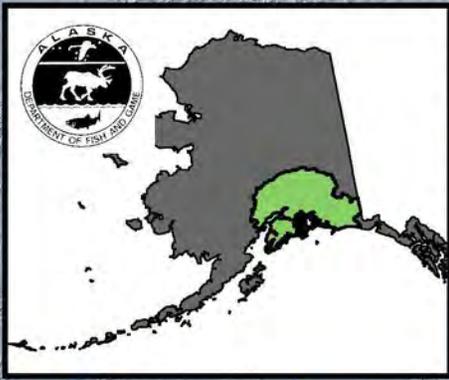
Klukwan  
Pelican  
Kake  
Wrangell  
Petersburg  
Hydaburg  
Icy Straits  
Saxman  
Elfin Cove  
East Prince of Wales  
Port Alexander\*

## Legend

-  Southeast State Waters (Shellfish)
-  Southeast State Waters Cape Fairweather to Cape Suckling (Finfish)
-  Southeast State Waters Cape Fairweather to Dixon Entrance (Finfish)
-  Game Management Units

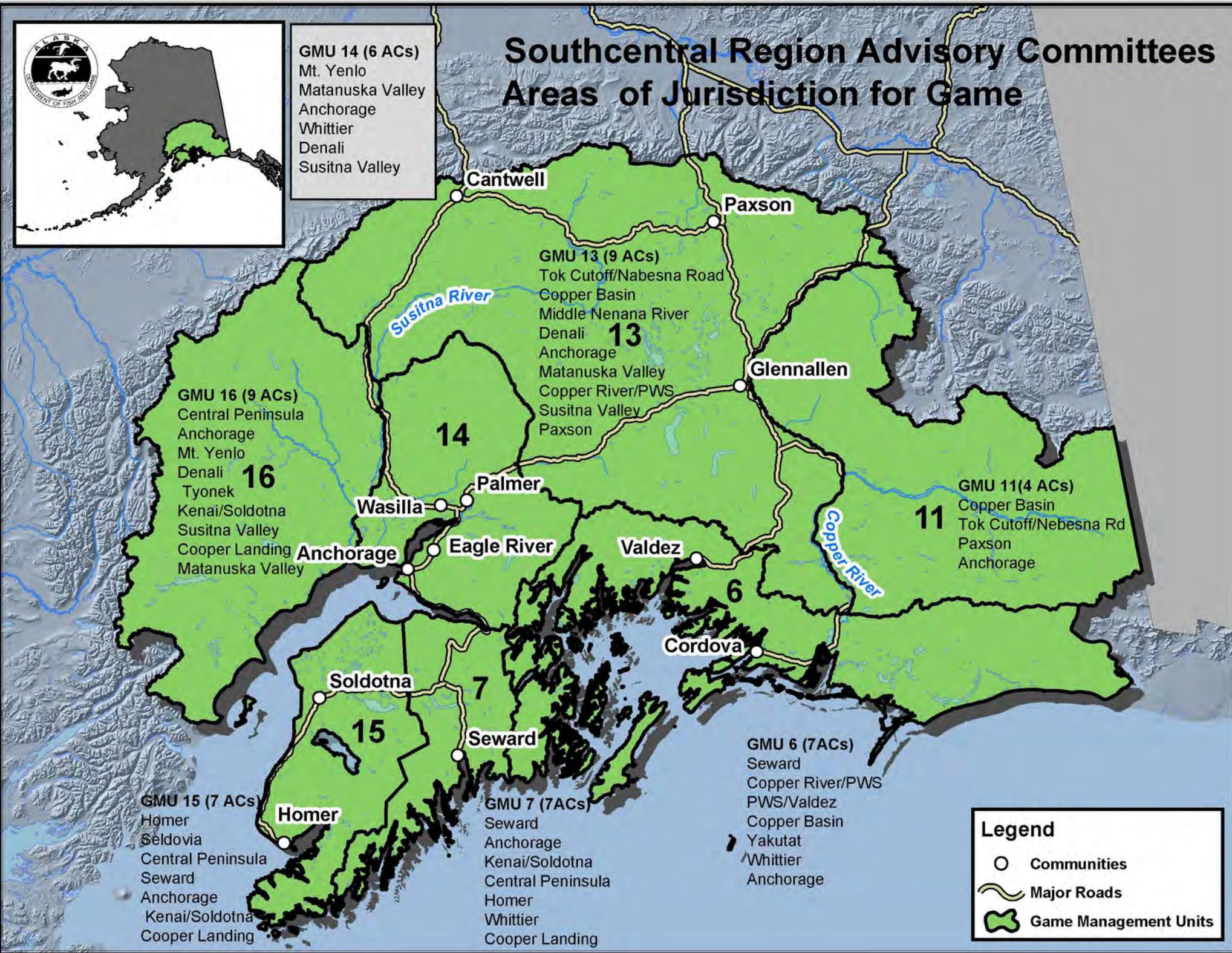
# Southeast Region Advisory Committees Areas of Jurisdiction for Shellfish





**GMU 14 (6 ACs)**  
 Mt. Yenlo  
 Matanuska Valley  
 Anchorage  
 Whittier  
 Denali  
 Susitna Valley

# Southcentral Region Advisory Committees Areas of Jurisdiction for Game



**GMU 13 (9 ACs)**  
 Tok Cutoff/Nabesna Road  
 Copper Basin  
 Middle Nenana River  
 Denali  
 Anchorage  
 Matanuska Valley  
 Copper River/PWS  
 Susitna Valley  
 Paxson

**GMU 16 (9 ACs)**  
 Central Peninsula  
 Anchorage  
 Mt. Yenlo  
 Denali  
 Tyonek  
 Kenai/Soldotna  
 Susitna Valley  
 Cooper Landing  
 Matanuska Valley

**GMU 11 (4 ACs)**  
 Copper Basin  
 Tok Cutoff/Nabesna Rd  
 Paxson  
 Anchorage

**GMU 15 (7 ACs)**  
 Homer  
 Seldovia  
 Central Peninsula  
 Seward  
 Anchorage  
 Kenai/Soldotna  
 Cooper Landing

**GMU 7 (7 ACs)**  
 Seward  
 Anchorage  
 Kenai/Soldotna  
 Central Peninsula  
 Homer  
 Whittier  
 Cooper Landing

**GMU 6 (7 ACs)**  
 Seward  
 Copper River/PWS  
 PWS/Valdez  
 Copper Basin  
 Yakutat  
 Whittier  
 Anchorage

**Legend**

- Communities
- Major Roads
- Game Management Units



# Southcentral Region Advisory Committees Areas of Jurisdiction for Finfish

## Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay Area (12 ACs)

- Seward
- Cooper Landing
- Kenai/Soldotna
- Mt. Yenlo
- Homer
- Anchorage
- Mat. Valley
- Central Peninsula
- Seldovia
- Denali
- Tyonek
- Susitna Valley

## Upper Copper River Area (3 ACs)

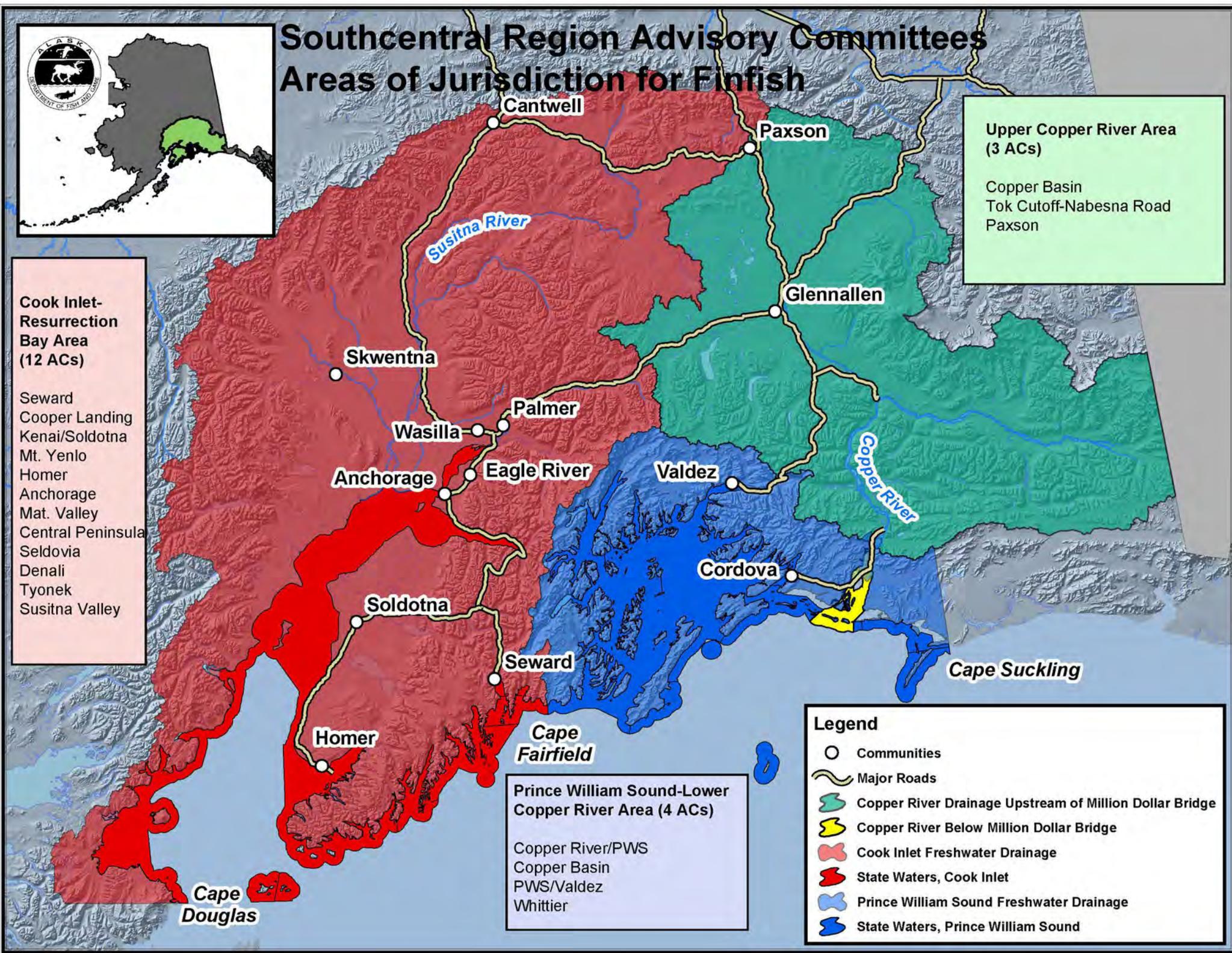
- Copper Basin
- Tok Cutoff-Nabesna Road
- Paxson

## Prince William Sound-Lower Copper River Area (4 ACs)

- Copper River/PWS
- Copper Basin
- PWS/Valdez
- Whittier

### Legend

- Communities
- ~ Major Roads
- Green wavy line Copper River Drainage Upstream of Million Dollar Bridge
- Yellow wavy line Copper River Below Million Dollar Bridge
- Red wavy line Cook Inlet Freshwater Drainage
- Red outline State Waters, Cook Inlet
- Blue wavy line Prince William Sound Freshwater Drainage
- Blue outline State Waters, Prince William Sound



Cantwell Paxson

Susitna River

Glennallen

Skwentna

Palmer

Wasilla

Eagle River

Valdez

Anchorage

Cordova

Soldotna

Seward

Cape Suckling

Homer

Cape Fairfield

Cape Douglas

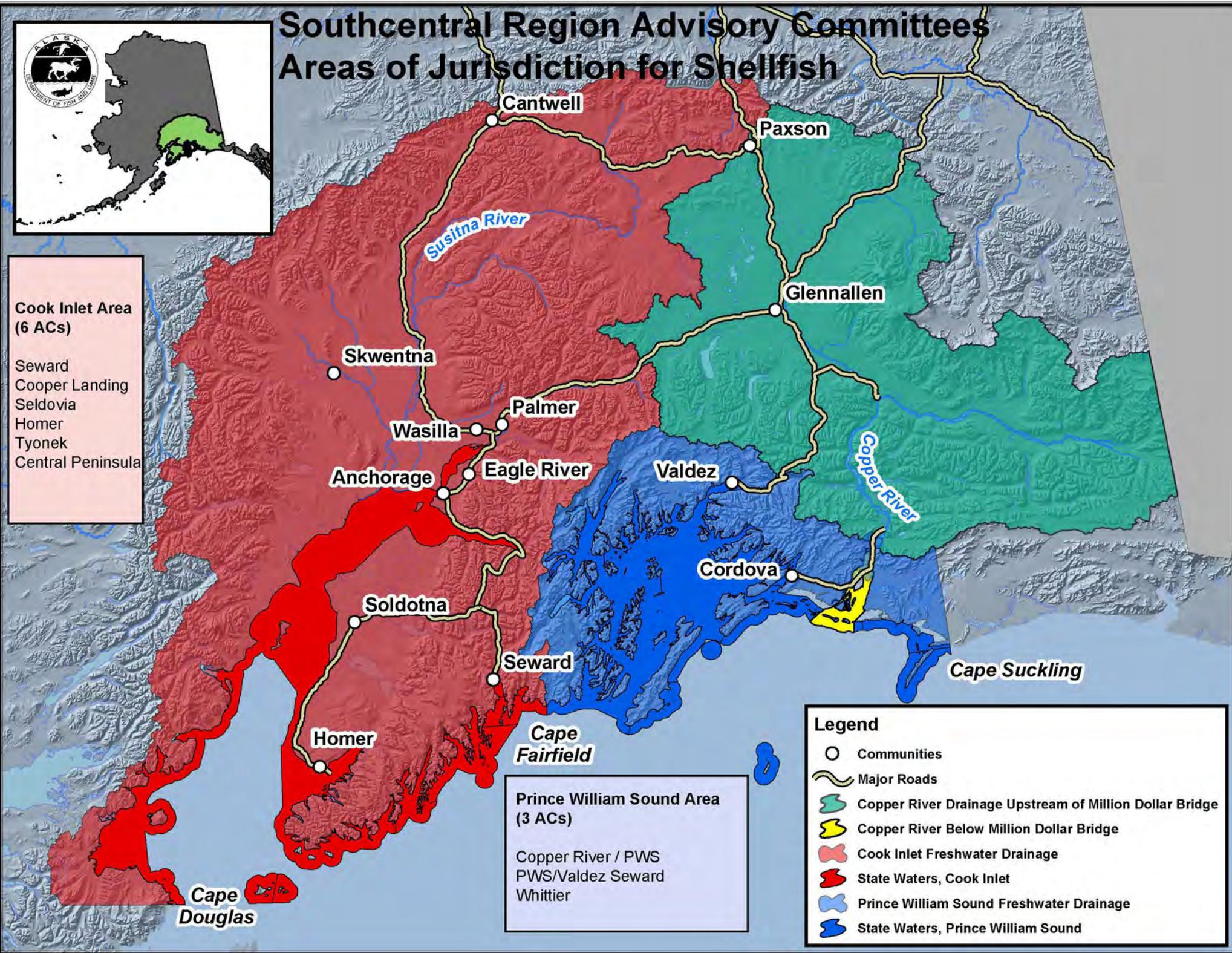
Copper River

# Southcentral Region Advisory Committees Areas of Jurisdiction for Shellfish



**Cook Inlet Area  
(6 ACs)**

Seward  
Cooper Landing  
Seldovia  
Homer  
Tyonek  
Central Peninsula



**Prince William Sound Area  
(3 ACs)**

Copper River / PWS  
PWS/Valdez Seward  
Whittier

**Legend**

- Communities
- Major Roads
- Copper River Drainage Upstream of Million Dollar Bridge
- Copper River Below Million Dollar Bridge
- Cook Inlet Freshwater Drainage
- State Waters, Cook Inlet
- Prince William Sound Freshwater Drainage
- State Waters, Prince William Sound

**APPENDIX E: ADVISORY COMMITTEE EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE  
AWARD WINNERS, 2015-2019**

## Advisory Committee Excellence in Service Award Winners, 2015-2019

The Excellence in Service Award program was initiated in 2015. It recognizes AC members who perform a service that is of high value to the AC or board process. Up to five awards are made each year. Criteria for selection include:

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

Examples include strong recruitment of new AC members, re-establishing a dormant AC, exemplary work across diverse user groups or the public, and working towards consensus on divisive issues.

Nominations for Excellence in Service certificates may come from Department of Fish & Game staff, Game and Fisheries board members, and other AC members. Members of the public who would like to nominate an AC member can work through ADF&G staff, AC members, or board members. Nominations are accepted each fall, and awards are presented during the winter-spring meeting cycle.

### Excellence in Service Award Recipients

Year	Name	Advisory Committee	About
2019	Charlie Lean	Northern Norton Sound AC	Mr. Lean has served on the committee for over 17 years, currently as chair. A former ADF&G Area Manager, Charlie now works for the NSEDC as the Hatchery & Norton Sound Fisheries Research & Development Coordinator. Charlie is a responsible chair who devotes considerable time bringing in the interests of the nearby surrounding villages into the committee. Charlie and his fellow AC members were very busy crafting fisheries proposals and he also represents the AC on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group.
2019	Mike Crawford	Kenai/Soldotna AC	Mr. Crawford is a 13 year member of the Kenai/Soldotna Advisory Committee, serving as chair for the past several years. Mike successfully manages the advisory committee in arguably the most contentious area of the state – Upper Cook Inlet. With many meetings a year (8 to 9), Mike is organized and productive, and approaches each meeting and interactions with members in a balanced and fair manner.
2019	Dave Rak	Wrangell AC	Mr. Rak is the Wrangell Advisory Committee's secretary, keeping excellent minutes during his some 24+ years on the committee. Not only does Dave maintain records on file, but serves as an informal outreach provider,

			forwarding news releases to the full committee and interested parties.
2019	Moses Johnson	Sitka AC	Mr. Johnson was nominated by two long-serving advisory committee members. They both tout his wealth of experience as a highliner in both the salmon troll and seine fisheries as invaluable to the AC. Quiet, soft-spoken, respectful – Moses carries great weight and perspective at the advisory committee. Given his background and thoughtful demeanor, Mr. Johnson is very influential on the committee and serves as a great example of advisory committee service.
2019	Richard Burnham	Middle Yukon AC	Mr. Burnham has served on the Middle Yukon Advisory Committee since 1989. He is known for his wealth of knowledge and dedication to the Yukon resources and peoples. With difficult conservation and allocation issues going on up- and down-river, Richard is known for his wise and fair demeanor as he works to find common ground. Mr. Burnham also provides fish and game services in his area, both as a license vendor and a hide sealer.
2018	Don Quarberg	Delta AC	Don Quarberg is a long-time member (since 1990) of the Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committee (AC), serving in various capacities including chair for 10 years. Mr. Quarberg spent many hours of his personal time preparing for AC meetings, reviewing discussion materials, encouraging other members to review the discussion materials, mentoring new AC members, and identifying pertinent information for the AC to consider. Along with his work on the AC, Don was instrumental in getting initial legislation established that created the Delta Junction Bison Range (DJBR). While working for the UAF Cooperative Extension Service, he contributed his agricultural expertise to ADF&G to help guide the forage management on the DJBR. His recommendations are still being used today. Additionally, Don was a member of a working group in Delta that helped create the Bison Range Youth Hunt Management Area, one of the first moose youth hunts in the state. Mr. Quarberg also served one term on the Big Game Commercial Services Board.

2018	Barbara Carlson	Stony-Holitna AC	<p>Barb Carlson serves as the Stony-Holitna AC representative to the Board of Fisheries for fisheries issues. As a representative of a small population in the headwaters of the Kuskokwim River, Ms. Carlson’s ability to navigate difficult social and political issues in a manner that supports and respects all users is outstanding. From 2015 through 2017, Ms. Carlson worked with the Board of Fisheries as a panel member and at board meetings, helping to design regulatory solutions to assist in remedying Chinook salmon management. Barbara is an excellent example of an AC leader in action. Through difficult negotiations, she never sheds her smile and kind demeanor, and always works towards the betterment of all along the river in an effort to find long-lasting equitable solutions.</p>
2018	James Charles	Lower Kuskokwim AC	<p>James Charles has spent the majority of his life serving to promote the responsible use of fish and game resources in the Lower Kuskokwim region and statewide. As current chair, his service on the Lower Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory Committee spans over 40 years. Mr. Charles’ service to the AC is outstanding and includes running meetings, testifying at countless board meetings, and helping to negotiate difficult allocation issues. His work on the AC scratches the surface of his contributions. Mr. Charles is a long-time member of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group, the Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and the YK Delta Regional Advisory Council (RAC) member. He provides frequent fisheries reports across the Delta through KYUK radio, offers his insights at youth science camps, and serves as a guiding light for all in his region.</p>
2018	Raymond Oney	Coastal Lower Yukon AC	<p>Raymond Oney serves as a long-time, Alakanuk representative on the Coastal Lower Yukon Advisory Committee, currently as chair. Mr. Oney also serves on the federal YK Delta RAC and was appointed in 2016 to serve as a Lower River U.S. Advisor for the Yukon River Panel. Mr. Oney’s leadership with the AC is captured by his encouragement to all members to voice their concerns on issues while operating in a manner that is respectful, calm, and thoughtful. Raymond serves as a steward for the health of salmon resources and all the people who rely on them.</p>

2018	Tim McDonough	Upper Lynn Canal AC	Tim McDonough serves on the Upper Lynn Canal AC currently as chair. In this capacity, Mr. McDonough provides an example for all members on the importance of their work. He conducts AC meetings in a manner respectful of all with attention to order and efficiency. He consistently keeps members of the AC and public apprised of pertinent issues. His meeting preparation includes attention to public notice requirements, recruiting ADF&G staff to discuss issues, and preparing necessary material for members. Tim's preparation and knowledge of the resource issues is critical in helping the AC provide informed decisions to promote the sustainability of our fish and wildlife resources.
2017	Percy Ballot	Northern Seward Peninsula AC	As chair of the Northern Seward Peninsula AC, Percy Ballot remains an active and engaged AC member and leader in his region. Percy runs organized and efficient meetings, engages thoroughly, and works in support of other ACs in the Arctic region. Percy helped create the Celebration of Life event in his home of Buckland, an event that honors Inupiaq culture while incorporating fish and game best management practices.
2017	Raymond Stoney	Lower Kobuk AC	Raymond Stoney has served the Lower Kobuk AC since 1991. Raymond has been a leader in the region, bringing ACs from Upper Kobuk, Kotzebue, and Noatak/Kivalina together to speak as one voice for Unit 23 efforts. In particular, Raymond was a leader in establishing the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, receiving a Bureau of Land Management National 4C Award. The C's stand for consultation, cooperation, communication, and conservation.
2017	Ray Collins	McGrath AC	Ray Collins has served as chair on the McGrath AC since its inception in 1976. He remains the leader behind the McGrath AC and serves as a voice for the Upper Kuskokwim River. In that time, Ray was a force behind several initiatives including the Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area (an effort that mitigated user conflicts between boat and aircraft hunters), an intensive management program that significantly increased the number of moose, and the establishment of a winter sheep hunt in Unit 19C. Not only does Ray work with the state's management system, he is also on the Kuskokwim Salmon Working Group, the Western Interior Federal Subsistence RAC, and the McGrath area intensive management committee.
2017	Virgil Umphenour	Fairbanks AC	Virgil Umphenour is a dedicated and tireless supporter for fish and game interests in his region. Virgil has served on the Fairbanks Advisory Committee since 2004 follow a lengthy term on the Board of Fisheries. Virgil's contributions include work on the Yukon salmon treaty, contributions to younger Alaskans, and efforts in the federal arena.
2017	David Osterback	Sand Point AC	David Osterback has been on the Sand Point AC since its inception. David is noted for his ability to mediate difficult

			issues among the three commercial gear types (set, drift, and seine) in the area, offering a humble and modest demeanor which has led to his successful representation of the advisory committee's recommendations before the Board.
2016	The GASH Advisory Committee	GASH AC	With dedication, perseverance, and leadership, the GASH AC transformed a vision of re-introducing wood bison into a reality. The AC was critical to bringing together tribal, state and federal entities to ensure the bison's release. The bison will provide an alternate meat source, stimulate local economies and provide educational opportunities.
2016	Dave Martin & Steve Vanek	Central Peninsula AC	Serving as chair and secretary of the AC, respectively, Mr. Martin & Mr. Vanek have volunteered vast knowledge of resources, a commitment to participation, and immeasurable time and energy advocating sound management for a combined 60+ years.
2016	Frank Kelty	Unalaska/Dutch Harbor AC	Through 35 years of service, Mr. Kelty has been critical to the Unalaska AC, revitalizing it in 2001 and serving as chair ever since. He has long led community participation to improve resources throughout the region and has been instrumental in support of the Pacific cod fishery and protecting salmon and halibut stocks for local users.
2016	Pete Schaeffer	Kotzebue AC	ADF&G biologist Jim Dau testifies that "Pete has contributed more to the AC system in Unit 23 than anyone else I've worked with since arriving here in 1988." Over the course of more than 30 years of service, many as chair, Mr. Schaeffer has been instrumental in the regulatory process throughout the region, including Unit 23 subsistence wildlife management.
2016	Jennifer Ehmann	Mat Valley AC	As the Mat Valley AC chair, Ms. Ehmann has demonstrated leadership through contentious issues and advocacy for protecting resources in the Mat-Su rivers. She has also been the energy behind the AC's efforts to build local participation in fish & game issues, including promoting the AC system at local events.
2015	Alex Whiting	Kotzebue Sound AC	Alex Whiting has served on the Kotzebue Sound AC since 1999. He wrote language for a Board of Game generated proposal in 2014 to address an important issue to many residents of the area concerning the use of snow machines to position a hunter for taking wolves and wolverine. Alex has served as AC secretary and effectively communicates recommendations to the board and takes action when appropriate to assist his committee. Alex engages with ADF&G staff on resource issues to become better informed, and with a science background, he contributes to research ADF&G efforts.
2015	Cyrus Harris	Kotzebue Sound AC	Cyrus Harris has served on the Kotzebue Sound AC since 2011. Cyrus demonstrated a high level of initiative to engage local IRA in the advisory committee and board process. In 2014, he contacted every IRA in the Northwest Arctic Borough to encourage comments to the Board of Game on a proposal concerning the use of snow machines for taking wolves and wolverines, which was an important

			issue to the local residents. Cyrus testified on behalf of three different entities at the 2015 Board of Game in Kotzebue, professionally representing himself, the Kotzebue Sound AC, and the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group. Cyrus is always available for comments during meetings and actively engages with department staff and gives valuable insight from a local perspective.
2015	Eric Jordan	Sitka AC	Eric Jordan has been involved in the AC process since 1976, including 8 years as secretary, 6 years as Chair, and 6 more years as secretary (cumulative). He has been active in fisheries and conservation politics since the early 1970s. Eric facilitated several local fisheries collaborations in Sitka, including the Sitka Halibut Local Area Management Plan and the Redoubt Lake Sockeye Management Plan. The latter won the Forest Service's 2003 Rise to the Future Collaborative Aquatic Resource Stewardship award. As Chair, he was the first to move open seats to designated seats. As a result, other ACs today use designated seats to create a balance of representation for user groups. Eric also authored a primer on "How to propose a change to an Alaskan fisheries management regulation," a step-by-step guide to the process that starts with research, continues with the writing the proposal, and finishes with "be sure to check the Proposal Book for insertion and accuracy."