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**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME**

Joint Board Comments on 2020-2021 Meeting Cycle

Web-Conference | January 19, 2021

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**From:** [alaskanfrontier1947@yahoo.com](mailto:alaskanfrontier1947@yahoo.com)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Date:** Friday, July 24, 2020 12:47:41 PM

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It should be postponed until we get to a better situation thank you ac member from chignik alfredo abou eid



# Chugach Regional Resources Commission

Chenegak  
Eyak  
Nanwalek  
Port Graham  
Qutekcak  
Native Tribe  
Tatitlek  
Valdez Native  
Tribe

May it please the Board,

Upon request for public comment by the Board of Game and Board of Fish, Chugach Regional Resources Commission would like to advocate for the following positions.

1. Should the boards postpone the 2020/2021 meeting schedule until conditions improve? What factors should be considered before in-person meetings are held?
  - a. CRRC believes that the regularly scheduled meeting **should not be postponed** until conditions improve. Instead of postponement, other measures should be considered such as requiring social distancing and mask-wearing. We suggest limiting in-person engagement such as only inviting those who will be testifying and employing a teleconference system for those who wish to only listen. The impacts of the coronavirus have serious health implications and measures must be taken to ensure the safety of the Alaskan community. However, with this in mind, it is CRRC's position that the wildlife that your boards govern are crucial food sources and ways of life for individuals across the state and thus holding the regularly scheduled meetings, and doing so in a manner that continues to facilitate testimony and consider proposals is necessary.
2. Would an on-line virtual board meeting with an option for taking testimony telephonically be adequate for conducting board meetings?
  - a. Yes, a teleconference system that allows for testimony to be given would be an effective substitution in lieu on meeting in-person. Other agencies like the Federal Subsistence Board have recently demonstrated the adequacy of this system.
3. The Board of Fisheries conducts its committee of the whole process and engages in a significant level of public-led substitute language. Comments on how these two functions might be carried out in an on-line virtual meeting are encouraged.
  - a. No comment.

Best Regards,

Willow Hetrick, Executive Director  
Chugach Regional Resources Commission  
[willow@crrcalaska.org](mailto:willow@crrcalaska.org)  
(907) 330-9085



**From:** [David Egelston](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOF Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#); [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Board meeting comments  
**Date:** Thursday, July 23, 2020 10:59:34 AM

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**Please note my comments in bold below.**

1. Should the boards postpone the 2020/2021 meeting schedule until conditions improve? What factors should be considered before in-person meetings are held?

**No, given the uncertainty of the response to the virus I think it is important for the various processes to continue on. Given that many of the decisions made by the boards directly affect fish and wildlife populations and management, and directly affect subsistence users, I believe that the meeting should continue.**

2. Would an on-line virtual board meeting with an option for taking testimony telephonically be adequate for conducting board meetings?

**Yes, I believe so. It is not as easy as face to face meetings, but these types of meetings are becoming more frequent and the public is more accepting. Further, it would save the state significant money by reducing/eliminating travel and per diem expenses for the meetings.**

3. The Board of Fisheries conducts its committee of the whole process and engages in a significant level of public-led substitute language. Comments on how these two functions might be carried out in an on-line virtual meeting are encouraged.

**Again, it may be more difficult, but I believe that it is possible to accomplish. Everyone needs to be patient as it might take more time, but given that people will not be traveling, sometimes for days, total time expended would be equal or less than normal.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to coment.**

**David Egelston  
Thorne Bay**



**From:** [Ryan Nenaber](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOF Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#); [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment on the 2020/2021 Meeting Cycle  
**Date:** Thursday, July 23, 2020 7:40:54 AM

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Dear ADFG,

1. Should the boards postpone the 2020/2021 meeting schedule until conditions improve? What factors should be considered before in-person meetings are held?

-In person factors: social distancing in facility - spaced seating; mask wearing; have folks sanitize or wash hands when arrive; wipe down chairs before people arrive and have them wipe them down when we leave; could maintain a list of participants for contact tracing if you want (like at the barber shop).

-Virtual meeting factors: It will probably be preferred for your younger folks who are not intimidated by the tech. but you will probably lose out on the older crowd and thus their wisdom. Definitely the safer and more convenient option for the younger crowd.

2. Would an on-line virtual board meeting with an option for taking testimony telephonically be adequate for conducting board meetings?

Other than missing out on the older audience, of course it would be adequate. It is adequate for most everything now days.

Thanks,  
Ryan Nenaber



**From:** [office](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** BOF meetings  
**Date:** Thursday, July 23, 2020 8:18:48 AM

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I think the meetings should be canceled until were safe to proceed with public meetings again ! the “public” live input is a very important part of the process

Thanks  
Ron Opheim  
F/V Chatham  
Wrangell AK



Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)



**From:** [Parker Guide Service](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Comments re: travel requirement  
**Date:** Monday, August 24, 2020 12:31:44 PM

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We are not opposed to being required to participate in meetings online or through zoom. However to expect people to physically show up from all over, pay the expense of getting there, traveling in the winter months with Alaska Airlines cutting back flights to all of Alaska (for instance it takes almost two days to get from Sitka to Petersburg) and we are not even mentioning COVID travel restrictions and all that entails is unreasonable. I don't think people in the Anchorage or road system areas understand the logistics and expense involved in what you are proposing. There are several days where there are no evening flights back to certain towns, which can be an additional day of overnighing until the next day to fly home. For example, I am looking at next year's BOG meeting March 12-19 in Fairbanks. If coming from Sitka, one would have to overnight Thursday the 11th and Friday night the 19th to be able to attend the full meeting. This is 9 days in a hotel room with those expenses as well. Sitka is usually better on flights in the winter than most fly in only communities in Alaska. Please see attached below an example of just the flight times and hotel costs would be around 1000. for 9 nights for one room. I went to one BOG meeting once when I had young children when it was held in Ketchikan. I had to pay for overnight child care, flights from Sitka, two nights hotels, meals, and cabs. By the time all was said and done I spent over 2,000 to attend a meeting for a day and a half.

**All of the SE guides have productive and well attended meetings with the USFS every year with the availability of being online or in person attendance.. I am not sure why we could not implement the same.**

Federal and state entities pay for their employees to attend these meetings and the travel expenses that are incurred.  
Guides are having to absorb these expenses of extra days of time and money on their own. After this year, several just cannot afford it.

Please reconsider getting on board with today's new technology by offering and online options to people so that they will be able to be a presence in your mandatory meeting platform.

Thank you,

Ann-Marie Parker  
Parker Guide Service

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Parker Guide Service  
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[www.alaskaboatcruises.com](http://www.alaskaboatcruises.com)



**From:** [Will Samuel](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Game Meetings - COVID  
**Date:** Monday, August 24, 2020 3:10:34 PM

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Dear Board of Game,

I am writing to address your decision regarding the meeting of the Boards during the 2020/2021 cycle.

The BOG provides an essential service for representing the public in management decisions, and that service needs to remain incorporated in our management processes when at all possible.

The COVID-19 pandemic does not lessen the need for informed and reasoned decision making. In fact, it may even increase the need for proper wildlife management, as more individuals are looking at Alaska's bounty as an alternative food source and venue for recreational activities. As worldwide markets change, tourism is restricted, and other impacts of the pandemic are seen, it is vital that we continue to control what we can in order to promote conservation of our resources and support the economy.

If we fail to manage our own resources swiftly and efficiently, we are at risk of seeing more Federal overreach that does not benefit the people or economy of Alaska. It is as important now as ever to show that the people are responsible for deciding the fate of our own wildlife.

Fish and Game Advisory Committees need to stay involved and in order to maintain scientific integrity and provide on-the-ground updates and perspectives. If this is restricted to only online communication, the decision-making process is at risk of becoming flawed due to miscommunication and a lack of clarity. If they cannot complete these tasks, ADF&G and the BOF&G will be failing to carry out their mission statement and sole purpose.

Due to these reasons, the boards should not postpone the meetings. "Until conditions improve" is an undefined term that has no metric to be measured with. In other words, the boards would be effectively postponed indefinitely, which is simply not an option when managing populations and lands that are constantly changing. Board meetings could be held with social distancing and masks in place as desired, but there is no substitute for in-person discussions and decision making. Allowing an optional phone line for public comments and potentially broadcasting the meetings could be useful to accommodate those at-risk individuals, but those who are willing to come in person should be allowed to speak their peace.

Alaska is strong, and it's people depend on the land, fish, and wildlife to support our unique



lifestyle. You have the responsibility of representing our voices, and I urge you to continue to do so in the best way possible.

Thank you,

Will Samuel

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*Will Samuel*

*907-347-8625*

*"The best way to predict your future is to create it"*

*-Abraham Lincoln*



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Parker Guide Service

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**From:** [Randy Zarnke](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** BOG meeting comment  
**Date:** Thursday, July 23, 2020 8:29:57 AM

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Schedule the meetings as usual. If the corona situation has gotten worse by Thanksgiving, either postpone or move to an on-line meeting.