

## Guidelines for Advisory Committee Meeting Testimony

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Advisory Committee representatives are allowed up to 10 minutes (Board of Fisheries) or 15 minutes (Board of Game) to testify at board meetings, giving ACs an opportunity to expand on and highlight the points in their written comments and recommendations, and answer questions from the board. This testimony should generally be restricted to what occurred at the advisory committee meeting(s), and copies of the minutes should be available for the board members. An Advisory Committee representative's personal opinions should not be addressed during Advisory Committee testimony. Advisory Committee members also have the opportunity to testify as individuals and express personal views and recommendations, but this testimony must be clearly separate from AC testimony.

NOTE: The time limit on testimony does NOT include questions the board members may have for you.

When the chair calls for an AC to testify, the designated AC representative will go to the microphone and state his or her name and the AC represented. At the front table, a green light will come on when you begin speaking. A yellow light will come on when you have one minute remaining. A red light will indicate that your time is up. When you are finished speaking, please stay seated and wait for any questions board members may have regarding your comments.

**If you wish to give testimony for more than one group** (i.e., yourself in addition to the advisory committee), when you begin your testimony, state for the record that after your AC testimony you will then speak for yourself or another group you are representing. Keep your comments separate for each group. For example: give comments for the advisory committee you are representing, then after stating clearly that you are now testifying for yourself, give those comments.

Please be aware that when you testify you may not ask questions of board members or of department staff. This is your chance to make comments on proposals before the board. If board members and/or department staff need clarification, they will ask you questions.

**A person using derogatory or threatening language will not be allowed to continue speaking.**

# Personal and Public Testimony and Differences Between the Boards of Fisheries and Game

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Advisory Committees receive an opportunity to testify on the proposals at Board Meetings (see “Guidelines for Advisory Committee Meeting Testimony” in this manual). Individual members of ACs may also testify on their own behalf, so the following are some guidelines for individual testimony, and a note on some differences between the way the Boards of Fisheries and Game conduct their meetings.

Persons planning to testify before Board of Fisheries or Board of Game hearings must fill out a blue PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP CARD and turn it in to the board’s staff. Persons providing written material for the Board of Game members must provide hard copies to the staff (20 copies to the Board of Game, and 27 to Board of Fisheries); and submit them with their testimony card. Do not wait until it is your turn to testify to submit written material, as it may not be distributed to the board in time for your testimony. Provide a name and date on the first page of written material and identify the source of graphs or tables, if included in materials.

**If you wish to give testimony for more than one group** (i.e., yourself plus an organization), you only need to turn in one sign-up card, listing who you will be representing. When you begin your testimony, state for the record the group you are representing. Keep your comments separate for each group. For example: give comments for the first group you are representing, then after stating clearly that you are now testifying for the second group, give comments for that group.

Please be aware that when you testify you may not ask questions of board members or of department staff. This is your chance to make comments on proposals before the board. If board members and/or department staff need clarification, they will ask you questions.

Some differences between Board of Fisheries (BOF) and Board of Game (BOG) meeting procedures:

- **AC testimony:** BOF allows 10 minutes per AC; BOG allows 15.
- **Individual testimony:** BOF allows three minutes per person; BOG allows five.
- **Written materials:** As noted above BOF requires 27 hard copies for written submissions, BOG 20.
- **BOF** discusses certain proposals through a committee system, with the committees then reporting to the full Board.
- **BOG** allows ACs to testify directly prior to the presentation of proposals for the ACs local area, rather than requiring all testimony in the first part of the board meeting.

PLEASE NOTE: The time limit on testimony does NOT include questions from board members.