

Dear Reviewer,

September 2023

The Alaska Board of Game (board) will consider the enclosed regulatory proposals during the board meetings scheduled **for January and March 2024**. The proposals primarily concern changes to hunting and trapping regulations pertaining to the Interior, Western, and Arctic areas of the state, covering Game Management Units 12, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26. It also includes proposals for annual reauthorizations for antlerless moose hunts and brown bear tag fee exemptions.

The proposals have been submitted by members of the public, organizations, advisory committees, ADF&G, and other agencies. With the exception of minor edits and clarifications, the proposals are published essentially as they were received, with the insertion of the appropriate Alaska Administrative Code citation and a brief description of the action requested. The proposals are often presented as brief statements summarizing the intended regulatory changes. Proposed changes are also often written in legal format for which bold and underlined words indicate **additions** to the regulation text, and capitalized words in square brackets indicate [DELETIONS].

Readers are encouraged to view all proposals in both proposal books as some proposals may affect other regions and units. Proposals are grouped by each meeting to which they pertain (see Proposal Indices). The proposals are listed in the tentative order in which they are expected to be considered during the meeting. The final order of all proposals to be deliberated on, also known as the "roadmap," will be available approximately two weeks prior to the meetings.

Public Comment Requested: Before taking action on these proposed changes to the regulations, the board would like to consider your written comments and/or oral testimony on any effects the proposed changes would have on your activities and interests. The board relies heavily on written comments and oral testimony explaining the effect of the proposed changes. Public comments, in combination with advisory committee comments and ADF&G staff reports, provide the board with useful biological and socioeconomic data to form decisions. Anyone interested in or affected by the subject matter contained in the proposals scheduled for the January and March 2024 meetings are encouraged to provide written or oral comments if they wish to have their views considered by the board.

Written comments can be submitted to the board by the announced deadlines as follows:

Online:	www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov	
Fax:	907-465-6094	
Mail:	ADF&G Boards Support Section	
ATTN: Board of Game Comments		
	P.O. Box 115526 Juneau , AK 99811-5526	

Comments received by the announced deadlines will be included in the board meeting workbooks and posted on the meeting website for public viewing in advance of the meetings. Comments can also be submitted once the meeting begins. **Please review the additional information for providing written comment and oral testimony to the board on page v.**

Meeting information, documents, and a link to the audio is available through the Board of Game website at <u>www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov</u> or through the ADF&G Boards Support Section. Please watch the website for notices and updates closer to the meeting dates, or sign up at the same link to receive notices about the Board of Game.

To learn what actions the board took on proposals, a preliminary summary will also be posted on the meeting website during each meeting. Afterwards, to understand the board's decisions, a detailed summary will be provided which will direct viewers to the audio recording for the board discussion for each section of proposals.

Persons with a disability needing special accommodations in order to comment on the proposed regulations should contact the Boards Support Section at (907) 465-6098 at least two weeks prior to the schedule meeting to make any necessary arrangements.

Thank you for your interest and involvement with the Alaska Board of Game and the regulatory process.

Sincerely,

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Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director Alaska Board of Game

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Guidelines for Written Comments and Public Testimony

The Board of Game (board) relies heavily on information provided by the public. Explaining the effect of the proposed changes help inform the board members for their decisions on the hundreds of proposals scheduled for consideration each year. The following information provides guidelines and helpful tips to be effective with submitting written comments and oral testimony.

GUIDELINES FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS

<u>Timely submission</u>: Written comments are strongly encouraged to be submitted online at <u>www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov</u>, by the set deadline for each meeting, usually two weeks in advance. New this cycle, Boards Support will be utilizing an online form that will allow comments to be uploaded as a file or entered manually. With the new system in place, Boards Support will no longer accept comments via email.

Comments received by the deadline are provided to the board and the public on the meeting information webpages in advance of the meeting. Each public and advisory committee comment is indexed, assigned a public comment ("PC") or advisory committee ("AC") log number, and cross-referenced with proposals. Comments are public documents and part of the board record.

Tips for format and content:

- Clearly state the proposal number and your position by indicating "support" or "oppose". If the comments support a modification in the proposal, please indicate "support as amended" and provide your preferred amendment in writing.
- Briefly explain why you support or oppose the proposal to help the board members understand the pros and cons of each issue. Board actions are based on a complete review of the facts involved, not the sum of total comments for or against a proposal.
- For advisory committees (AC), meeting recommendations should reflect why the AC voted as it did. If the vote was split, include the minority opinion. A brief description consisting of a couple sentences is sufficient.
- Include your name and if including graphs or charts, please indicate the source.
- If using acronyms, please state what the acronym stands for.
- Page limits: For on-time comments, up to 100 single-sided pages from any one individual or organization; during the meeting, comments are limited to ten single-sided pages.
- If commenting on multiple proposals, please do not use separate pieces of paper.
- If handwriting comments, write clearly, use dark ink and write legibly. Comments will be scanned and photocopied so please use 8 1/2" x 11" paper and leave reasonable margins.

<u>Comments submitted as Record Copies:</u> Written comments, which are limited to ten single-sided pages, will be accepted during the board meetings. Comments can be submitted via online form, fax, or hand-delivery. Comments received by Boards Support during the meeting will be logged with a record copy ("RC") number and distributed to the board members two to three times each day. As a practical matter, comments submitted during the meeting are likely to receive less consideration from the board than those submitted by the deadline.

GUIDELINES FOR ORAL PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Oral hearings are scheduled at the beginning of each regulatory meeting, typically following agency reports, and continue until everyone who has signed up by the announced deadline and is present when called has been given the opportunity to be heard. Advisory Committee (AC) and Regional Advisory Council (RAC) representatives may elect to provide testimony at a later portion of the meetings.

Persons planning to testify at Board of Game meetings must sign up with the Boards Support staff prior to the announced cut-off time. If submitting written or visual content at the meeting to accompany oral testimony, please review the guidelines for submitting written comments. At the discretion of the chair, PowerPoint presentations may be allowed, and will require a hard copy of the presentation be provided to Boards Support staff well in advance.

Once the oral hearing portion of the meeting begins, Boards Support staff will prepare and post a list of testifiers. The chair will call testifiers in the order provided on the list. When it is your turn to testify, please go to the testimony table, press the button on the microphone, and state your name for the record, where you reside and whom you represent, if speaking for an organization. When giving testimony, be sure to reference the proposal number as well as the title or subject matter, and the public comment or record copy log number for any written material accompanying your testimony. Follow the tips for comments shown on page v.

The board utilizes a light indicator system for timing testifiers. When you begin your testimony, a green light will come on. When you have one-minute remaining, a yellow light will come on followed by a red light or buzzer to indicate your time is up. When you are finished speaking, please stay seated and wait for any questions board members may have regarding your comments. Be aware that when you testify, you may not ask questions of board members or of agency 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. **Please do not use derogatory or threatening language or you will not be allowed to continue speaking.**

The board allows testimony for one organization in addition to personal testimony, or AC testimony. Each testimony is allotted its own time. **If you are giving testimony for yourself and an organization or an AC**, you only need to sign-up once entering your name and the group you wish to speak for. When giving testimony for yourself and an organization or AC, state on the record who you are speaking for. For example: give comments for the organization you are representing, then, after stating clearly that you are now testifying for yourself, give your personal comments.

The length of testimony time will be announced on the agenda prior to each meeting and stated by the board chair at the beginning of the meeting. The board typically allows five minutes for oral testimony for an individual or organization and 15 minutes for ACs and Regional Advisory Councils. Time limits on testimony do not include questions the board members may have for you. Preparing and practicing your testimony ahead of time will help ensure you stay within the time limit, while making your points clear.

Note: Updates related to public testimony and submitting public comments will be provided via advisory announcement prior to each meeting. Please watch the board's website for any updates or sign up to receive announcements via email at <u>www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov</u>.



About the Board of Game & Advisory Committees

Alaska Board of Game

The Board of Game (board) is Alaska's regulatory entity authorized to adopt regulations to conserve and develop the state's wildlife resources and to allocate uses of those resources. This includes establishing open and closed seasons, areas for taking game, setting bag limits, and regulating methods and means. The board consists of seven members, serving three-year terms. Each member is appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Alaska State Legislature.

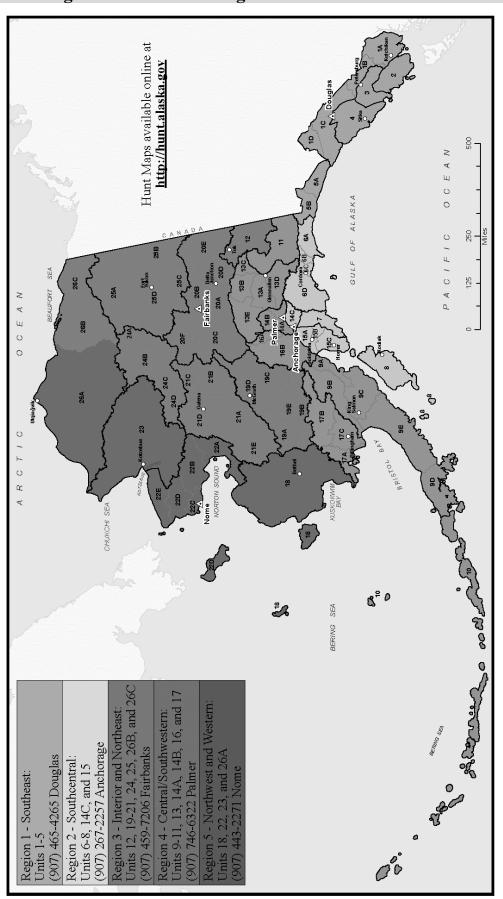
The board considers regulatory topics on a three-year cycle, holding two to three meetings each year to address proposed regulations on a regional basis. Each year, the board solicits proposals for new regulations and changes to existing regulations. Any individual or organization may submit proposals and offer oral and/or written testimony for the board's consideration. More information about the Board of Game members, process and meeting information is online at: www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov.

Advisory Committees

The local fish and game advisory committees (ACs) play a key role in the regulatory process for both fisheries and wildlife management. While the boards make the final decisions on proposed regulations, they rely heavily on ACs to offer their local knowledge on fish and wildlife issues of interest by submitting proposals and comments on proposals.

There are 84 ACs in the state; nearly all actively participate in the state regulatory process as well as the federal subsistence process. ACs have up to 15 members and many have community seats designated under regulation. AC members serve three-year terms and are elected by local community members. ACs begin meeting as early as September and throughout the board meeting cycle to review proposals and submit recommendations to the boards. Meetings are open to the public and meeting information is online at: <u>www.advisory.adfg.alaska.gov</u>, or from Boards Support Regional Coordinators.

Boards Support Regional Coordinators facilitate AC participation in the regulatory process by coordinating AC meetings and ensuring the ACs have the necessary information to be effective before the boards. Contact information for the Regional Coordinators can be found on the Boards Support staff listing on page xiv.



Region and Game Management Unit Boundaries

Commonly Used Acronyms & Terms

AAC	Alaska Administrative Code	
AC	Advisory Committee	
ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish and Game	
ANS	Amount Necessary for Subsistence	
AS	Alaska Statute	
AWT	Alaska Wildlife Troopers	
BOG/Board	Board of Game	
BGCSB	Big Game Commercial Services Board	
C.I.	Confidence Interval	
C&T	Customary and Traditional Use	
CUA	Controlled Use Area	
DHCMA	Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area	
DJMA	Delta Junction Management Area	
DLP	Defense of Life and Property	
DWC	Division of Wildlife Conservation	
EO	Emergency Order	
FCH	Fortymile caribou Herd	
FMA	Fairbanks Management Area	
FSB	Federal Subsistence Board	
GMU/Unit	Game Management Unit	
GSPE	Geospatial Population Estimator	
GUA	Guide Use Area	
HGL	Harvest Guideline Level	
IM	Intensive Management	
MFMA	Minto Flats Management Area	
NFQU	Non-federal qualified users	
NPS	National Park Service	
OSM	Office of Subsistence Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior	
RY	Regulatory Year; July 1- June 30	
Region I	Southeast Region – Game Management Units 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5	

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Region II	Southcentral Region – Game
Managemen	t Units 6, 7, 8, 14C, & 15
Region III	Interior & Eastern Arctic Region Game Management Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B & 26C
Region IV	Central & Southwest Region – Game Management Units 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16 & 17
Region V	Western Arctic & Western Region – Game Management Units 18, 22, 23 & 26A
RAC	Federal Regional Advisory Council
SDA	Same Day Airborne
SHS	Selective Harvest Strategy
USF&WS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WACH	Western Arctic caribou herd
WRCUA	Wood River Controlled Use Area
YTPCP	Upper Yukon-Tanana Predation Control Program
2DK	Second degree of kindred

Permit Hunt Abbreviations

Some proposals reference specific permit hunt numbers that begin with the initials to indicate the type of hunt and big game animal, followed by three digits for the hunt number:

RB	Registration brown bear
RC	Registration caribou
RG	Registration goat
RL	Registration black bear
RM	Registration moose
RX	Registration Musk ox
DB	Drawing brown bear
DC	Drawing caribou
DG	Drawing goat
DL	Drawing black bear
DM	Drawing moose
DS	Drawing sheep
YS	Youth sheep
DX	Drawing must ox
YM	Youth moose



ALASKA BOARD OF GAME 2023/2024 Cycle <u>Tentative Meeting Dates</u>

Meeting Dates	Торіс	Location	Comment Deadline
January 25, 2024 (1 day)	Work Session	Kotzebue National Guard Armory	January 18, 2024
January 26-29, 2024 (4 days)	Western Arctic/Western Region Game Management Units 18, 22, 23, & 26A	Kotzebue National Guard Armory	January 12, 2024
March 15-22, 2024 (8 days)	Interior and Eastern Arctic Region Game Management Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C	Fairbanks Pikes Waterfront Lodge	March 1, 2024

Total Meeting Days: 13

Agenda Change Request Deadline: Wednesday, November 1, 2023

(The Board of Game will meet via teleconference to consider Agenda Change Requests following the November 1 deadline.)



Long-Term Meeting Cycle

The Board of Game meeting cycle generally occurs from November through March. The board considers changes to regulations on a region-based schedule that cycle every three years. When the regional regulations are before the board, the following regulations are open for consideration within that region:

- Trapping Seasons and Bag Limits -- All species
- General and Subsistence Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits -- All species (Except antlerless moose hunts as noted below)
- Intensive Management Plans
- Closures and Restrictions in State Game Refuges
- Management Areas, Controlled Use Areas, and Areas Closed to Hunting and Trapping
- Changes specific to Units or Regions under 5 AAC Chapter 92, excluding Game Management Unit Boundaries in 92.450

Proposals pertaining for the reauthorization of all antlerless moose hunts, 5 AAC 85.045, and all brown bear tag fee exemptions, 5 AAC 92.015, are taken up annually. Changes having statewide applicability to 5 AAC Chapters 92 and 98.005 listed on the following page and Game Management Units are considered once every three years at Statewide Regulations meetings.

The proposal deadline is May 1 every preceding year. Boards Support issues a "Call for Proposals" generally in January before the May 1 deadline, which will also specify which regulations are open for proposed changes.

Topic & Meeting Schedule

Southeast Region - Game Management Units: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 *Meeting Cycle: 2025/2026 2028/2029 2031/2032*

Southcentral Region - Game Management Units: 6, 7, 8, 14C, 15 Meeting Cycle: 2025/2026 2028/2029 2031/2032

Western Arctic / Western Region - Game Management Units: 18, 22, 23, 26A Meeting Cycle: 2023/2024 2026/2027 2029/2030

Interior and Eastern Arctic Region - Game Management Units: 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, 26C Meeting Cycle: 2023/2024 2026/2027 2029/2030

Central and Southwest Region - Game Management Units: 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16, & 17 *Meeting Cycle: 2024/2025 2027/2028 2030/2031*

Statewide Regulations* (see next page) Meeting Cycle: 2024/2025 2027/2028 2030/2031

*5 AAC 92.037. Permits for falconry is scheduled every six years: 2027/2028 2033/2034 2039/2040

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME Statewide Regulations ~ 5 AAC Chapters 92 and 98

General Provisions & Definitions:

- 92.001 Application of this Chapter
- 92.002 Liability for Violations
- 92.003 Hunter Education and Orientation Requirements
- 92.004 Policy for Off-Road Vehicle Use for Hunting and transporting game.
- 92.005 Policy for Changing the Board of Agenda
- 92.008 Harvest Guideline Levels
- 92.009 Policy Obstruction or Hindrance of Lawful Hunting or Trapping
- 92.990 Definitions

Licenses, Harvest Tickets, Reports, Tags, & Fees:

- 92.010 Harvest Tickets and Reports
- 92.011 Taking of Game by Proxy
- 92.012 Licenses and Tags
- 92.013 Migratory Bird Hunting Guide Services
- 92.018 Waterfowl Conservation Tag
- 92.019 Taking of Big Game for Certain Religious Ceremonies

Permits:

- 92.020 Application of Permit Regulations and Permit Reports
- 92.028 Aviculture Permits
- 92.029 Permit for Possessing Live Game
- 92.030 Possession of Wolf Hybrid and Wild Cat Hybrids Prohibited
- 92.031 Permit for Selling Skins, Skulls, and Trophies
- 92.033 Permit for Science, Education, Propagative, or Public Safety Purposes
- 92.034 Permit to Take Game for Cultural Purposes
- 92.035 Permit for Temporary Commercial Use of Live Game
- 92.037 Permit for Falconry (to be *addressed every 6 years*)
- 92.039 Permit for Taking Wolves Using Aircraft
- 92.040 Permit for Taking of Furbearers with Game Meat
- 92.041 Permit to Take Beavers to Control Damage to Property
- 92.042 Permit to Take Foxes for Protection of Migratory Birds
- 92.043 Permit for Capturing Wild Furbearers for Fur Farming 92.044 Permit for Hunting Bear w/the Use of Bait or Scent
- Lures
- 92.047 Permit for Using Radio Telemetry Equipment
- 92.049 Permits, Permit Procedures, and Permit Conditions
- 92.050 Required Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures
- 92.051 Discretionary Trapping Permit Conditions & Procedures
- 92.052 Discretionary Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures
- 92.057 Special Provisions for Dall Sheep Drawing Permit Hunts
- 92.061 Special Provisions for Brown Bear Drawing Permit Hunts
- 92.062 Priority for Subsistence Hunting; Tier II Permits
- 92.068 Permit Conditions for Hunting Black Bear with Dogs
- 92.069 Special Provisions for Moose Drawing Permit Hunts
- 92.070 Tier II Subsistence Hunting Permit Point System
- 92.071 Tier I Subsistence Permits
- 92.072 Community subsistence Harvest Hunt Area and Permit Conditions

Methods & Means:

- 92.075 Lawful Methods of Taking Game 92.080 Unlawful Methods of Taking Game; Exceptions 92.085 Unlawful Methods of Taking Big Game; Exceptions 92.090 Unlawful Methods of Taking Fur Animals 92.095 Unlawful Methods of Taking Furbearers; Exceptions 92.100 Unlawful Methods of Hunting Waterfowl, Snipe, Crane 92.104 Authorization for Methods and Means Disability Exemptions **Intensive Management and Predator Control:** 92.106 Intensive Management of Identified Big Game **Prev Populations** 92.110 Control of Predation by Wolves 92.115 Control of Predation by Bears 92.116 Special Provisions in Predation Control Areas **Possession and Transportation:** 92.130 Restrictions to Bag Limit 92.135 Transfer of Possession 92.140 Unlawful Possession or Transportation of Game 92.141 Transport, Harboring, or Release of Live Muridae Rodents Prohibited
- 92.150 Evidence of Sex and Identity
- 92.151 Destruction of trophy value of game required in specific areas.
- 92.160 Marked or Tagged Game
- 92.165 Sealing of Bear Skins and Skulls
- 92.170 Sealing of Marten, Lynx, Beaver, Otter, Wolf, and Wolverine
- 92.171 Sealing of Dall Sheep Horns

Use of Game:

- 92.200 Purchase and Sale of Game
- 92.210 Game as Animal Food or Bait
- 92.220 Salvage of Game Meat, Furs, and Hides
- 92.230 Feeding of Game
- 92.250 Transfer of Musk oxen for Science and Education Purposes
- 92.260 Taking Cub Bears & Female Bears with Cubs Prohibited

Emergency Taking of Game:

- 92.400 Emergency Taking of Game
- 92.410 Taking Game in Defense of Life or Property
- 92.420 Taking Nuisance Wildlife

Game Management Units:

92.450 Description of Game Management Units

Antlerless Moose Reauthorization:

98.005 Areas of Jurisdiction for Antlerless Moose Season



Alaska Board of Game Members

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Al Barrette, Fairbanks <u>Allen.barrette@alaska.gov</u>	6/30/2025
Jake Fletcher, Talkeetna Jacob.fletcher@alaska.gov	6/30/2026
James Cooney, Eagle River James.cooney@alaska.gov	6/30/2024
Ruth Cusack, Chugiak <u>Ruth.cusack@alaska.gov</u>	6/30/2025
David Lorring, Fairbanks Dave.lorring@alaska.gov	6/30/2026

Alaska Board of Game members may also be reached by contacting Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director, Alaska Board of Game Email: <u>kristy.tibbles@alaska.gov</u> | Phone: (907) 465-6098 <u>www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov</u>



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<u>Southeast Region</u> (South of Frederick Sound) VACANT

Southeast Region (North of Frederick Sound) Annie Bartholomew (see above contact info)