

Procedure Differences Between Boards of Fisheries and Game

While the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game follow the same process for adopting regulations, each board has adopted various policies and procedures that differ from each other. This can be confusing for individuals who are new to the process and do not regularly attend both board meetings. These policies and procedures become modified over time as the board membership changes and new issues arise. Prior to attending a board meeting as an advisory committee representative, contact your Boards Support regional coordinator or any Boards Support staff to become more familiar with the meeting procedures and any recent changes.

Advisory Committee and Public Testimony

Board of Fisheries

- Advisory committee testimony – typically ten-minute duration, at the discretion of the chair.
- Public testimony – generally three-minute duration, at the discretion of the chair.
- Advisory committee members can provide their committee testimony as well as their own separate testimony.
- All other individuals whether testifying for themselves, an organization, or both, are bound to the three-minute time limit set by the chair.
- The Board of Fisheries will ask some questions during public testimony, but generally refrain from detailed questions given their use of the committee process as described below. Do not be discouraged if the board does not ask any questions during testimony.

Board of Game

- Advisory committee testimony – typically 15-minute duration, at the discretion of the chair.
- Public testimony – generally five-minute duration, at the discretion of the chair.
- Advisory committee members can elect to give advisory committee testimony later in the meeting prior to their area of proposals (this does not apply to personal testimony).
- Individuals can give personal testimony and testimony on behalf of an organization; these are considered separate and each is allotted its own time.
- The Board of Game uses the testimony portion of its meeting as its main tool for gathering information from meeting participants. As such, the board may spend more time with each testifier.

Submission of Written Comment at Board Meetings

Board of Fisheries

- Limit of ten pages prior to deliberating on proposals; five pages after deliberations begin.
- Requires 25 copies of written comment to be submitted during the meeting.

Board of Game

- Limit of ten pages during entire meeting.
- Requires 20 copies of written comment to be submitted during the meeting.

Committee Process at the Board Meetings

Board of Fisheries

- Employs a “committee” system for board members to hear detailed information about proposals from the impacted public, including advisory committees.
- Initially designed in the late 90s, committees were three board members who were given a batch of related proposals. Two committees would meet simultaneously to expedite the process. Advisory committees and the public signed up for committees. Advisory committees are welcome to attend any committee and move between committees occurring concurrently.
- Today the board mainly uses the “committee of the whole” system where the full board listens to the discussion and all are welcome to attend and participate.

Board of Game

- On occasion will utilize a “town hall” style format to solicit more discussion from advisory committees and the public.

Meeting Cycle and Deadlines

Board of Fisheries

- Proposal deadline: April 10. If April 10 falls on a weekend, Monday, or holiday, the proposal deadline is the next closest business day.
- Agenda Change Request deadline – 60 days prior to first day of the October work session.

Board of Game

- Proposal deadline: May 1. If May 1 falls on a weekend, the proposal deadline is the Friday prior.
- Agenda Change Request deadline – November 1.