

Boards Support Newsletter

Winter 2017|2018

BOARDS SUPPORT

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James Charles & Raymond Oney receive Excellence in Service Awards at the Board of Game Statewide Meeting in November

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Dear Advisory Committee Members

Greetings and Happy Holidays from all of us with Boards Support,

We hope everyone is having a good winter and happy holiday season. As 2017 comes to a close and you reflect upon any resolves you may have set, we hope you all feel a great sense of accomplishment and reward by serving on your local fish and game advisory committees. The work of the ACs goes a long way towards helping to conserve and develop our fish and game resources and we thank you for your hard work and dedication.

In this newsletter we are proud to recognize the five recipients of the 2018 Excellence in Service awards. It also includes an update of several changes to statewide hunting and trapping regulations by the Board of Game during their November 2017 meeting; highlights of the good work by the Fortymile caribou working group, the most recent events with the Board of Fisheries, and what the future holds for a Joint Board regulatory meeting.

Again, we thank you for your advisory committee work, and wish you all the best in 2018.

Sincerely,

Glenn Haight, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Game

Fortymile Herd Management Coalition

In the early 1990s, the Fortymile Caribou Herd (FCH), a herd that crossed the border between Alaska and the Yukon Territory, was so diminished that it rarely crossed into the Yukon. Concerned Yukon citizens contacted ADF&G to initiate discussions with Alaskans regarding the declining herd. Now retired Tok Area Biologist Craig Gardener asked Frank Entsminger, of the Upper Tanana Fortymile AC, to meet with them. As the effort grew, Mike Tinker with the Fairbanks AC, as well as the Delta and Eagle ACs became involved.

In 1995, AC members teamed up with Yukon representatives to draft a harvest management plan. The plan gained Board of Game approval, becoming the first game harvest management plan in the State of Alaska.

Since that time, what became known as the Fortymile Herd Management Coalition (FMHC) has met and evolved. In 1995, the newly created Central AC took a seat at the table as an 'original member'. A year later the Eastern Interior RAC joined. In 2012, the FMHC expanded by two more seats, currently held by members of the Anchorage and Matanuska Valley ACs.

Joint Board Update

On December 21, a Joint Board Committee met to review and provide a recommendation to the boards on the need for scheduling a future Joint Board meeting to address regulations including the advisory committee system, subsistence procedures, and nonsubsistence areas. The last time the Joint Board held a regulatory meeting was October 2013. The committee scheduled a follow up meeting on February 7, and wants to hear from the ACs and public with any comments or preliminary proposals on potential changes for Joint Board consideration. The committee will then prepare a recommendation to the boards for discussion at their next meetings. For additional information, contact Boards Support, or visit the Joint Board meeting info website.

FORTYMILE

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The current harvest management plan will expire in 2018 and with that the FMHC resumed meeting to update the plan. Mssr. Tinker and Enstsminger continue their roles after 20 years, and are joined by Andy Bassich (Eagle), Vern Aiton (Delta), Bill Glanz (Central), and Frank Neumann (Anchorage). The final Matanuska Valley seat is currently vacant.

The first meeting was held in Tok in October 2017. Members received new information on the FCH from both ADF&G and the Yukon Department of the Environment. After returning home to update their communities on new information and to receive input, the members will gather in Fairbanks in late January to update the harvest management plan for the coming years.



2018 Excellence in Service Award Winners

The Excellence in Service award recognizes the critical work done by AC members. Every year AC members demonstrate exemplary service in helping to manage Alaska's fish and game resources. We are happy to recognize the outstanding contributions made by this year's Excellence in Service Award winners.

DON QUARBERG, DELTA AC. Don Quarberg is a long-time member (since 1990) of the Delta AC and served as chair for 10 years. Mr. Quarberg spends many hours preparing for AC meetings and encouraging and mentoring other members. Don was instrumental in getting initial legislation 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. Additionally, Don was a member of a working group that helped create the Bison Range Youth Hunt Management Area, one of the first moose youth hunts in the state.

BARBARA CARLSON, STONY/HOLITNA AC. Barb Carlson serves as the Stony-Holitna AC representative to the Board of Fisheries. 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 2015-2017, Ms. Carlson worked with the Board, 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 worked towards the betterment of all along the river in an effort to find long-lasting equitable solutions.

JAMES CHARLES, LOWER KUSKOKWIM AC. James Charles has spent the majority of his life promoting the responsible use of fish and game resources in the Lower Kuskokwim region and statewide. As current chair, his service on his AC spans over 40 years. Mr. Charles service to the AC includes running meetings, testifying at board meetings, and helping to negotiate difficult allocation issues. Mr. Charles is a long-time member of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group, the Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and the YK Delta RAC. 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.

RAYMOND ONEY, COASTAL LOWER YUKON AC. 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.

TIM McDONOUGH, UPPER LYNN CANAL AC. Tim McDonough serves on the Upper Lynn Canal AC currently as chair. In his capacity, Mr. McDonough provides an example for all members on the importance of their work. His attention to detail in meeting preparation includes rigorous attention to public notice requirements, recruiting ADF&G staff to discuss issues, and preparing necessary material for members. He operates AC meeting in a manner respectful of all with attention to order and efficiency. Tim's preparation and attention to detail is critical in helping the AC provide informed decisions to promote the sustainability of our fish and wildlife resources.

Board of Fisheries Meetings

The Board of Fisheries is midway through its meeting cycle. This year the board is reviewing Prince William Sound finfish, Southeast and Yakutat shellfish and finfish, and Statewide Dungeness Crab, shrimp, and other miscellaneous shellfish regulations. There are additional subjects before the board taken as agenda change requests and board generated proposals.

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND (INCLUDING UPPER COPPER AND SUSITNA RIVERS) FINFISH, VALDEZ, DECEMBER 1-5, 2017

The board met in snowy Valdez through the first part of December. King salmon was on everyone's mind as 2017 preseason forecasts for low runs of Copper River Kings prompted strict conservation measures on users. A major action taken at the meeting was to delay implementation of the department's revised king salmon escapement goal until additional research data is available. Other major actions included:

- On recognizing that PWS groundfish, namely rockfish and ling cod, were sustaining heavy fishing pressure, the board passed several conservation-based regulations. One such change that was passed, but later reconsidered and added to the March 2018 Statewide meeting, was to require deep water release mechanisms for rockfish on ***all vessels engaged in sport fishing***.
- A decoupling of two fisheries from the Copper River commercial salmon fishery. The first was eliminating mandatory reductions on harvests to the Chitina personal use fishery if the commercial fishery is closed for 13 or more consecutive days. The second was to allow subsistence harvest activity in the Copper River district on Saturdays. Previously, subsistence salmon fishing was only open during commercial fishing openings.

For more information, visit the meeting page.

SOUTHEAST AND YAKUTAT FINFISH AND STATEWIDE DUNGENESS CRAB, SHRIMP, AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS SHELLFISH MEETINGS

Upcoming for the board are two remaining meetings for the 2018 winter, the Southeast and Yakutat Shellfish and Finfish meeting in Sitka, January 11-23, and the Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp, and Other Miscellaneous Shellfish, in Anchorage, March 6-9.

Similar to PWS, king salmon conservation concerns will dominate the Southeast and Yakutat meeting. The board also expects interest in commercial fishery enhancement salmon allocations and Sitka herring fisheries.

The Statewide meeting is punctuated with several PWS shrimp proposals. Special subject proposals for the meeting include several on Yukon River subsistence and commercial salmon fisheries, the Dutch Harbor herring food/bait fishery, and Aleutian Islands golden king crab.



Notable Actions from the Board of Game Statewide Regulations Meeting

The Board of Game met in Anchorage in November to address changes to statewide regulations and adopted 15 out of 70 proposals, including the following. Changes to regulations will take effect July 1, 2018.

PROPOSAL 66: Update the Board of Game's policy for accepting agenda change requests to make it more consistent with the Joint Board Petition Policy, with a November 1 annual deadline.

PROPOSAL 4: Change the definition of edible meat for cranes, geese, and swan to include the meat of the back, and the meat of the wings, excluding the metacarpus (the tip section of the wing).

PROPOSAL 5: Clarify the definitions for "spike-fork", "point", and "brow tine", and define "fork" for bull moose.

PROPOSAL 11: Clarify the restrictions on the use of aircraft for sheep hunting so that it does not intend to prohibit any flight maneuvers necessary to make an informed and safe landing in the field.

PROPOSAL 13: Prohibit the use of any device that communicates wirelessly and is used to spot or locate game with the use of a camera or video (live cameras are prohibited); and prohibit wireless communication to take animals (excluding Delta Bison and moose in targeted hunts) until after 3:00 a.m. following the day after the use of the device. "Wireless communication" is defined to mean "electronic communication of any form that is transmitted through the air without requiring any cable or wires between two or more devices."

Proposal 17: Prohibit the use of airbows for taking big game.

PROPOSAL 24: Define the term "equipment" for bear baiting as: "barrels, tree stands, game cameras, and other items associated with a bear bait station."

PROPOSAL 43: Allow the taking of Emperor geese by proxy hunting.

PROPOSAL 49: Require a permit with specific conditions to sell brown bear skulls and hides with claws attached.

More information on board action is available on the BOG meeting information webpage.

Boards Support Staffing Update

Boards Support welcomes back Hazel Smith as the Arctic Region Regional Coordinator. Hazel returned after previously holding this position and works in the Kotzebue office.

BOARD MEETINGS, COMMENT & PROPOSAL DEADLINES

2017/2018
CYCLE

BOARD OF FISHERIES

January 11-23, 2018 | Sitka
Southeast & Yakutat Finfish & Shellfish
Comments due December 28, 2017

March 6-9, 2018 | Anchorage
Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp & Other
Miscellaneous Shellfish (Except Yakutat & Southeast)
Comments due February 23, 2018

JOINT BOARD COMMITTEE

February 7, 2018 | Teleconference
Comments due February 2, 2018

BOARD OF GAME

February 16-23, 2018 | Dillingham
Central/Southwest Region
Comments due February 2, 2018

2018/2019
CYCLE

PROPOSAL DEADLINE: APRIL 10, 2018

October 17-18, 2018 | Anchorage
Work Session

November 28-December 4, 2018 | Dillingham
Bristol Bay Finfish

January 15-19, 2019 | Anchorage
Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Finfish

February 21-27, 2019 | Anchorage
Alaska Peninsula/Chignik/Aleutian Islands Finfish

March 8-11, 2019 | Anchorage
Statewide Finfish & Supplemental Issues

PROPOSAL DEADLINE: MAY 1, 2018

January 10, 2019 | Petersburg
Work Session

January 11-15, 2019 | Petersburg
Southeast Region

March 15-19, 2019 | Kodiak
Southcentral Region



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