



Understanding the Alaska Board of Fisheries Or...Do you know how fishing regulations are made?



It often comes as a surprise to many Alaskans to learn that the state's fishing regulations are not made by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). This job falls to the Board of Fisheries, a group of seven people appointed by the governor and approved by the legislature.

While the board makes the final decisions, the process provides several ways in which all Alaska residents can participate. Here's how it works.

The board considers the needs of fisheries and Alaskans

The Board of Fisheries receives written proposals, comments, and oral and written testimony from members of the public, local Fish and Game Advisory Committees, and ADF&G. The board then deliberates on regulations that respond to people's concerns, while also considering the need for long-term conservation and sustainable use of the resource. Board of Fisheries meetings are open to the public and provide opportunity for public comment.

The role of advisory committees

There are more than 80 advisory committees covering all areas of the state, each with up to 15 locally elected members. Each committee listens to and discusses local concerns about fishing regulations, and then submits proposed regulation changes to the Board of Fisheries. The advisory committees also provide comments and recommendations to the board on proposals that would impact the resources in their area. These same advisory committees interact with the Board of Game in a similar manner.

The role of ADF&G

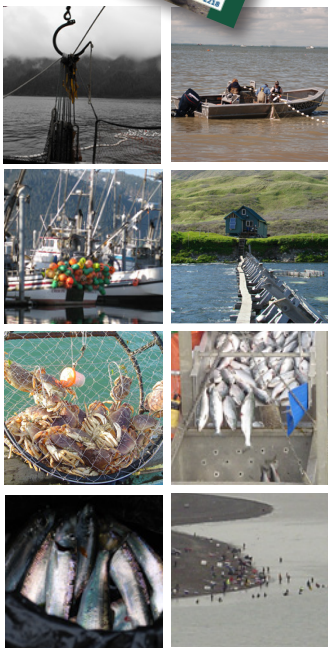
ADF&G biologists share the results of their fisheries surveys and other biological and habitat studies with both the advisory committees and the Board of Fisheries. The biologists work closely with the advisory committees and assists them in developing proposals for board consideration. ADF&G also submits proposals to the board.

The role of the individual

Any individual may submit a proposal to the Board of Fisheries to change fishing regulations. The Boards Support Coordinator for your region can assist you in writing a proposed change, and provide you a proposal form. You may also submit written comments to the board on proposed changes. Contact your regional coordinator (see list at left) for details and meeting schedules, or visit www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us.

The value of working together

While the board considers all proposals submitted by individuals, advisory committees, and ADF&G, a proposal that has first been reviewed and agreed upon by the above entities demonstrates to the board that there is broad support for the proposal.



Want to know more?

To find out more about advisory committees or how to submit a proposal, contact the Board Support Regional Coordinator for your area:

Arctic: 442-1717

Interior: 459-7263

Southwest: 842-5142

Southcentral: 267-2354

Southeast: 465-4110

Western: 543-2433

Statewide: 465-4110

You can also visit: www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us

Here's how regulations are made:

The Public



The public can bring concerns to their local advisory committee, submit their own proposals directly to the Board of Fisheries, and provide written comments and oral testimony to the board.

Local Advisory Committees



Advisory committees discuss local fisheries observations and issues, seek information from ADF&G, and submit proposals about fishing regulations to the board.

ADF&G



ADF&G biologists provide information to the advisory committees and provide biological information about the fisheries to the board. ADF&G also submits proposals to the board.

Board of Fisheries



Board of Fisheries meetings are held 4-6 times a year. Proposals from each major region are typically considered once every three years. Meetings are generally held in the region whose proposals are being considered.

Board of Fisheries meetings are open to the public, and everyone is encouraged to attend and participate.

Decisions are reached by a majority vote of the board

The decisions are given legal review and made official by the Lt. Governor

Want to know more?

Visit www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us
or call: 465-4110



Fishing Regulations are made available to the public by ADF&G, and are enforced by the Alaska Wildlife Troopers, Department of Public Safety.

