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OVERVIEW OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SYSTEM

by

ADF&G Boards Support Section

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Boards Support Section



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Table of Contents

OVERVIEW OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SYSTEM.....	2
ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS.....	8
Arctic Region	8
Interior Region	14
Western Region	22
Southwest Region.....	26
Southcentral Region	33
Southeast Region.....	40
APPENDICES	
Appendix A: Zahn Report to the Joint Board, 1981	
Appendix B: Status Report on Joint Board Task Force on Advisory Committees, 2002	

Overview of the Advisory Committee System

Introduction

There are currently 82 local fish and game advisory committees (ACs) around the state established in regulation by the Joint Board of Fisheries and Game (Joint Board). The ACs play an important role by providing local information and recommendations to the boards of Fisheries and Game. The ACs are supported by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Boards Support Section for meeting coordination and funding. They are also supported by the other ADF&G divisions whose staff regularly attend meetings and provide information to the committees on fish and game management issues.

The AC members are dedicated and contribute many hours of voluntary service to the fish and game regulatory process. The ACs deal with managing heavy workloads to address both Alaska Board of Game (BOG) and Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) issues, as well as federal fisheries issues and the federal subsistence program. Several AC members actively participate in the federal subsistence Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) and some serve on Subsistence Resource Commissions (SRCs).

The level of participation in the board process for the ACs varies across the state. Nearly 70 of the 82 ACs held meetings during the 2012/2013 board meeting cycle and are considered active. Twelve ACs, the majority of which are located in the Southeast Region, are considered inactive because they have not held meetings over the past few years. (For the purpose of this report, active and inactive status used to describe AC activity differs from the active status provided for in regulation (5 AAC 96.450), which stipulates AC active status as having two meetings per year. The Boards Support Section has been unable to regularly fund two meetings per year for some ACs, and therefore, the regulation has not been applied. The Joint Board will consider one proposal (proposal 22) concerning active status for ACs.)

For several ACs, their ability to meet is constrained by their location in the state. In a 1981 report to the Joint Board (Zahn Report to the Joint Board, 1981, *Appendix A*), the ACs were described in three categories, below. This still generally applies to the current ACs:

1. Rural ACs – membership is drawn from small remote communities, generally not connected by roads. Communication and transportation are cumbersome and associated costs exceed, by far, those of other committees.
2. Railbelt/Road-system ACs – these tend to be smaller communities that are on the road system and members tend to have ready access and communication for committee functions.
3. Urban ACs – these are the larger cities with good transportation and communication infrastructure, and include Fairbanks, Anchorage, Wasilla, and Juneau–Douglas.

For those ACs that are active, there is a wide range of meeting frequency and participation during board meeting cycles. Advisory committees along the road system and urban ACs are able to meet more frequently. The urban committees meet as often as eight or nine times per board meeting cycle, while road-system committees tend to meet as needed. Rural committees generally meet once or twice per meeting cycle because of the high costs associated with their

meetings. In the past, budget constraints limited many rural advisory committee (AC) meetings to a single meeting per year. Recent budget increments by the legislature have helped fund two meetings per year for many rural ACs.

Support for the Advisory Committees

The ADF&G Boards Support Section administers the AC system. There are five seasonal regional coordinators located in the Arctic, Western, Interior, Southwest, and Southcentral regions of the state, who provide technical and logistical support for the ACs. Support for Southeast Region ACs is provided by headquarters staff, who serves as the publications specialists for each board. Travel and per diem expenses for AC members are included in Boards Support's funding base; the committee members do not receive a stipend for their work.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

The statutory authority for ACs is from Alaska Statute 16.05.260.

Sec. 16.05.260. Advisory committees. The Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game may adopt regulations they consider advisable in accordance with AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) establishing, at places in the state designated by the individual boards, advisory committees to be composed of persons well informed on the fish or game resources of the locality. The boards shall set the number and terms of each of the members of the advisory committees, shall delegate one member of each committee as chairman, and shall give the chairman authority to hold public hearings on fish or game matters. Recommendations from the advisory committees shall be forwarded to the appropriate board for their consideration but if the Board of Fisheries or the Board of Game chooses not to follow the recommendations of the local advisory committee the appropriate board shall inform the appropriate advisory committee of this action and state the reasons for not following the recommendations. The commissioner shall delegate authority to advisory committees for emergency closures during established seasons. The commissioner is empowered to set aside and make null and void only opening of seasons set by the advisory committees under this section. The appropriate board shall adopt the necessary regulations governing these closures.

The regulatory authority for advisory committees comes from portions of Title 5, Chapter 96 of the Alaska Administrative Code, including:

5 AAC 96.010. Establishment of a local fish and game advisory committee system. There is established a system of local fish and game advisory committees to provide a local forum for the collection and expression of opinions and recommendations on matters relating to the management of fish and wildlife resources.

5 AAC 96.050. Functions of local fish and game advisory committees.

A committee may

- (1) develop regulatory proposals for submission to the appropriate board;
- (2) evaluate regulatory proposals submitted to them and make recommendations to the appropriate board;

(3) provide a local forum for fish and wildlife conservation and use, including any matter related to fish and wildlife habitat;

(4) advise the appropriate regional council regarding the conservation, development, and use of fish and wildlife resources;

(5) work with the appropriate regional council to develop subsistence management plans and harvest strategy proposals; and

(6) cooperate and consult with interested persons and organizations, including government agencies, to accomplish (1)–(5) of this section.

Historical Perspective

The AC system has been in existence since statehood and has expanded over the years. In 1981, there were 67 committees with a total of 665 members. Today there are 82 committees, with approximately 800 members throughout the state, some of whom have served for over 25 years.

In the 1981 report to the Joint Board, the overall effectiveness of the committee system noted several issues, many of which are still pertinent today. Those issues identified in the report were as follows:

1. Would an overall limit on the number of committees be useful?
2. Should closely adjacent committees have separate committees?
3. Is a racial balance on committees an issue within board purview?
4. Would separate committees for fisheries and for game be more effective?
5. Should inactive committees be dissolved?
6. Should boards expect to settle intra-committee disputes regarding conduct at meetings?

In October 2001, the Joint Board initiated a comprehensive review of the state's AC system by establishing a task force charged with performing a "scoping function" by identifying issues and examining ways to strengthen the AC system. The 12-member task force had statewide representation that included 11 active or former AC members. The task force held two meetings, both in April 2002. The resulting report ("Status Report on Joint Board Task Force on Advisory Committees," *Appendix B*) was forwarded to each board in December 2002. The task force identified a number of issues including: timing/organization, public input, training, elections, funding and interaction.

The BOF and the BOG separately took the task force recommendations under advisement, but did not schedule a meeting to consider regulatory action due to budget and scheduling limitations.

Joint Board Meetings since 1985

The Joint Board met to consider proposals on AC regulations in 1985, 1990, 1991, 1997, 1998, 2006, and 2007. Other Joint Board meetings have been called to address topics of common jurisdiction to both boards, such as to address areawide management plans, to respond to changes in the state’s subsistence law, and to establish nonsubsistence areas.

JOINT BOARD MEETINGS AND WORK SESSIONS, 1985 TO PRESENT

Date	Location	Topics
March 1985	Anchorage	Twenty-three proposals on ACs
November 12–14, 1985	Anchorage	Subsistence procedures and habitat protection
September 28, 1988	Anchorage	Work session
March 12–14, 1990	Anchorage	Thirty-nine proposals on ACs
October 1990	Anchorage	New “all Alaskan” ruling
February 23–25, 1991	Juneau	Twenty-six proposals on ACs
October 27–28, 1992	Anchorage	Four proposals on ACs
November 1–7, 1992	Anchorage	Nonsubsistence area determinations, 8 criteria
March 6–7, 1993	Juneau	Nonsubsistence area revisions, Kachemak Bay Management Plan
April 28, 1994	teleconference	Nonsubsistence areas resulting from <i>Kenaitze v. State</i>
April 3–5, 1997	Anchorage	Initial action on 19 proposals on ACs and additional proposals, including Bristol Bay Reserve
August 1, 1997	teleconference	Discussion of governor’s subsistence panel
Feb. 27–March 1, 1998	Anchorage	Final action on 19 proposals, plus others
March 21, 2006	Anchorage	Proposal on AC member qualifications
October 5–8, 2007	Anchorage	Final action on 39 proposals total; 37 on AC regulations and two on nonsubsistence areas; five proposals were adopted
May 13, 2011	Teleconference	Requests for removal of two members on the Anchorage AC and one member on the Juneau/Douglas AC

Note: This list does not include the periodic Joint Board meetings convened for purposes of the commissioner selection process.

During the March 1990 and February 1991 meetings, the Joint Board considered proposals to modify specific ACs and to address general AC rules of operation. In 1997 and 1998, the Joint Board considered 21 proposals, making adjustments to the seats on four ACs and establishing two new committees (Central AC and East Prince of Wales AC), bringing the total number of ACs to 81. Proposals concerning committee procedures or committee–board interaction were not

adopted; however, remaining procedural issues were referred to the separate boards. Indirect outcomes of the 1997–1998 review included implementing more stringent requirements for BOF agenda change requests, as well as nonregulatory changes, such as initial development of the BOF’s committee process and updating the AC manual.

The March 2006 meeting resulted in deferral of the proposal concerning AC member qualifications to a future meeting, scheduled for October 2007, at which the Joint Board addressed 39 proposals. The changes made during the 2007 Joint Board meeting were adjustments to the designated seats for nine committees [Edna Bay, Copper Basin, Mt. Yenlo, Tok Cutoff/Nabesna, Lower Yukon, Upper Kobuk, Middle Nenana River, Middle Yukon, and Grayling/Anvik/Shageluk/Holy Cross (GASH)], and establishment of the Susitna Valley, Stony/Holitna, and the North Slope ACs, changing the overall number of ACs to 82.

In March 13, 2011, the Joint Board met via teleconference to address three requests for removal of AC members. As a result of this meeting, the boards concluded the need to schedule a Joint Board meeting to address regulatory proposals, including one generated from a committee of the Joint Board to provide clarification regarding removal for cause, submission of minutes, and implementing disciplinary measures under *Robert’s Rules of Order* (see Proposal 17).

General Advisory Committee Issues Related to Joint Board Proposals

Rural ACs can have as many as 13 designated community seats, for which the travel costs associated with the meetings are significant and coordination is challenging. Because these committees are limited to two meetings, they often have long agendas; one meeting can last as long as one or two days in order for committees to address a large number of issues. Oftentimes meetings are cancelled or postponed due to poor weather conditions, failure to make a quorum, or other unexpected events. Rural ACs tend to meet via teleconference when needed, but for many, it is not an efficient way of conducting committee business. Railbelt/road-system ACs can also have problems with making a quorum, and occasionally urban committees do also. The Joint Board will consider two proposals (proposals 5 and 6) for the Western Region to establish new ACs for communities that currently have representation on other ACs. There are also proposals (proposals 1–4) for other regions requesting adjustments to committee designated seats to assist ACs with being able to more easily make a quorum for holding meetings.

In the past, ACs have submitted proposals to the Joint Board requesting changes to the process by allowing a seat at the table during board deliberations or by having the boards review AC recommendations before final votes are taken. Over the years, each board has made modifications to their processes. The BOF implemented the committee process around 1997 in an effort to increase public participation, at which ACs are ex-officio members of all public panels to the board committees. Recently, the BOF modified the committee process to provide additional opportunity for discussion between the public and all board members by using a Committee of the Whole process. The BOG recently changed the AC testimony process to provide AC representatives the opportunity to testify just prior to deliberation of the proposals for their areas. The BOG also uses an informal, town hall committee process to address complex issues in which all AC representatives can participate. The Joint Board will consider two proposals (proposals 28 and 29) requesting AC involvement during board deliberations.

The AC system faces a number of issues concerning its Uniform Rules of Operation and functionality. Many ACs function well, while others face various challenges, such as overloaded agendas due to limited meetings, lack of broad representation of user groups on ACs, failure to make a quorum, unprepared members, and poor time management during meetings. Some committees have been criticized for the lack of transparent processes for elections. Qualification of members has also been an issue for some ACs. Meetings that are not productive result in ineffective recommendations to the boards and are not the best use of state resources. The Joint Board will consider a number of proposals (proposals 9–24) concerning AC function, member qualification, and Uniform Rules of Operation at the October 2013 meeting.

Other issues of concern for some ACs are the challenges of producing effective meeting minutes and providing effective testimony at board meetings. Recording meeting minutes is very time consuming and many committees do not have computers or other skills to efficiently produce minutes. Some committees struggle to find members or volunteers to serve as secretary. In the past, Boards Support Section has been reluctant to take minutes for the committees. However, the past few cycles, staff felt compelled to take minutes for some committees in order to effectively convey the ACs' recommendations to the boards. In regards to providing testimony at board meetings, some ACs fail to provide the boards with pertinent information about AC discussions on proposals; some simply recite actual committee votes on proposals without elaborating on the discussion about why the AC position is what it is. In regards to testimony, although the time allowed is limited, it's very important for the AC representatives to provide this information either in minutes, testimony, or the committee process. The Joint Board will consider proposals (proposals 16 and 17) concerning the submission of AC meeting minutes.

Conclusion

When the ACs functions well, they provide a valuable service for the state's fish and game regulatory process by providing a local forum for the public to participate and as a conduit for passing local information to the boards and resource managers. Many of the issues before the Joint Board have been topics of discussion at several past board meetings. Regardless of the actions taken by the Joint Board at the October 2013 meeting, ADF&G will continue to work towards improving the AC system and identifying ways to help committees be more effective with their meetings. This report is provided to the Joint Board to provide background information and an evaluation of the AC system related to the proposals before the Joint Board at the October 2013 meeting.

Arctic Region Advisory Committees

The Arctic Region has nine advisory committees (ACs). All but one AC in this region, the Kotzebue AC, serves multiple communities, and all of the ACs met during the 2012–2013 meeting cycle.

The two committees for the Norton Sound area (Northern Norton Sound AC and the Southern Norton Sound AC) are the most active in the Arctic Region at the community and board meeting levels. The St. Lawrence Island AC has been inactive for several years, but held a meeting early this year. The ACs located within GMU 23 (Northern Seward Peninsula, Upper Kobuk, Lower Kobuk, Noatak/Kivalina, and Kotzebue) often inquire about each other in meetings to support each other because there is considerable overlap in resource use areas. These ACs are primarily subsistence-focused groups joined by snowmachine trails during the winter and one central flight hub, Kotzebue. Many families have members who move between the villages and Kotzebue seasonally for jobs. These ACs are also participants in the GMU 23 User Conflict Working Group and the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group.

The vast majority of the Arctic Region is not connected by roads, and residents rely nearly exclusively on travel by planes, boats, snowmachines, and dog teams. The expense of travel and the cold and unpredictable weather in this region can make carrying out face-to-face meetings difficult.

The Arctic Region covers GMUs 22, 23, and 26. The area contains the following major water bodies: Kobuk, Selawik, Noatak, Unalakleet, Colville, and Nome rivers; Kotzebue Sound and Norton Sound; and the Chukchi and Beaufort seas. Large expanses of land are managed by the federal government in the form of preserves, parks, and national wildlife refuges. There are also many private landholders, including land owned by Native corporations and through Native allotments.

There are several overlapping areas of concern shared by the Arctic Region ACs, including: the Western Arctic caribou herd and its decline; disruptions in caribou migrations by transportation of helicopters, planes, and vehicles used by transporters, development companies and researchers; increasing brown bear and wolf populations and their relationship to declining numbers of caribou and moose; whitefish numbers in the Kobuk and Selawik rivers, as well as in Kotzebue Sound; declining chum and king salmon runs in Norton Sound; and the high cost of living, impacting the ability of residents to carry out subsistence practices.

The Joint Board will consider two proposals for this region. Proposal 4 requests an adjustment to membership for the Northern Seward Peninsula and Lower Kobuk ACs. Proposal 8 corrects the name for the North Slope AC in 5 AAC 97.005.

Kotzebue Advisory Committee – Pete Schaeffer, Chair

The Kotzebue AC has 15 seats. The current membership is nine members, all residing in Kotzebue. This AC typically meets twice a year, but will meet more frequently, as needed, since the AC does not have any travel costs associated with meetings.

The majority of discussion for the AC deals with moose and caribou, and more recently, the effects of roads and resource development on caribou. The committee is also interested in fishing issues, predominately for whitefish. Although commercial fishing is present in the Kotzebue Sound, most discussions on fishing focus on subsistence issues. Protection of subsistence uses of fish and game, as well as continuing to have the antlerless moose hunt, are also frequent topics of discussion for the AC.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Kotzebue AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 22 and 23
- Kotzebue Sound Area finfish

Lower Kobuk Advisory Committee – Raymond Stoney, Chair

The Lower Kobuk AC has 15 seats. The current membership is seven members: four from Noorvik and three from Kiana. The community-designated seats listed in regulation for the AC are:

Noorvik	3 representatives
Kiana	2 representatives
Undesignated	10 representatives

The Lower Kobuk AC meets twice annually; funding has limited meetings for the AC in the past. Members are highly engaged at the community level, but not as engaged at the board meeting level. Meeting locations are rotated between the two communities. Periodically, the AC expresses a desire to meet jointly with the Kotzebue Sound AC and the Upper Kobuk AC to discuss overlapping areas of interest and proposal analysis.

The Lower Kobuk AC is interested in sheefish research on the Selawik and Kobuk rivers, and expressed support for continuing this research into the future to protect the species. The AC has concerns over the Ambler mining district road and the effects on caribou migrations. It is also concerned with the increasing numbers of wolves and bears in the region, and predation on caribou and moose, particularly calves.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Lower Kobuk AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMU 23
- Kotzebue Sound Area finfish

The Joint Board will consider Proposal 4, which modifies the membership makeup for the Lower Kobuk AC.

Noatak/Kivalina Advisory Committee – Enoch Mitchell, Chair

The Noatak/Kivalina AC has 15 seats. The current membership is ten members: three members and one alternate from Kivalina, and six members from Noatak. The community-designated seats listed in regulation for the AC are:

Noatak	3 representatives
Kivalina	2 representatives
Undesignated	10 representatives

The AC met twice in the last year, once each in Noatak and Kivalina, despite scheduling challenges due to members working two weeks on/two weeks off mining shifts. Protecting subsistence uses of moose and caribou is an important focus for this AC. This AC is also concerned with transporters diverting caribou migrations away from village; protection of Dolly Varden, particularly in Kivalina for subsistence use; and the increased numbers of wolves in the area.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Noatak/Kivalina AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMU 23
- Kotzebue Sound Area finfish

North Slope Advisory Committee – Enoch Oktollik, Chair

The North Slope AC has nine seats. The current membership of nine members includes representatives from each of the communities as designated in regulation:

Barrow	1 representative
Point Hope	1 representative
Point Lay	1 representative
Wainwright	1 representative
Atkasuk	1 representative
Kaktovik	1 representative
Nuiqsut	1 representative
Anaktuvuk Pass	1 representative
Undesignated	1 representative

The AC meets on a quarterly basis with the dual purpose of meeting as the North Slope AC and functioning as an oversight group to the North Slope Borough’s Department of Wildlife Management. It normally meets three times in Barrow and once in one of the other six villages represented on the AC, although only one of these meetings is typically used to discuss AC topics. Meetings are attended by state, federal, and local agency representatives, as well as the public. Due to variable weather conditions and the long distances between the communities on this AC, carrying out meetings can be challenging.

Concerns for the AC include the effects of the development of roads and pipeline expansion; predators, including nuisance brown bears, relocating polar bears, and increasing numbers of wolves on the coastal plain; musk ox and their effects on caribou and the people of the area; and the possible impacts on subsistence hunting by increased traffic of helicopters for research and

exploration. The AC is also concerned with marine mammals, oil and gas, fish, migratory birds, and many other issues.

The area of jurisdiction for the North Slope AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections is:

- GMU 26

The Joint Board will consider Proposal 8, which corrects the name for the AC currently listed in 5 AAC 97.005.

Northern Norton Sound – Roy Ashenfelter, Chair

The Northern Norton Sound AC has 15 seats. Current membership is 12 members: eight from Nome, and one each from Wales, Shishmaref, Teller, and Brevig Mission. Currently, there is no representation from Golovin or White Mountain. The community-designated seats listed in regulation for the AC are:

Nome	6 representatives
Elim	1 representative
Wales	1 representative
Golovin	1 representative
City of White Mountain	1 representative
Shishmaref	1 representative
Teller	1 representative
Brevig Mission	1 representative
Undesignated	2 representatives

The AC normally meets twice annually, usually in Nome. Many members are tightly tied to the Norton Sound Economic Development Cooperation; Kawerak, Inc.; and the Bering Sea Fisherman’s Association. One member serves on the federal subsistence RAC. Many members are commercial fishermen who also actively participate in subsistence practices.

Issues of interest for the AC include the amount of state per diem being too low to allow members to cover the actual costs of meals while carrying out their AC responsibilities; the abundance of brown bears and musk oxen in the region; declines in chum salmon and changes in the pink salmon runs in alternating years; and commercial and subsistence fishing. The AC is also concerned with the increase in musk oxen.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Northern Norton Sound AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 22 and 23
- Norton Sound–Port Clarence Area finfish
- Registration Area Q shellfish

Northern Seward Peninsula – Ron Moto, Chair

The Northern Seward Peninsula AC has 15 seats. Current membership is 10 members: five from Buckland, three from Selawik, and two from Deering. The community-designated seats listed in regulations for the AC are:

Buckland	3 representatives
Selawik	2 representatives
Deering	2 representatives
Undesignated	8 representatives

This AC was able to meet twice during the 2012–2013 board cycle, once in Buckland and once in Deering. Since the AC has experienced problems getting all AC members together for meetings, meetings may be conducted partially via teleconference in order to make a quorum.

Some issues of concern for the AC include the impacts roads and climate change are having on caribou; musk ox hunting permits; the increasing number of wolves and brown bears in the area; and the numbers of transporters bringing hunters into the traditional hunting grounds.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Northern Seward Peninsula AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 22 and 23
- Kotzebue Sound Area finfish

Southern Norton Sound – Art Ivanoff, Chair

The Southern Norton Sound AC has 15 seats. Current membership is nine members: four from Unalakleet, two each from Stebbins and St. Michael, and one each from Shaktoolik and Koyuk. The community-designated seats listed in regulations for the AC are:

Unalakleet	6 representatives
St. Michael	2 representatives
Shaktoolik	2 representatives
Stebbins	2 representatives
Koyuk	2 representatives
Undesignated	1 representative

The AC meets twice a year: once in Unalakleet and once in one of the other communities. The AC would like to hold meetings on a more regular basis and would like to have more village-based meetings to allow for more public input from the other communities, but the limiting factor is funding. This AC has utilized the subcommittee process to formulate proposals, but not to analyze proposals.

The AC has worked with many organizations to keep bottom trawlers out of the Bering Sea. It is very active in engaging with the boards of Fisheries and Game and is an advocate for uniting local villages to rally support for both subsistence and commercial uses of fish. A major issue of concern for this AC is the overall abundance of chum salmon and its decline. Other issues of interest for the AC include listing king salmon as a stock of concern; increased funding to have more moose surveys in the St. Michael/Stebbins areas and creating additional hunting

opportunities; expanding the winter moose season in the St. Michael/Stebbins area; reauthorization of the Magnuson–Stevens Act; and sockeye salmon, halibut, king crab, and herring fisheries. The AC would also like to resume state regional council meetings and to have more training, especially on the use of the Alaska Administrative Code.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Southern Norton Sound AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMU 22
- Norton Sound–Port Clarence Area finfish

St. Lawrence Island Advisory Committee – Vacant chair

The St. Lawrence Island AC has 15 seats. Current membership is five members: three from Savoonga and two from Gambell. After a long period of inactivity, the St. Lawrence Island AC met in Savoonga in February 2013 to discuss fisheries issues. The AC intends to meet again in the fall to hold elections.

The AC is not listed in 5 AAC 97.005 for having areas of jurisdiction.

Upper Kobuk Advisory Committee – Marvin Joe Cleveland, Chair

The Upper Kobuk AC has ten seats. Current membership is eight members: three from Ambler, three from Shungnak, and two from Kobuk. The community-designated seats listed in regulations for the AC are:

Ambler	3 representatives
Shungnak	3 representatives
Kobuk	2 representatives
Undesignated	2 representatives

The committee has begun to meet twice annually and alternates between the three communities represented. The AC is concerned mostly with game-related issues, including nuisance moose in communities and the increasing numbers of bears and wolves. The AC is also concerned with the proposed road to the Ambler mining district and the effect it may have on caribou migration and sheefish breeding habitat, and updates on whitefish research projects.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Upper Kobuk AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMU 23
- Kotzebue Sound Area finfish

Interior Region

The Interior Region encompasses 15 ACs. Four ACs are accessible via the road system (Upper Tanana/Fortymile, Delta, Fairbanks, and Middle Nenana) and usually meet on a monthly or bimonthly basis. Three ACs are not on the road system and represent single communities (Central, Eagle, and Ruby); they tend to only meet once or twice a cycle unless there are issues warranting more frequent meetings. The Minto/Nenana AC is technically connected via the road system, but it is more feasible to fly members to a central location. The remaining Interior ACs are composed of multiple communities connected only via air or snowmachine trails (Koyukuk River, McGrath, Middle Yukon, Tanana/Rampart/Manley, Yukon Flats, and GASH). These ACs meet once or twice a cycle depending on funding and need. Of all of the ACs in this region, the Central and McGrath chose not to meet this cycle, but plan on meeting in the upcoming cycle to address Interior BOG proposals.

The Interior Region covers a large geographic area. The region stretches south to McKinley Village, west to Holy Cross, north to Arctic Village, and east to the Canadian border. Contained within the boundaries of the Interior Region is a large portion of the Yukon River and its drainages, as well as the upper portions of the Kuskokwim River and its drainages. The Interior Region includes GMUs 12, 19C, 19D, 20, 21, 24, and 25. It contains seven national wildlife refuges, a national preserve, a national park and preserve, a national recreation area, and a national conservation area, as well as a U.S. Air Force base and two U.S. Army bases, and designated training areas. Because of the checkerboard land management and ownership, many members of the ACs in the Interior Region are also active participants in the federal subsistence RACs, and the National Park Service SRCs.

Predominant concerns for most committees in the Interior Region deal with big game hunting and furbearer trapping. Across the board, many communities have become increasingly concerned with salmon and nonsalmon stocks in the Yukon and Kuskokwim drainages, and the ability of those stocks to meet their subsistence needs and make escapements. Nearly all Interior Region ACs are showing an interest in high-seas fisheries, especially interception fisheries and pelagic trawl salmon bycatch. Many discussions at meetings, and nearly all proposals brought before the boards, share the common themes of what to do about declining resources, and how to share those declining resources with nonlocal and nonresident users while retaining enough for local needs. Many of the rural communities in the Interior Region have very limited employment prospects, and maintaining a subsistence lifestyle of hunting, fishing, and trapping is a necessity to many. This area is home to a diverse population, with both consumptive and nonconsumptive user groups. The Interior Region also hosts thousands of nonlocals and nonresidents who visit to hunt, fish, recreate, and sightsee every year.

The Joint Board will consider one proposal for this region. Proposal 8 updates the regulation for areas of jurisdiction for the Upper Tanana/Fortymile AC.

Central Advisory Committee – Bill Glanz, Chair

The Central AC has nine seats; all are currently filled by members residing in and around the community of Central. Committee meetings typically occur once or twice a year, but can happen more or less frequently depending on the board cycle and the need to address other issues.

Member interests include moose hunting in GMUs 25 and 20B, the Fortymile and the White Mountain caribou herds, trapping, and concerns with dual state/federal management and enforcement on the Yukon River. Members of the AC also participate in the federal subsistence RAC system.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Central AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 20 and 25
- Upper Yukon River Area finfish

Delta Advisory Committee – Don Quarberg, Chair

The Delta AC has 11 seats; all are filled by residents in and around Delta. The committee also has three alternates. The committee meets monthly in Delta. This AC is a highly organized, active committee interested in many statewide and local issues. It is proactive in assuring the growing moose population in GMU 20D stays within the bounds of carrying capacity, dealing with local bison herds, as well as regional sport fishing issues. The AC has been growing increasingly concerned with habitat degradation caused by all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) in GMU 20. This AC meets annually with the other GMU 20 ACs to discuss moose populations and management options within the GMU. Members of this AC are involved with the federal subsistence RAC system.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Delta AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 12 and 20
- Tanana River Area finfish

Eagle Advisory Committee – Andy Bassich, Chair

The Eagle AC has nine seats; all are filled by residents from in and around Eagle. The committee also has one alternate. The AC meets once or twice a cycle in Eagle, but will meet more or less frequently if the AC deems it necessary. This AC stays involved with local, as well as statewide issues. The people they represent depend on caribou from the Fortymile herd; moose, which are in short supply; and fish from the Yukon River. The AC is very active in Yukon River fisheries issues. Residents’ use patterns are influenced extensively by federal regulations because of their proximity to the Yukon Charley National Preserve and Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge. Members of this AC are involved with the federal subsistence RAC system.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Eagle AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 12 and 20
- Upper Yukon River Area finfish

Fairbanks Advisory Committee, – Virgil Umphenour, Chair

The Fairbanks AC has 15 seats; all members reside in the Fairbanks–North Star Borough. The AC meets at least once a month from October to May and utilizes three subcommittees to address fishing, hunting, and trapping issues. The AC is a very proactive committee, keeping informed on and interested in many game issues, and quite a few fishing issues throughout the state. This AC meets annually with the other ACs located within GMU 20 to discuss moose

populations and management in GMU 20, and is involved with the federal subsistence RAC system.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Fairbanks AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 12, 20, 21, 24, 25, and 26
- Tanana River Area finfish

Grayling/Anvik/Shageluk/Holy Cross (GASH) Advisory Committee – Ken Chase, Chair

The GASH AC has nine seats. Current membership has all seats filled as designated in regulation, and the undesignated seat is held by a member from Holy Cross. The community designated seats listed in regulations for the AC are:

Holy Cross	2 representatives
Grayling	2 representatives
Anvik	2 representatives
Shageluk	2 representatives
Undesignated	1 representative

The AC meets once or twice a year. Its meeting frequency is often dependent on funding, as well as weather conditions; it will typically hold at least one teleconference per season when it is unable to meet face-to-face. The AC’s main concerns are Yukon and Innoko river salmon fisheries, the commercial lamprey fishery in the Yukon, and moose and predator populations in GMU 21. It has been very active in promoting the introduction of wood bison into the Innoko area. This AC is proud of its involvement with drafting and implementing the successful “Innoko Yukon Moose Management Plan.” Residents’ interests are highly influenced by federal regulations because of their proximity to the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge. AC meetings are frequently attended by both state and federal representatives.

The areas of jurisdiction for the GASH AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMU 21
- Lower Yukon River and Upper Yukon River areas’ finfish

Koyukuk River Advisory Committee – Jack Reakoff, Chair

The Koyukuk River AC has 15 seats. Current membership has all seats filled as designated in regulation; the undesignated seats are held by members from Wiseman Village, Allakaket, and Huslia. The community-designated seats listed in regulations for the AC are:

Allakaket	3 representatives
Huslia	3 representatives
Hughes	2 representatives
Alatna	2 representatives
Bettles	2 representatives
Undesignated	3 representatives

While there is a huge geographic area between the villages, the committee is a very engaged group of people whose main concern revolves around increasing the moose populations in

portions of GMU 24 for subsistence uses, as well as the allocation of those moose between local and nonlocal hunters, and predators. Their interests are highly influenced by federal regulations because of their proximity to the Kanuti and Koyukuk national wildlife refuges, and meetings are frequently attended by both state and federal representatives. Members of this AC are involved with the federal subsistence RAC system.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Koyukuk AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 21 and 24
- Upper Yukon River Area finfish

Lake Minchumina Advisory Committee – Inactive

The Lake Minchumina AC has not met since 1995. According to a 2012 Department of Labor population census, there were only twelve residents in Lake Minchumina. In 2011, community representatives indicated they would like the AC to be left in regulation so that they could meet again if they chose to do so in the future.

The area of jurisdiction for the Lake Minchumina AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections is:

- GMUs 19, 20, and 21

McGrath Advisory Committee – Ray Collins, Chair

The McGrath AC has 15 seats. Current membership is 11 members: seven from McGrath, one from Nikolai, one from Telida, and two from Takotna. The community-designated seats listed in regulation for the AC are:

McGrath	6 representatives
Nikolai	3 representatives
Telida	1 representative
Takotna	2 representatives
Undesignated	3 representatives

The AC is a solid, well-established committee that has been very active in promoting game research projects, especially those that involve predator–prey relationships and the results and implications from intensive management. Meetings are typically attended by both state and federal representatives. Members of this AC are also involved in the federal subsistence RAC system and the National Park SRC.

The areas of jurisdiction for the McGrath AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMU 19
- Kuskokwim Area finfish

Middle Nenana River Advisory Committee – Nan Eagleson, Chair

The Middle Nenana River AC has 11 seats. Current membership has all seats filled as designated in regulation and the undesignated seat is held by a member from Nenana. The community-designated seats listed in regulations for the AC are:

Healy	5 representatives
Clear	3 representatives
McKinley Village	1 representative
Ferry	1 representative
Undesignated	1 representative

The Middle Nenana River AC typically meets once a month from October to April, but the frequency of meetings varies as issues arise. Meeting locations alternate between Anderson and Healy. This AC represents an eclectic group of avid hunters, trappers, guides, and nonconsumptive users, but does so without specific designated seats for user groups. The AC is a prime example of a committee that functions very well, and has lively, yet respectful, debate among diverse user groups. It is interested in wildlife habitat and Interior moose management, as well as human use issues. This AC meets annually with the other GMU 20 ACs to discuss moose populations and management in GMU 20.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Middle Nenana River AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 12, 20, and 21
- Tanana River Area finfish

Middle Yukon River Advisory Committee -- Benedict Jones, Chair

The Middle Yukon AC has 13 seats. Current membership has all seats filled as designated in regulation. The community-designated seats listed in regulations for the AC are:

Galena	4 representatives
Kaltag	4 representatives
Nulato	3 representatives
Koyukuk	2 representatives

This AC meets once to twice a year depending on funding, and alternates meeting location among the four communities represented by the AC. The AC’s interests lean toward subsistence fishing, hunting, and trapping, but commercial fishing and transporting issues have started becoming an agenda topic at recent AC meetings. This AC is also interested in allocation of game species between locals and nonlocals, as well as nonresidents. The communities that comprise the Middle Yukon AC utilize lands found in the Inokko and Koyukuk national wildlife refuges, and meetings are frequently attended by both state and federal representatives.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Middle Yukon River AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMU 21
- Upper Yukon River Area finfish.

Minto/Nenana Advisory Committee – Ron Silas and Tim McManus, Co-Chairs

The Minto/Nenana AC has 11 seats. Current membership has all seats filled as designated in regulation, and the undesignated seat is held by a member who resides in Fairbanks. The community-designated seats listed in regulations for the AC are:

Nenana	5 representatives
Minto	5 representatives
Undesignated	1 representative

The Minto/Nenana AC meets once or twice a year and would meet more frequently if funding allowed. The meeting locations alternate between the two communities. While both Minto and Nenana are on the road system, travel by vehicle is less feasible than flying during the winter. This AC is an active group whose concerns revolve around several topics, such as moose and access issues in the Minto and Nenana flats areas, northern pike fishing and wildfowl harvest in the Minto Flats area, and commercial and subsistence fishing on the Tanana River. The committee actively pursued introduction of wood bison into the Minto Flats area and enjoys receiving updates on the herd status, regardless of the bison’s release site. This AC meets annually with the other GMU 20 ACs to discuss moose populations in GMU 20.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Minto/Nenana AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 20 and 25
- Upper Yukon River and Tanana River areas’ finfish.

Ruby Advisory Committee – Ed Sarten, Chair

The Ruby AC has nine seats. Current membership is six members: five who reside in Ruby and one in Galena. The member from Galena typically also attends the Middle Yukon AC meetings and provides very useful interaction between the two ACs. The AC meets when it deems necessary, although once or twice a year is typical. This AC is concerned with salmon stocks in the Yukon River for subsistence and commercial uses, as well as moose and furbearer populations in GMU 24. Members of this AC are involved with the federal RAC system.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Ruby AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 21 and 24
- Upper Yukon River Area finfish

Tanana/Rampart/Manley (TRM) Advisory Committee – Stan Zuray, Chair

The TRM AC has nine seats. Current membership has all seats filled as designated in regulation, and the undesignated seat is held by a member from Tanana. The community-designated seats listed in regulations for the AC are:

Manley Hot Springs	2 representatives
Rampart	3 representatives
Tanana	3 representatives
Undesignated	1 representative.

Meetings occur once or twice a year, and typically are held in Tanana. This is an active AC whose concerns revolve primarily around Yukon and Tanana river subsistence and commercial fishing. Recently, the AC has become increasingly concerned with moose populations in GMU 20F and has shown an interest in and concern for the proposed Elliot Highway extension from Manley Hot Springs to Tanana and the impact it may have on game populations. Members of this AC are involved in the federal subsistence RAC system.

The areas of jurisdiction for the TRM AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 20, 21, 24 and 25
- Upper Yukon River and Tanana River areas’ finfish

Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee – Leif Wilson, Chair

The Upper Tanana/Fortymile AC has nine seats. Current membership has six members representing the communities of Tok and Northway. The community-designated seats listed in regulations for the AC are:

Tok	3 representatives
Northway	1 representative
Tetlin	1 representative
Dot Lake	1 representative
Tanacross	1 representative
Healy Lake	1 representative
Undesignated	1 representative

One ongoing challenge for this AC is that many of the communities choose not to participate in the meetings. This challenge can be attributed, in part, to the physical distance between communities. The AC is currently uninterested in changing the makeup of the AC in case those communities that have not participated in the meetings want to participate in the future.

This is a very active AC whose concerns mostly involve hunting and trapping in GMUs 12 and 20. The AC is active in monitoring moose, sheep, and caribou hunting, along with intensive management, including predator control and guiding issues. They are becoming more concerned with habitat degradation caused by increasing numbers of ATVs in GMUs 12 and 20. This AC is close to the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge, and meetings are frequently attended by both state and federal representatives. While no current member currently sits on the federal subsistence RAC or the National Park Service’s SRC, this AC is involved and stays up to date with both systems.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Upper Tanana/Forty Mile AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMU 20
- Tanana River Area finfish

The Joint Board will consider Proposal 8, which adds GMU 12 to the Upper Tanana/Fortymile AC areas of jurisdiction under 5 AAC 97.005.

Yukon Flats Advisory Committee – Larry Williams, Chair

The Yukon Flats AC has 15 seats. Current membership is 10 members representing each of the communities designated in regulation, with the exception of Stevens Village. The community-designated seats listed in regulation for the AC are:

Birch Creek	1 representative
Beaver	2 representatives
Chalkyitsik	2 representatives
Fort Yukon	2 representatives
Arctic Village	2 representatives
Circle	2 representatives
Venetie	2 representatives
Stevens Village	2 representatives

This is an active committee, but keeping an engaged membership is one of its greater challenges. As poor runs of king salmon on the Yukon River have become more common, the AC’s concern for the Yukon fishery has grown. The AC also remains concerned about predator-related influence on moose densities and the increasing number of predators found in the Yukon Flats. The AC covers such a large area that some communities represented by the members are dependent on the Porcupine caribou herd, others are dependent on the Fortymile caribou herd, while some harvest no caribou at all and are dependent on moose. All members depend on the Yukon River and its tributaries for fish. The communities that comprise the Yukon Flats AC utilize lands in the Yukon Flats and Arctic national wildlife refuges, and meetings are frequently attended by both state and federal representatives. Members of this AC are involved with the federal RAC system.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Yukon Flats AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 20 and 25
- Upper Yukon River Area finfish

Western Region Advisory Committees

The Western Alaska Region has five ACs: Stony/Holitna, Central Kuskokwim, Lower Kuskokwim, Central Bering Sea, and Lower Yukon. For the 2012–2013 meeting cycle, all ACs held meetings. Each of the ACs in this region serves multiple communities. Three out of five ACs represent 13 villages or more, covering a vast area.

None of the five ACs in the Western Region are connected by a traditional road system and subsequently, are able to have a only limited number of face-to-face meetings over a meeting cycle. The high cost of travel in this area and unpredictable weather make it very difficult to hold meetings. Having a single AC spread over as many as 13 communities creates additional difficulties for making a quorum, retaining and recruiting members, and involving the public in this important process.

The Western Region is home to one of largest river deltas in the world; it includes the lower portion of the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers. The GMUs within this region are 18 and 19. Bethel is the largest regional village hub in the region, serving 56 federally-recognized tribal villages, with an estimated population of 25,000 residents. The federal government manages a large percentage of the lands and waters in this region. Consequently, there are members from all five ACs in this region that are also involved with the federal subsistence RACs. Land is also owned by Native corporations and Native allotments.

The commercial finfish fisheries species in the Western Region consist of salmon, halibut, and herring. The state regulates seven commercial salmon districts and six commercial herring fisheries in the region. The salmon fishery of the Kuskokwim area consists of three active commercial fishing districts and a fourth, currently inactive, commercial fishing district. The Lower Yukon River salmon fishery consists of three commercial fishing districts.

Moose, caribou, and musk ox populations are on the rise in the region and intensive management is considered desirable to keep these populations increasing. The subsistence way of life is practiced by the majority of Alaska residents in the region. The major area of concern for Western Region ACs is subsistence harvesting and commercial fishing in order to sustain a livelihood in rural Alaska.

The predominant issues and concerns for the Western Region include: lack of returning king salmon, which heavily impacts food source and economy; decreasing price of commercially-caught salmon; introducing and enticing younger community members to become involved and more knowledgeable with the regulatory process; rate of the state per diem, which is insufficient to cover meals and incidental expenses; having single ACs consisting of multiple villages with one representative per village, which is challenging to have full public participation; and weather conditions that affect all ACs' abilities for making a quorum.

The Joint Board will consider two proposals (proposals 5 and 6) requesting new ACs for the region be established, and Proposal 8, which updates the regulation for areas of jurisdiction.

Central Bering Sea Advisory Committee – David Bill, Chair

The Central Bering Sea AC has 15 seats. Current membership represents the communities as designated in regulation. The community-designated seats listed in regulations for the AC are:

Chevak	1 representative
Chefornak	1 representative
Goodnews Bay	1 representative
Kipnuk	1 representative
Kongiganak	1 representative
Kwigillingok	1 representative
Mekoryuk	1 representative
Newtok	1 representative
Nightmute	1 representative
Platinum	1 representative
Quinhagak	1 representative
Toksook Bay	1 representative
Tanunak	1 representative
Undesignated	2 representatives

This AC meets in Bethel and is active in subsistence issues involving both state and federal lands and waters. The priorities for the AC are the Central Bering Sea king salmon stocks and subsistence uses of the stocks and other food sources.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Central Bering Sea AC listed in regulations (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMU 17
- Kuskokwim and Lower Yukon areas’ finfish.

Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee – Robert Aloysius, Chair

The Central Kuskokwim AC has ten seats. Current membership represents the communities as designated in regulation. The community-designated seats listed in regulations for the AC are:

Crooked Creek	2 representatives
Aniak	2 representatives
Chuathbaluk	2 representatives
Lower Kalskag	2 representatives
Upper Kalskag	2 representatives

The AC tries to meet once or twice per cycle, but establishing a quorum and retaining members is an ongoing challenge. This AC is concerned with subsistence and commercial fishing in the Kuskokwim River, and is involved in an ongoing BOG proposal to change the boundary for GMU 19.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Central Kuskokwim AC listed in regulations (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 18, 19, and 21
- Kuskokwim Area finfish

Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee – James Charles, Chair

The Lower Kuskokwim AC has 15 seats. Current membership is 13 members representing all of the communities designated in regulation, with the exception of Napakiak. The community-designated seats listed in regulations for the AC are:

Kwethluk	2 representatives
Napaskiak	2 representatives
Napakiak	1 representative
Kasigluk	1 representative
Oscarville	1 representative
Nunapitchuk	1 representative
Tuntutuliak	1 representative
Tuluksak	1 representative
Atmauthluak	1 representative
Akiak	1 representative
Akiachak	1 representative
Bethel	1 representative
Eek	1 representative

This AC meets in Bethel once or twice a year as funding allows and is active in fish and game management involving both state and federal lands and waters. Declining king salmon stocks in the Kuskokwim River drainage has become the highest priority for this AC, and there is concern that subsistence needs are not being met. The committee is interested in increasing the population of caribou and musk ox, as well as keeping local moose populations healthy and productive.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Lower Kuskokwim AC listed in regulations (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 18 and 19
- Kuskokwim Area finfish

The Joint Board will consider Proposal 6, which requests a new AC for the community of Bethel be established.

Lower Yukon River Advisory Committee – Ray Oney, Chair

The Lower Yukon AC has 13 seats. Current membership represents the communities as designated in regulation. The community-designated seats listed in regulations for the AC are:

Marshall	1 representative
Russian Mission	1 representative
St. Mary’s	1 representative
Andreafski	1 representative
Mountain Village	1 representative
Scammon Bay	1 representative
Alakanuk	1 representative
Pilot Station	1 representative
Kotlik	1 representative

Emmonak	1 representative
Hooper Bay	1 representative
Pitka's Point	1 representative
Nunam Iqua	1 representative

Due to the high cost of travel and the challenges of bringing the 13 representatives together, this committee meets once each year, alternating meeting locations between upriver and lower river villages depending on cost and flight availability. The Lower Yukon AC also meets via teleconference. The committee is active in fish and game resource issues among the lower Yukon River villages.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Lower Yukon River AC listed in regulations (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 18 and 21
- Lower Yukon and Upper Yukon areas’ finfish

The Joint Board will consider Proposal 5, which requests a new committee be established for Mountain Village.

Stony/Holitna Advisory Committee – Doug Carney, Chair

The Stony/Holitna AC has eight seats. Current membership represents the communities as designated in regulation. The community-designated seats listed in regulations for the AC are:

Sleetmute	2 representatives
Lime Village	2 representatives
Stoney River	2 representatives
Red Devil	2 representatives

The committee typically has two meetings per year and will teleconference if needed. This committee is interested in game management, especially intensive management in GMU 19, as well as subsistence and sport fishing.

The Stony/Holitna AC is not listed in the areas of jurisdiction in 5 AAC 97.005. The Joint Board will consider Proposal 8, which adds the Stony/Holitna AC to the regulation.

Southwest Region Advisory Committees

The Southwest Region encompasses 12 established fish and game ACs: five in the Bristol Bay area; five in the Alaska Peninsula–Aleutian Islands area; one for the Chignik area; and one for the Kodiak area. For the 2012–2013 meeting cycle, all ACs in the Southwest Region held meetings.

All ACs within the Bristol Bay area, as well as Chignik, represent multiple communities, while the ACs on the Alaska Peninsula (except Chignik) and the Kodiak AC represent individual communities. Unalaska AC is the only committee located on the Aleutian Chain and all of its current members reside in the communities of Unalaska and Dutch Harbor, though it holds jurisdiction over all of GMU 10, excluding Unimak Island. Many members of the ACs in the Southwest Region are also active participants in the federal subsistence RACs.

The Southwest Region covers all of the Bristol Bay, Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, Chignik, and Kodiak areas. This rural region is accessible mainly by air, with some communities serviced by the Alaska Marine Highway. The Southwest Region is divided into four main fishery subregions: Area K (Kodiak); Area L (Chignik); Area M (Alaska Peninsula–Aleutian Islands); and Area T (Bristol Bay). Also included in the Southwest Regional jurisdiction is Westward area for shellfish, other than king crab. For king crab, the areas of jurisdiction include statistical areas K, M, and O, and Registration Area Q. Game management units in the Southwest Region include GMUs 8, 9, 10, and 17.

Commercial fishing is typically viewed as the lifeblood within the Southwest Region, though it is not the only lifestyle. The subsistence way of life is practiced by the majority of Alaska residents in the region. Within Bristol Bay, the sport fishing industry reigns in many of the tributaries that boast strong king and coho salmon runs. Moose, as well as six distinct caribou herds, span the Southwest Region: the Mulchatna, Nushagak, Northern and Southern Alaska Peninsula, Unimak, and Adak herds. Intensive management is a major issue and in some areas, aerial control has been implemented for wolves. Hunting, trapping, and guiding all provide a large amount of household supplementation, both dietary and monetary. Of note in the Southwest Region is the Walrus Island Sanctuary located outside of the village of Togiak, the unique Lake Iliamna freshwater seal population, and the immense migratory bird population of the Aleutian Chain and throughout all of Southwest.

Some prevalent concerns within the Southwest Region heard at many AC meetings include: the availability of subsistence foods for gathering, hunting, and fishing; commercial fishing for salmon, herring, Pacific cod, king crab and other shellfish, and groundfish; local hunts for bear, moose, caribou, small game, waterfowl, and furbearers; guided activities, including those for sport fishing and hunting purposes; habitat designations, especially within the Bristol Bay area; intensive management; and genetic salmon studies and fishery interception of salmon stocks, including those of conflicting historical fisheries and pelagic trawl.

Chignik Advisory Committee – Jacob Shangin, Chair

The Chignik AC has 15 seats. Current membership is 13 members representing all of the communities designated in regulation, but with only one member from Chignik. The community-designated seats listed in regulations for the AC are:

Chignik	3 representatives
Chignik Lagoon	3 representatives
Ivanoff	3 representatives
Chignik Lake	3 representatives
Perryville	3 representatives

The Chignik AC is active, with many new members joining in 2012, including the chair. The AC is very involved in fisheries issues and considers guidance from ADF&G, as well as from the Chignik Regional Aquaculture Association and the Lake and Peninsula Borough, in formulating and commenting on proposals. The AC makes efforts to incorporate members of all age groups to participate; it does this in order to lay the framework for the AC in years to come. The AC actively encourages public attendance at local meetings. Many members are active in shellfish, groundfish, and salmon commercial fisheries. Weather and flight regularity are problematic in holding face-to-face meetings, so teleconferences are set up for all meetings, even if some members are in the same location.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Chignik AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMU 9
- Kodiak – Chignik Area finfish
- Westward Area shellfish (other than king crab)
- Statistical Areas M and Q king crab

False Pass Advisory Committee – Tom Hoblet, Chair

The False Pass AC has 15 seats. Current membership is seven members: five from False Pass, one residing in Wasilla, and one residing in Anchorage. This AC is active in fishery issues and follows local game issues closely. Many of this AC’s members participate in commercial and subsistence fisheries for salmon, groundfish, and shellfish, and in local hunts for brown bears. Travel in and out of False Pass is difficult due to weather and limited flight availability.

The areas of jurisdiction for the False Pass AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 9 and 10
- Alaska Peninsula–Aleutian Islands finfish
- Westward Area shellfish (other than king crab)
- Statistical Areas M and O, and Registration Area Q king crab

King Cove Advisory Committee – Grant Newton, Chair

The King Cove AC has 15 seats. Current membership is nine members all of whom reside in King Cove. The members participate in commercial and subsistence fisheries for salmon, groundfish, and shellfish. Setting meeting dates can be challenging due to the year-round commercial and subsistence fisheries members participate in. Despite this challenge, the AC is very active in fisheries issues, with regular meetings held in King Cove. The community of King Cove is accessible by the Alaska Marine Highway System and air service out of Cold Bay. Travel can be difficult due to weather and limited flight availability.

The areas of jurisdiction for the King Cove AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMU 9
- Alaska Peninsula–Aleutian Islands Area finfish
- Westward Area shellfish (other than king crab)
- Statistical Areas M and O, and Registration Area Q king crab

Kodiak Advisory Committee – Paul Chervenak, Chair

Kodiak AC has 15 seats. There are 15 members and four alternates, who reside in Ouzinkie, Kodiak, Old Harbor, and Karluk. The community-designated seats listed in regulations for the AC are:

Kodiak	7 representatives
Old Harbor	1 representative
Ouzinkie	1 representative
Port Lions	1 representative
Undesignated	5 representatives

The AC meetings occur two to three times a year in Kodiak. The AC has established designated seats to ensure representation among the various user groups. Support for this committee is provided by the Southcentral Region Coordinator.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Kodiak AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 8 and 9
- Kodiak–Chignik Area finfish
- Westward Area shellfish (other than king crab)
- Statistical Areas K and Q king crab

Lake Iliamna Advisory Committee – Randy Alvarez, Chair

The Lake Iliamna AC has 15 seats. Current membership is nine members representing all of the communities per regulation. One member also resides in Port Alsworth. The community-designated seats listed in regulations for the AC are:

Iliamna	3 representatives
Nondalton	2 representatives
Pedro Bay	1 representative
Kokhanok	1 representative
Igiugig	1 representative

Newhalen	1 representative
Undesignated	6 representatives

This AC has mostly community-designated seats that are filled by elections held by the communities’ tribal entities. Meetings rotate between villages and are focused on subsistence issues, hunting, and sport and commercial fishing in GMU 9B and Area T (Bristol Bay).

The areas of jurisdiction for the Lake Iliamna AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 9 and 17
- Bristol Bay Area finfish

Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee – Mitch Seybert, Chair

The Lower Bristol Bay AC has 15 seats. There are 15 members representing all of the communities listed in regulation. In addition to the Lower Bristol Bay communities, current members also reside in Naknek, Homer, Girdwood, and Chugiak. The community-designated seats listed in regulations for the AC are:

Ugashik	1 representative
Egegik	2 representatives
Pilot Point	2 representatives
Port Heiden	2 representatives
Undesignated	8 representatives

The seven designated seats are filled by those communities. The remaining eight seats are filled by an open public election, which in 2012 was held via teleconference, with over 30 participants calling in to vote.

This AC has a well-rounded membership of commercial, sport, and subsistence harvesters, and hunters and guides. The AC is active in both fishery and game issues, dealing mostly with commercial salmon concerns and intensive management.

The area of jurisdiction for the Lower Bristol Bay AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections is:

- Bristol Bay Area finfish

Naknek–Kvichak Advisory Committee – William Regan Jr. and Everett Thompson, Co-Chairs

The Naknek–Kvichak AC has 15 seats. Current membership is 10 members representing the communities of King Salmon, Naknek and Levelock. When interest arises, members have also resided in South Naknek. The AC is very active in fishing and hunting issues, including sport fishing interests in the Naknek–Kvichak drainage, commercial salmon fishing on the east side of Bristol Bay, especially in the Naknek–Kvichak District, and game within GMUs 9A, 9B, and 9C. This AC typically holds its meetings in Naknek and has good public attendance, especially during Bristol Bay finfish-cycle years.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Naknek–Kvichak AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 9 and 17
- Bristol Bay Area finfish

Nelson Lagoon Advisory Committee – Paul (Butch) Gunderson, Chair

The Nelson Lagoon AC has 15 seats. Current membership is nine members, all residing in and around Nelson Lagoon. This AC is active on fishery issues, meeting once a year, on average. It is the only AC located on the west side of the Alaska Peninsula involved in North Peninsula district fisheries.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Nelson Lagoon AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMU 9
- Alaska Peninsula–Aleutian Islands Area finfish

Nushagak Advisory Committee – Frank Woods III, Chair

The Nushagak AC has 15 seats. Current membership has all seats filled as designated in regulation. The community-designated seats listed in regulations for the AC are:

Dillingham	5 representatives
Clark’s Point	1 representative
Ekwok	1 representative
New Stuyahok	1 representative
Koliganek	1 representative
Aleknagik	1 representative
Togiak	1 representative
Portage Creek	1 representative
Manokotak	1 representative
Undesignated	2 representatives

The AC typically meets in Dillingham and is highly active on commercial, sport, and subsistence salmon fisheries within the Area T’s Nushagak and Togiak districts; they also weigh in heavily on the Togiak herring fishery. The AC works closely with ADF&G and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on game management issues within all of GMU 17 and the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. Commercially-guided hunts and sport fishing trips are highly popular within the AC’s area of jurisdiction, with many AC members participating in guiding businesses.

The AC is well rounded; with members of the commercial set and drift gillnet salmon fleets and commercial herring fleet, as well. A handful of members are avid trappers and most members participate in local moose and caribou hunts. Public participation for this AC is good, with meetings most heavily attended during discussions on the commercial salmon fishery. During the 2012–2013 cycle, this AC was, in part, responsible for a cooperative effort in finalizing the “GMU 17A Moose Management Plan,” a cooperative management plan between the Togiak AC, ADF&G, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bristol Bay RAC, and the Nushagak AC.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Nushagak AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMU 17
- Bristol Bay Area finfish

Sand Point Advisory Committee – John Foster, Chair

The Sand Point AC has 15 seats. Current membership is seven members, all of whom reside in and around the community of Sand Point. The AC meets, on average, about once a cycle. This AC is very active on commercial fishing issues, with most of its members actively participating in salmon, Pacific cod, various groundfish and shellfish fisheries, and processing of commercial catch. This AC works hard to protect local stocks and historical fisheries.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Sand Point AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMU 9
- Alaska Peninsula–Aleutian Islands Area finfish
- Westward Area shellfish (other than king crab)
- Statistical Areas M and O, and Registration Area Q king crab

Togiak Advisory Committee – Jonathan Forsling, Chair

The Togiak AC has 15 seats. Current membership represents all communities as designated in regulation. The community-designated seats listed in regulations for the AC are:

Togiak	3 representatives
Manokotak	3 representatives
Twin Hills	1 representative
Undesignated	8 representatives

Designated seats are filled by community election and undesignated seats are filled at regularly-held AC meetings. Meetings are typically held in Togiak. This AC is active in game issues within GMU 17A and the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. The communities served by this AC rely heavily on subsistence foods and all have residents who participate in the Togiak commercial salmon fishery. Marine mammals play a large role in the subsistence hunts of these communities, as well as hunts for caribou and moose. During the 2012–2013 cycle, this AC was, in part, responsible for a cooperative effort in finalizing the “GMU 17A Moose Management Plan,” a cooperative management plan between the Togiak AC, ADF&G, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bristol Bay RAC, and the Nushagak AC.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Togiak AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- Bristol Bay Area finfish

Unalaska Advisory Committee – Frank Kelty, Chair

The Unalaska AC has 15 seats. Current membership is nine members representing the communities of Unalaska and Dutch Harbor. The Unalaska AC has been very active in recent years, in part due to strong leadership provided by its chair. The AC is very active on fishery issues including, but not limited to, Pacific cod, all species of crab, pollock, salmon, halibut, and

other groundfish. In addition to weighing in on state fisheries, this AC also follows federal fishery regulations closely.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Unalaska AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMU 10
- Alaska Peninsula–Aleutian Islands Area finfish
- Westward Area shellfish
- Statistical Area O and Registration Area Q king crab

Southcentral Region Advisory Committees

The Southcentral Region has 18 ACs. Of the 18 ACs, four are not accessible via the road system (Copper River/Prince William Sound, Mt. Yenlo, Seldovia, and Tyonek). Five of the committees have regulatory designated seats for multiple communities or for having fewer than 15 members (Copper Basin, Mount Yenlo, Tok Cutoff/Nabesna Road, Whittier, and Susitna Valley). The remaining 13 ACs are: Copper River/Prince William Sound, Prince William Sound/Valdez, Anchorage, Seward, Kenai/Soldotna, Central Peninsula, Homer, Seldovia, Paxson, Denali, Matanuska Valley, Tyonek, and Cooper Landing.

Nearly all of the Southcentral Region ACs met during the 2012–2013 meeting cycle. Tyonek, Denali, and Prince William Sound/Valdez did not meet during this last meeting cycle, but have been active in the past.

The Southcentral Region extends north from Cordova to Paxson, west to the Susitna Valley area, and south to the Kenai Peninsula. The GMUs within this region include 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16. The area includes state and private lands, and a number of national parks, preserves, forests, and refuges. Major rivers and bodies of water for this region include the Susitna, Copper, Kenai, and Russian rivers; Upper and Lower Cook Inlet; Prince William Sound; and the North Gulf Coast.

The ACs in the Southcentral Region are actively involved with fisheries and game management issues. This area encompasses some of the largest and most valuable salmon fisheries in the world and provides many fishing opportunities for residents, including subsistence, sport, commercial, and personal use fisheries. Some of the major issues for ACs include intensive management, subsistence hunting and fishing opportunities, sport and personal use fisheries, and Cook Inlet salmon management.

The Joint Board will consider four proposals for this region. Proposals 1–3 request modification to AC membership. Proposal 8 updates the regulation for areas of jurisdiction.

Anchorage Advisory Committee – Bruce Morgan, Chair

The Anchorage AC has 15 seats. There are 15 members, with two appointed alternates. Current members reside in Anchorage, Eagle River, and Chugiak. The committee meets monthly in Anchorage during the board meeting cycle. This committee engages a high level of public participation and scrutiny over its membership. The AC utilizes a subcommittee process to address fisheries and game proposals, which helps the committee organize its workload. The committee has strong sport and personal use fishing and hunting interests.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Anchorage AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 19
- Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay Area finfish

Central Peninsula Advisory Committee – David Martin, Chair

The Central Peninsula AC has 15 seats. There are currently 11 members and two alternates. Members reside in Ninilchik and Clam Gulch. Committee meetings occur two to three times per year. The committee has strong hunting and fishing interests. The committee has been a strong advocate for intensive management on the Kenai Peninsula and increased brown bear harvests. Two important issues for the AC are the declining moose population and the Cook Inlet fishing closure for setnetters.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Central Peninsula AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 7, 15, and 16
- Cook Inlet Area finfish

Cooper Landing Advisory Committee – George Heim, Chair

The Cooper Landing AC has 15 seats. There are currently 11 members and one alternate. Most members reside in Cooper Landing, with one member residing in Moose Pass. Committee meetings occur two to four times per year, as needed, in Cooper Landing. The AC is active in local habitat issues and the federal subsistence process. The AC has interests in sport and personal use fishing and guiding, as well as hunting, trapping, and subsistence interests.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Cooper Landing AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 7, 15, and 16
- Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay Area finfish
- Cook Inlet Area shellfish.

Copper Basin Advisory Committee – Chuck McMahan, Chair

The Copper Basin AC has 15 seats. There are currently 14 members and two alternates. The community-designated seats listed in regulation for the AC are:

Glennallen	2 representatives
Lake Louise	1 representative
Tazlina	3 representatives
Copper Center	2 representatives
Gakona/Gulkana	3 representatives
Kenney Lake	1 representative
Chitina	1 representative
Undesignated	2 representatives

The committee meets one to two times per year. This committee primarily focuses on hunting issues. It also has interests in trapping, as well as sport, subsistence, and personal use fishing interests.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Copper Basin AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 6, 11, and 13

- Yakutat–Yakataga, Prince William Sound–Lower Copper River and Upper Copper River areas’ finfish

Copper River/Prince William Sound Advisory Committee – Tom Carpenter, Chair

The Copper River/Prince William Sound AC has 15 seats. There are currently 15 members, with two alternates, all of whom reside in Cordova. The committee meets two to three times per year as needed. Meetings are held in Cordova. The AC chairmanship is shared between a fisheries chair and a game chair to divide the workload. Commercial and personal use fishing are strong interests for this AC, as well as hunting, trapping, and subsistence. The committee actively participates in the federal subsistence process and the chair serves on the Southcentral RAC.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Copper River/Prince William Sound AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 5, 6, and 13
- Yakutat–Yakataga and the Prince William Sound–Lower Copper River areas’ finfish
- Prince William Sound Area shellfish

Denali Advisory Committee – Lance Williams, Acting Chair

The Denali AC has 15 seats. Currently, there are eight members and one alternate; all members reside in Cantwell. The committee generally meets twice per year, but did not meet during the 2012–2013 meeting cycle. The AC concerns are primarily with hunting and issues around Denali National Park. The AC has strong hunting, sport and personal use fishing, trapping and subsistence interests.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Denali AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 13, 14, 15, and 20
- Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay Area finfish

Homer Advisory Committee – Dave Lyon, Chair

The Homer AC has 15 seats. Currently, there are 15 members, residing in Homer, Anchor Point, and Fritz Creek. The AC meets monthly in Homer from October through April. The AC actively participates in both fisheries and game management issues. The AC has strong sport and personal use fishing interests and strong hunting interests, as well.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Homer AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 7 and 15
- Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay Area finfish
- Cook Inlet Area shellfish

Kenai/Soldotna Advisory Committee – Mike Crawford, Chair

This Kenai/Soldotna AC has 15 seats. Currently, there are 15 members, with three alternates who reside in Sterling, Kenai, Soldotna, and Kasilof. The AC meets monthly in Kenai or Soldotna. Since 1992, the AC has utilized designated seats for various user groups. The AC addresses highly diverse uses of the area fisheries and competition for fully allocated fisheries. This committee has strong, sport, commercial and personal use fishing, hunting, and subsistence and guiding interests.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Kenai/Soldotna AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 7, 15, and 16
- Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay Area finfish

Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee – Jehnifer Ehmann, Chair

The Matanuska Valley AC has 15 seats. Currently, there are 15 members, with two alternates. Current members reside in Big Lake, Palmer, and Wasilla. The AC meets as needed, but at least once per month, from September through May. Meetings are held mostly in Palmer and occasionally in Wasilla. The AC actively participates in both fisheries and game management issues. The AC has strong sport and personal use fishing, hunting, subsistence and trapping interests.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Matanuska Valley AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 13, 14, and 15
- Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay Area finfish

Mt. Yenlo Advisory Committee – Tom Payton, Chair

The Mt. Yenlo Advisory Committee has 15 seats. Currently, there are eight members, with one alternate. Current members reside in Skwentna, Wasilla, and Willow. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Skwentna | 4 representatives |
| Undesignated | 11 representatives |

This committee meets on an as-needed basis, and when travel is possible, to address issues that impact the local area. This committee is not on the road system, so travel during the winter meeting cycle occurs by snowmachine and/or aircraft. The AC has strong sport and personal use fishing, hunting, trapping, and subsistence interests.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Mt. Yenlo AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 14, and 15
- Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay Area finfish

Paxson Advisory Committee – John Schandelmeier, Chair

The Paxson AC has 15 seats. There are currently four members and two alternates. Current members reside in Paxson, Gakona, and Meier’s Lake. The AC meets as needed in Paxson. The AC has expressed concern over the impacts on resources from exploratory development. The AC has strong sport fishing, subsistence, and hunting interests.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Paxson AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 11, 12, 13, and 20
- Upper Copper River Area finfish

Prince William Sound/Valdez Advisory Committee – Tim Bouchard, Chair

The Prince William Sound/Valdez AC has 15 seats. There are currently five members and one alternate. Current members all reside in Valdez. The committee did not meet during the 2012–2013 meeting cycle. The AC has strong sport, commercial, and personal use fishing, guiding, and hunting interests.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Prince William Sound/Valdez AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMU 6
- Prince William Sound–Lower Copper River Area finfish
- Prince William Sound Area shellfish

The Joint Board will consider Proposal 8, which corrects the name for the Prince William Sound/Valdez AC in 5 AAC 97.005.

Seldovia Advisory Committee – Robert Purpura, Chair

The Seldovia AC has 15 seats. There are currently 11 members and two alternates, all of whom reside in Seldovia. The committee generally meets twice per year and is active with both fisheries and game issues. The AC has strong commercial and sport fishing interests, as well as subsistence interests.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Seldovia AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMU 15
- Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay Area finfish
- Cook Inlet Area shellfish

Seward Advisory Committee – Jim McCracken, Chair

The Seward AC currently has 15 seats. There are currently 14 members who reside in Seward. This AC meets generally two or three times per year and participates in both BOF and BOG processes. The AC has strong interests in sport, commercial, and personal use fishing, as well as hunting. The AC submitted Proposal 1 requesting a change to the membership due to difficulties with making a quorum for meetings.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Seward AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 6, 7, and 15
- Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay Area finfish
- Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound areas’ shellfish

Susitna Valley Advisory Committee – Bruce Knowles, Chair

The Susitna Valley AC has 15 seats. There are currently 10 members, residing in Trapper Creek, Talkeetna, Willow, and Wasilla. The community-designated seats in regulation are:

Talkeetna	2 representatives
Houston	2 representatives
Sunshine	2 representatives
Peters Creek	2 representatives
Trapper Creek	2 representatives
Undesignated	1 representative

This AC meets on an as needed basis, rotating the meeting venue between Willow and Talkeetna. The AC has strong sport and personal use fishing, hunting, and subsistence interests. The AC was established by the Joint Board in October 2007. Since that time, the designated seats have been a challenge for the AC to fill, preventing it from making a quorum for some meetings. The Joint Board will consider proposals 2 and 3, which request modifications to membership makeup.

The Susitna Valley AC is currently not listed under the areas of jurisdiction identified in 5 AAC 97.005. The Joint Board will consider Proposal 8, which adds the Susitna Valley AC to the regulation.

Tok Cutoff/Nabesna Road Advisory Committee – Ole Bates, Chair

The Tok Cutoff/Nabesna Road AC has seven seats. There are currently seven members who reside in Tok, Slana, and Gakona. The AC meets on an as needed basis, typically twice per year. The AC has strong interests in hunting, trapping, subsistence, and sport fishing. The community-designated seats listed in regulation are:

Mentasta	1 representative
Chistochina	1 representative
Undesignated	5 representatives

The areas of jurisdiction for the Tok Cutoff/Nabesna Road AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 11, 12, 13, and 20
- Upper Copper River and Tanana River areas’ finfish

Tyonek Advisory Committee – John Standifer, Acting Chair

The Tyonek AC has 15 seats. Currently there are nine members. The AC meets as needed, but did not meet during the 2012–2013 meeting cycle. The AC encourages student participation and

mentors high-school youth about the board process. The AC has strong subsistence, sport, commercial, and personal use fishing, and hunting interests.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Tyonek AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMU 16
- Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay Area finfish
- Cook Inlet Area shellfish

Whittier Advisory Committee – Jon Van Hyning, Chair

The Whittier Advisory Committee has 15 seats. There are currently nine members and two alternates. Current members reside in Anchorage, Whittier, Girdwood, Big Lake, and Wasilla. The committee generally meets twice per year. This committee primarily focuses on BOF) issues. It has strong sport and commercial fishing interests.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Whittier AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 6, 7 and 14
- Prince William Sound–Lower Copper River Area finfish
- Prince William Sound Area shellfish

Southeast Region Advisory Committees

The Southeast Region has 23 ACs, five of which have designated seats to represent multiple communities: Upper Lynn Canal, Icy Straits, Ketchikan, Saxman, and East Prince of Wales. The remaining 19 ACs represent the communities of Angoon, Craig, Edna Bay, Elfin Cove, Juneau–Douglas, Hydaburg, Hyder, Kake, Klawock, Klukwan, Pelican, Petersburg, Port Alexander, Sitka, Sumner Strait, Tenakee, Wangell, and Yakutat. Eleven ACs met during the 2012–2013 meeting cycle: Juneau–Douglas, Icy Straits, Sitka, Upper Lynn Canal, Yakutat, Craig, Edna Bay, Hydaburg, Ketchikan, Petersburg, and Wrangell. Twelve of the committees have not met in recent years; many are considered inactive.

The Southeast Region includes all Southeast Alaska communities from Dixon Entrance north to Yakutat. The GMUs in the region are 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. The area includes the Tongass National Forest, Glacier Bay National Park, the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, and a portion of the Wrangell–St. Elias National Park. Nine percent of the area is state and privately-owned lands.

The ACs in Southeast Alaska spend a predominant amount of time on fisheries issues; however, wildlife issues can be every bit as important to the ACs. In addition to commercial salmon and crab fisheries, other important fisheries for the region include herring, groundfish, miscellaneous shellfish, and dive fisheries, as well as sport and subsistence fisheries. Game species of interest include deer, moose, mountain goat, wolf, wolverine; other furbearers; both black and brown bears; and game birds. Recent issues associated with intensive management on Gravina Island and in the Petersburg area have garnered a lot of time and attention. The area has a large number of ecotourism operators, including several wildlife and marine mammal viewing tours. Many AC members are active participants in the federal subsistence RAC process.

The Joint Board will consider Proposal 7 for this region, which requests the Icy Straits AC be divided.

Angoon Advisory Committee – Inactive

The Angoon AC has 15 seats. It is currently considered inactive; the last record of meeting on file was from 1992. Recently, some community members expressed interest in reactivating the AC.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Angoon AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 1C and 4
- Southeastern Alaska Area finfish,
- Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish

Elfin Cove Advisory Community – Inactive

The Elfin Cove AC has 15 seats. It is currently considered inactive. Elfin Cove is a very active fishing community and historically has only met when fishery issues directly impact its region. The AC last met in 2008 to discuss BOF proposals.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Elfin Cove AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMU 4
- Southeastern Alaska Area finfish
- Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish

Juneau–Douglas Advisory Committee – Mike Peterson, Chair

The Juneau–Douglas AC has 15 seats. There are currently 15 members and two alternates, who reside in the Juneau–Douglas area. The AC has established designated seats to ensure fair representation of various user groups. The Juneau–Douglas AC meets four to six times a year to discuss both fish and wildlife issues, as well as to provide a public forum for conservation concerns. The AC has strong commercial fishing, sport fishing, hunting, and conservation interests.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Juneau–Douglas AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 1C, 1D, 4, and 5
- Southeastern Alaska Area finfish
- Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish

Icy Straits Advisory Committee – Shaun McConnel, Chair

The Icy Straits AC has 15 seats. There are currently 13 members and two alternates, representing the communities of Hoonah and Gustavus. The Icy Straits AC community-designated seats listed in regulation are:

Hoonah	9 representatives
Gustavus	2 representatives
Undesignated	4 representatives

The AC typically meets in Hoonah one to two times a year, with members from Gustavus usually teleconferencing into meetings. Because Hoonah and Gustavus are in separate GMUs and divided by Icy Straits; arranging meetings to bring the members together is challenging during the winter season and is not always possible. The Icy Straits AC is active in both fisheries and game management issues.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Icy Straits AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMU 4
- Southeastern Alaska Area finfish
- Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish

The Joint Board will consider Proposal 7, which requests the Icy Straits AC be divided into two separate committees.

Kake Advisory Committee – Inactive

The Kake AC has 15 seats. It is currently considered inactive. The last record of meeting on file was from 1998. Recently, some community members expressed interest in reactivating the AC.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Kake AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 1B, 1C, 2, 3, and 4
- Southeastern Alaska Area finfish
- Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish

Klukwan Advisory Committee – Inactive

The Klukwan AC has 15 seats. It is currently considered inactive. The last record of meeting on file was from 2009. At its 2009 meeting, the Klukwan AC was primarily concerned with subsistence issues.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Klukwan AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 1B, 1C, 2, 3, and 4
- Southeastern Alaska Area finfish
- Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish

Hyder Advisory Committee –Inactive

The Hyder AC has 15 seats. It is currently considered inactive. The latest recorded meeting was from 1999.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Hyder AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 1A and 2
- Southeastern Alaska Area finfish
- Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish

Pelican Advisory Committee – Patty Phillips, Chair

The Pelican AC has 15 seats. The AC last met in 2011 to discuss BOF proposals. At that time, the AC had five members. The AC has, in the past, focused on commercial, sport and personal use fisheries issues.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Pelican AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMU 4
- Southeastern Alaska Area finfish
- Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish
-

Port Alexander Advisory Committee – Inactive

The Port Alexander AC has 15 seats. It is currently considered inactive. Efforts made in 2012 to schedule a meeting were unsuccessful. The last meeting record on file was for 2008.

The AC is not listed in regulation for having areas of jurisdiction.

Sitka Advisory Committee – Floyd Tomkins, Chair

The Sitka AC has 15 seats. It currently has 15 members and two alternates. This AC has designated seats representing different user groups. The committee meets three to four times a year to discuss local fish and game issues. The AC has been active in commenting on all areas of BOF proposals, as well as BOG proposals.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Sitka AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 3 and 4
- Southeastern Alaska Area finfish
- Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish

Sumner Strait Advisory Committee – Inactive

The Sumner Strait AC has 15 seats. It is currently considered inactive. The AC last met in 2008; the members serving at that time were from Point Baker and Ketchikan.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Sumner Strait AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 1B, 2, and 3
- Southeastern Alaska Area finfish
- Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish

Tenakee Springs Advisory Committee – Inactive

The Tenakee Springs AC has 15 seats. It is currently considered inactive. The last recorded meeting on file was in 1997.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Tenakee Springs AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 1C, and 4
- Southeastern Alaska Area finfish
- Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish

Upper Lynn Canal Advisory Committee – Tim McDonough, Chair

The Upper Lynn Canal AC has 15 seats. There are currently nine members, representing the communities of Haines and Skagway. The Upper Lynn Canal AC seat designations in regulation are:

Haines	8 representatives
Skagway	2 representatives
Klukwan	1 representative
Undesignated	4 representatives

The Upper Lynn Canal AC meets approximately four times a year in Haines; members from Skagway usually teleconference into the meeting. The AC has focused on hunting, game, and fishing issues concerning the local area. Recently, the AC has been involved with Dungeness crab harvest levels in Upper Lynn Canal.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Upper Lynn Canal AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 1C, 1D
- Southeastern Alaska Area finfish
- Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish

Yakutat Advisory Committee – Casey Mapes, Chair

The Yakutat AC has 15 seats. There are currently has 13 members and one alternate, all of whom reside in Yakutat. The AC has designated seats representing different user groups. The AC meets approximately four times a year when issues concerning Southeast Alaska are brought before the BOF and/or the BOG. The committee is primarily concerned with sport fish and commercial fishery issues.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Yakutat AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 5 and 6
- Yakutat–Yakataga Area finfish
- Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish

Craig Advisory Committee – Ellen Hannan, Chair

The Craig AC has 15 seats. There are currently 10 members and three alternates, all of whom reside in or around Craig. The committee meets two to three times a year to discuss issues pertaining to its region, especially commercial, personal use, and sport fishing, hunting, and subsistence.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Craig AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 1A and 2
- Southeastern Alaska Area finfish
- Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish

East Prince of Wales Advisory Committee – Jim Beard, Chair

The East Prince of Wales AC has 15 seats. The AC last met in 2010. At that time, the AC had seven members who resided in the communities of Thorne Bay and Ketchikan. The seat designations for the AC listed in regulation are:

Thorne Bay	1 representative
Coffman Cove	1 representative
Whale Pass	1 representative
Kaasan	1 representative
Undesignated	11 representatives

The areas of jurisdiction for the East Prince of Wales AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 1A, 1B, 1C, 2, 3, and 4
- Southeastern Alaska Area finfish
- Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish

Edna Bay Advisory Committee — Steve Hendershot, Chair

The Edna Bay AC has seven seats. There are currently has seven members and two alternates; all members reside in Edna Bay, with the exception of one, who resides in Craig. This AC meets at least once a year or when needed. The Edna Bay AC is mostly interested in BOF issues, mostly concentrating on commercial salmon fisheries

The areas of jurisdiction for the Edna Bay AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 2, 3, and 4
- Southeastern Alaska Area finfish
- Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish

Hydaburg Advisory Committee – Anthony Christianson, Chair

The Hydaburg AC has 15 seats. The committee has nine members, all of whom reside in Hydaburg. The AC has designated some seats to the Hydaburg Cooperative Association (tribe). The Hydaburg AC became active in April 2013 after having been inactive since 1987. The AC members are especially interested in sport and personal use fishing, hunting, and subsistence issues.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Hydaburg AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 1A and 2
- Southeastern Alaska Area finfish,
- Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish

Ketchikan Advisory Committee – John Scoblic, Chair

The Ketchikan AC has 15 seats. There are currently 15 members and three alternates. The seat designations in regulation are:

Saxman	2 representatives
Undesignated	13 representatives

The committee meets approximately three times a year with a particular focus on commercial, sport, and personal use fishing, and game issues.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Ketchikan AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 1A and 2
- Southeastern Alaska Area finfish
- Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish

Klawock Advisory Committee – Inactive

The Klawock AC has 15 seats. It is currently considered inactive. The last record of meeting was in 2008 to discuss BOF proposals.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Klawock AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 1A and 2
- Southeastern Alaska Area finfish
- Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish

Petersburg Advisory Committee – Arnold Enge, Chair

The Petersburg AC has 15 seats. There are currently 15 members, all of whom reside in Petersburg. The committee meets approximately three to four times a year to discuss both BOF and BOG issues. The AC is very active with commercial fishing issues.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Petersburg AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 1B, 1C, 2, 3, and 4
- Southeastern Alaska Area finfish
- Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish.

Saxman Advisory Committee – Denny Charles, Chair

The Saxman AC has nine seats. The AC last met in 2010 to discuss BOF proposals. At that time, the AC had nine members. AC members are especially interested in sport and personal use fishing, hunting, and subsistence issues. The seat designations in regulation are:

Saxman	6 representatives
Ketchikan	2 representatives
Undesignated	1 representative

The areas of jurisdiction for the Saxman AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 1A and 2
- Southeastern Alaska Area finfish
- Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish

Wrangell Advisory Committee – Chris Guggenbickler, Chair

The Wrangell AC has 15 seats. There are currently 14 members and three alternates, all of whom reside in Wrangell. The AC meets two to four times per year. Wrangell AC members have a strong interest in commercial, sport, and personal use fishing, hunting, and subsistence.

The areas of jurisdiction for the Wrangell AC listed in regulation (5 AAC 97.005) for the purpose of emergency closures and determining “residents of the area” for AC elections are:

- GMUs 1B, 1C, 2, 3, and 4
- Southeastern Alaska Area finfish
- Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish

Appendix A:

Report to the Boards of Fisheries and Game by Mil Zahn,
Executive Director, 1981

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A Report to
The Boards of Fisheries and Game
by Mil Zahn
Executive Director
November 18, 1981

Synopsis

This report gives a constructive evaluation of Fish and Game Advisory Committee and Regional Council structure and effectiveness. Issues and problems are identified and various options for improvement are suggested. This review originated at the request of the Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game during the spring 1981 meeting.

Advisory Committees and Regional Councils provide a forum for public participation in Boards of Fisheries and Game deliberations on regulation and policy governing fish and game management in Alaska. The system is effective as a mechanism for public involvement but is exhibiting some organizational problems related to growth. The more active committees are quite productive but others have lapsed into oblivion. Public scrutiny of the process is intensifying under the impetus of ANILCA implementation. The public and the Boards both need to know that the system is working.

Background

In general, the committees fall in to three basic categories, to wit:

1. Rural Advisory Committees - membership is drawn from small remote communities. Communication and transportation are cumbersome and the associated costs exceed, by far, those of other Committees.
2. Railbelt/Roadsystem Advisory Committees - members tend to have ready access and communication for committee functions.
3. Urban Advisory Committees - Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Juneau typify this group. Anchorage in particular, with its large population base, has high volume participation with an attendant large work load related to meetings and correspondence.

There are 67 Advisory Committees authorized by the Boards, with an aggregate membership of about 665. The attached chartlet shows committee locations. The geographic distribution clearly is not uniform but the per capita distribution indicates that most citizens have reasonable access to a committee. The per capita representation, however, is much higher in rural areas than in urban ones. One notable disparity in per capita

representation is that three committees represent some 200,000 people in the Anchorage area while three committees represent perhaps 12,000 people on the Kuskokwim and Yukon Delta.

The Boards provide direction and support to the Committees through travel funding, procedural guidelines and communications on Board meeting activities and schedules. New funding for ANILCA implementation will support more committee travel but the extent of demands for funding are not known at this time.

Issues and Trends

Committee effectiveness varies widely and, not surprisingly, is dependent on local initiative by key individuals. Activity in a given area tends to reflect the bias of personal, industry or social influence. Board records indicate that about 60% of the committees are active. More particularly, 28 committees have not submitted meeting minutes to the Boards in 1981 and 17 of those have failed to reveal their presence in any manner. The appended table provides relevant data.

In addition to local community motivation, the level of Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff rapport with area residents determines the effectiveness of the committee process. When staff interest or involvement dwindles, the system breaks down.

Common complaints received by the Boards include:

1. Committee membership not a representative cross section of user groups within a community.
2. Committee biased toward gear groups, racial groups, or political, subsistence, sport or commercial interests. It is a fact, however, that some communities are oriented to narrow interests.
3. Meetings conducted unfairly or illegally, such as in alleged secrecy.
4. Lack of a quorum results in no action.
5. Committees will not willingly accept members from neighboring towns. Feuds between communities result in requests for additional committees.
6. Committee not active.
7. Chairman not providing leadership or information.
8. Members demand full per diem as a condition of holding meetings.
9. Special interest groups control meeting direction.

10. Questionable election of officers. Little turnover in membership.

From the Boards' perspective there is very poor communication from the committees. In particular, minutes of meetings are received sporadically and Boards are not notified of impending travel needs. A memo to all 665 committee members this fall requesting information for this report to the Boards has not received a single reply. The Boards do receive calls for money. There is some tendency for committees to expect Board monitoring of member behavior at meetings to ensure fair dealings. There is little apparent thought to committee member responsibilities for self government.

To a large extent these types of problems are expected in the course of trying to coordinate and support broad public involvement. It is essential, however, to progress toward the original goal of meaningful public involvement without diverting into a morass of intra-group squabbles. As a democratic process, the Advisory Committee tends to reflect community strengths and weaknesses. Several committees are outstanding examples of participatory democracy and provide carefully considered testimony to the Boards. The effective committees emerge through active, local involvement and are not a product of either fragmented public participation or force feeding by State agencies. The issue is analogous to a citizen's voting responsibility.

As a source of proposals to the Boards, Advisory Committees submitted the following approximate percentage of recent proposals:

- 1980 - 21% of all game proposals
- 1981 - 36% of all game proposals

- 1981 - 23% of all March fish proposals
- 1981 - 40% of all December fish proposals

The recent Board practice of funding committee chairmen travel to Board meetings appears to be an educational process of considerable potential. Currently, there is no ready measure of its effectiveness but it would seem most useful where strong leadership conveys information and perceptions back to the committee.

The entire Advisory Committee and Regional Council process is increasingly cumbersome and perhaps would benefit by limiting growth. Expenditures have increased significantly in recent years but it is difficult to identify a commensurate increase in public participation. Board funding since 1974 is shown below:

1974	30.0	1979	312.8
1975	36.2	1980	249.3
1976	78.7	1981	452.8
1977	158.4	1982	1,419.6
1978	158.3		

Board staffing that once was an auxiliary duty of one or two Department staff people has grown to a permanent Board staff of four at present. Immediate plans for this fiscal year include the addition of an Assistant Executive Director plus six coordinators for Regional Councils plus six part time secretarial positions. In addition, the Boards continue to be dependent on Department staff for assistance.

It should be noted that the present demands on Boards and Department relative to committees derives from a small but active fraction of committee potential. If all 67 committees were to hold the required four meetings per year there would be a minimum of 268 meetings needing some kind of Board or Department interface. Regional Council meetings would add to that total.

Inevitably, the Boards are part of the phenomenon of expanding bureaucracy. Board members need to consider the implications of this trend. This expansion has been most evident since the Boards first separated into two groups in 1975.

Board staffing of coordinators for Regional Councils will help resolve existing problems. This new staff role, however, presents some challenges in order to mesh properly with existing Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff functions. Board staff will need to develop good community relations without displacing Department management staff in its public contact. The Department resource managers cannot work effectively without community support. The public, however, will tend to support whichever element of government they believe best conveys their concerns to the Boards. This could lead to appearances of Board advocacy. The considerable potential for competition or friction will need to be resolved by clear policy from the Boards and Commissioner.

A number of questions emerge for Board consideration. In particular, Board members should ask:

1. Would an overall limit on the number of committees be useful? There are about five petitions for new committees before the Boards at this meeting.
2. Should closely adjacent communities have separate committees? A policy of fewer committees could encourage neighboring towns to work together.
3. Is racial balance on committees an issue within Board purview?
4. Would separate committees for fisheries and for game be more effective? Could this apparent need in some communities be better served by the committee splitting its two functions on a local sub-committee basis rather than by Board action?

5. Should the present committee and regional council format be retained or changed? Committees, for example, could merge entirely into the council structure by allowing each town to have a single representative on the appropriate Regional Council.
6. Should inactive committees be dissolved?
7. Is there a point of diminishing effectiveness in the public forum process? If so, what is it? An often heard complaint is that people have too many meetings to attend and issues to consider. Does the number of inactive committees indicate a saturation point?
8. Should Emergency Closure authority be revised?
9. Should Boards expect to settle intra committee disputes regarding conduct at meetings?
10. Should some existing Advisory Committee regulations be repealed in favor of regulations more clearly addressing Regional Council needs? Several pages of concurrent jurisdiction regulations, for example, could be replaced with umbrella language clearly stating the obligation of Committees or Councils to solicit input from adjacent groups.
11. What is the optimum size of field staff assigned directly to the Boards?
12. How far do the Boards wish to become involved in field level council coordination? There is a discernable drift from an exclusively policy role to one of on-scene management. The next step involves the small but important distinction between arranging support services and doing actual research or report writing for a group.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The present structure is of known effectiveness and should remain as the nucleus for the intended public forum. Refinements are needed and the overall subject should receive the benefit of ongoing review.

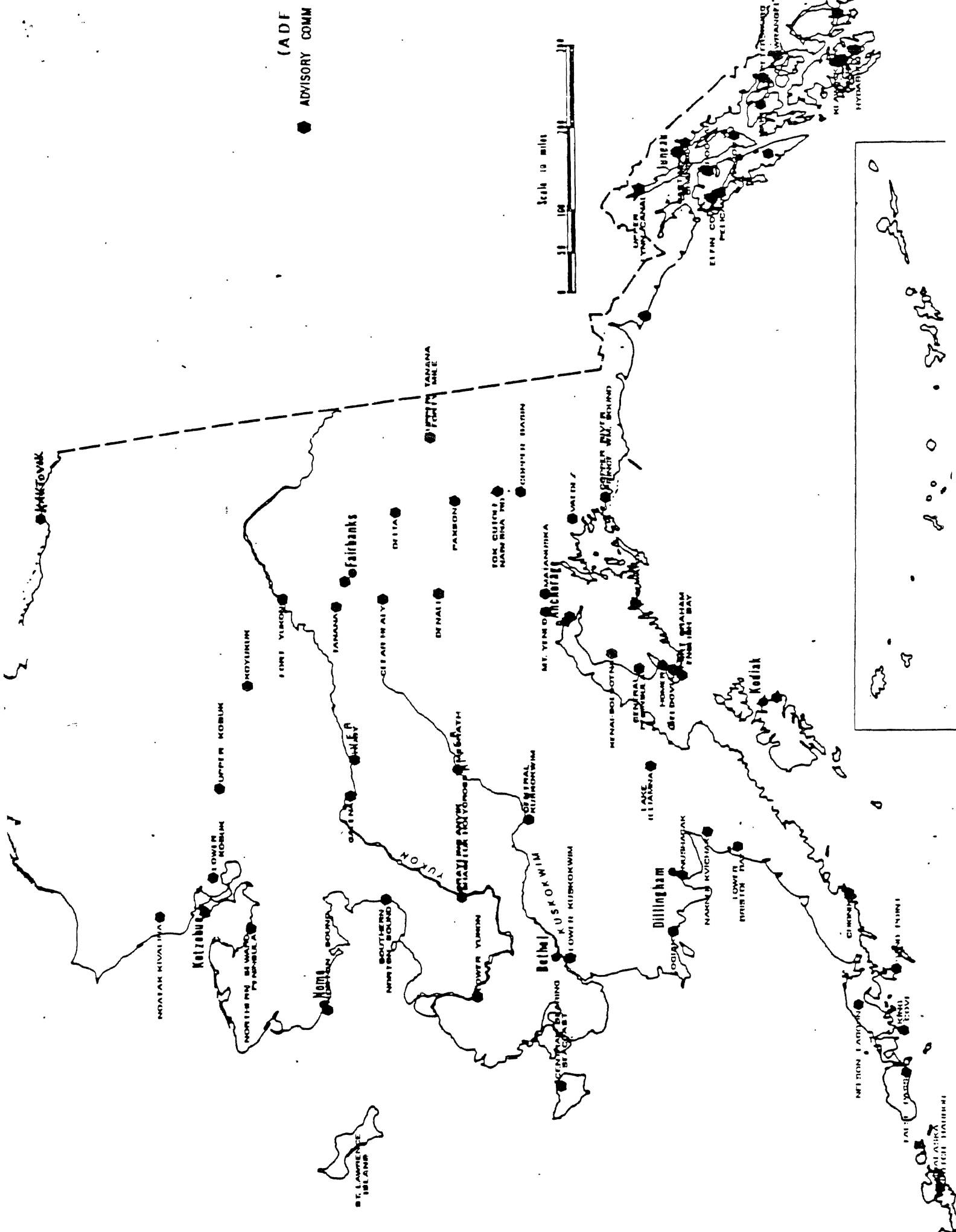
Immediate or short term actions recommended are:

1. Place an informal freeze on creating new committees, pending identification of key issues and goals.
2. Set a maximum number of Advisory Committees at specified locations.
3. Dissolve inactive committees.

4. Insist on realistic communication from Committee chairmen. The Board staff, for example, is implementing a policy of releasing travel funds only upon a chairman's request prior to meetings. The prior notice provision has existed for some time in the Board regulations. There is no progress to report in this regard.
5. The Boards should develop policy or position statements addressing the 12 questions outlined above. Board resolution of seemingly minor points, such as inactive committees, would demonstrate Board expectations to the public.
6. Continue the practice of funding committee chairmen, or designees, attendance at Board meetings. This is an expensive exercise but can be educational for all involved parties.

(ADF)
● ADVISORY COMM

Scale in miles
0 50 100



Activity by Advisory Committees

The following table provides some indicators of activity by committees. Two important elements NOT shown are the number of proposals submitted via committees and the long-term impact of committee representatives attending and participating in Board meetings. The active committees do submit a significant percentage of all proposals received. The impact of attending Board meetings should be assessed during future reviews.

These figures for calendar year 1981, through mid-November, derive from existing Board records.

<u>Committee</u>	<u># of Members</u>	<u>Attended Regional Boundary Meeting</u>	<u>Minutes Received</u>	<u>Other Corres.</u>
Anchorage	17	Yes	3	Yes
Angoon	12	Yes	0	No
Barrow	4	Yes	0	No
Central Bering Sea Coast	11	Yes	0	Yes
Central Kuskokwim	8	No	0	No
Central Peninsula	11	Yes	1	No
Chignik	17	No	0	Yes
Clear-Healy Valley	10	No	0	No
Copper Basin	9	Yes	0	No
Copper River - Prince William Sound	15	Yes	0	Yes
Craig	5	Yes	0	No
Delta	7	Yes	5	Yes
Denali	10	Yes	0	No
Elfin Cove	9	No	3	Yes
English Bay - Port Graham	6	No	1	No
Fairbanks	10	Yes	2	Yes
False Pass	5	No	0	No
Ft. Yukon	9	No	2	Yes

<u>Committee</u>	<u># of Members</u>	<u>Attended Regional Boundary Meeting</u>	<u>Minutes Received</u>	<u>Other Corres.</u>
Galena	13	Yes	1	No
Gastineau Channel	16	No	1	Yes
Grayling-Anvik-Shageluk- Holy Cross	9	Yes	1	Yes
Homer	13	No	0	No
Hoonah	13	No	0	No
Hydaburg	12	Yes	1	No
Kake	9	No	0	Yes
Kaktovik	5	No	0	No
Kenai-Soldotna	5	No	0	No
Ketchikan	7	No	2	No
King Cove	7	No	0	No
Klawock	4	No	1	No
Kodiak	12	Yes	2	Yes
Kotzebue	11	No	0	No
Koyukuk	12	No	1	No
Lake Iliamna	8	No	2	No
Lower Bristol Bay	5	No	0	No
Lower Kobuk	5	Yes	1	No
Lower Kuskokwim	14	No	0	No
Lower Yukon	14	Yes	2	Yes
McGrath	14	Yes	2	No
Matanuska	10	No	3	Yes
Mt. Yenlo	10	No	1	No
Naknek-Kvichak	13	No	2	No
Nelson Lagoon	5	No	0	No

<u>Committee</u>	<u># of Members</u>	<u>Attended Regional Boundary Meeting</u>	<u>Minutes Received</u>	<u>Other Corres.</u>
Noatak-Kivalina	5	Yes	1	No
Northern Seward Peninsula	6	No	2	No
Norton Sound	4	No	1	No
Nushagak	14	Yes	2	Yes
Paxson	11	No	0	No
Pelican	11	Yes	0	No
Petersburg	15	No	2	Yes
Ruby	15	Yes	2	No
Sand Point	8	Yes	0	No
Seldovia	7	No	4	Yes
Seward	14	Yes	2	Yes
Sitka	13	Yes	2	No
Southern Norton Sound	6	No	0	No
St. Lawrence Island	11	No	0	No
Tanana	11	No	3	No
Togiak	8	No	0	No
Tok Cutoff-Nebesna Road	8	No	2	No
Unalaska-Dutch Harbor	12	No	3	No
Upper Kobuk	3	Yes	1	No
Upper Lynn Canal	6	Yes	3	No
Upper Tanana-Forty Mile	14	No	0	No
Valdez	7	Yes	2	Yes
Wrangell	7	No	0	No
Yakutat	9	No	1	Yes

Appendix B:

Status Report on Joint Board Task Force on Advisory
Committees, 2002

STATUS REPORT ON JOINT BOARD TASK FORCE ON ADVISORY COMMITTEES DECEMBER 2002

Overview

The Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game identified the need for a broad, comprehensive review of the state's advisory committee system after identifying several issues. A committee of the joint board noted that some groups feel disenfranchised from both the advisory committee and board process, and that there is a sentiment among various user groups that the membership of the local advisory committees does not adequately reflect the full range of users and values that exist in Alaska. The boards have heard of problems in election process used by some advisory committees. At the same time, the boards have repeatedly heard from advisory committees that their recommendations are given proper deference. Another problem area identified comes from an inadequate budget to support the advisory committee system, limiting many committees to a single annual meeting and limiting their attendance at Board of Fisheries and Board of Game meetings.

The joint boards' committee developed a tentative timeline and process for addressing these issues. A problem statement was developed in October 2001 (Appendix 1), and task force members were selected in January 2002 (Appendix 2). The task force met on two occasions, April 6 and April 29, 2002, in Anchorage to create a scoping document that will examine the statewide structure and provide alternatives to strengthen the system. At this point, summaries from those meetings need review by the task force members and should lead to a scoping document. Meeting summaries are contained in Appendix 4 and Appendix 5. It was the intent of the joint boards to use the scoping document as an options paper for advisory committees and the public to use in developing proposals. Given the lack of continuity in board membership in 2002, both boards have chosen to delay the scheduling of a regulatory process.

At the initial task force meeting April 6, 2002, the task force members identified weaknesses of the current advisory committee system and causes in the following areas: process, timing/organization, public input, training, elections, funding, and interaction.

Many problems were identified in the area of advisory committee interaction with the board at board meetings, such as being able to attend only portions of meetings and not feeling that the boards fully utilize the expertise offered by advisory committees.

The task force also identified problems stemming from incompatible or conflicting meeting schedules between the state and federal systems. These centered on lack of time for completing proposal reviews, lack of department recommendations, timely receipt of minutes to the boards, and the high volume of proposals.

The group explored ways for increasing the public awareness advisory committee meetings and their role in advising the boards. Specific steps that could be taken were identified.

Training needs for new and current members were seen as a priority. Written materials were specified, as well as getting members and officers from several committees together, mentoring programs, getting education on biological topics.

The task force spent considerable time discussing advisory committee elections and how problems with elections can impact the makeup and balance of committees. Many problems were in the area of process such as proper notice for elections, confusion over who can vote, and difficulty in holding elections in some outlying communities. Use of designated seats was explored.

Funding problems were identified with the timely reimbursement of travel claims and inadequate funding for travel to board meetings and holding advisory meetings. The task force recognized that funding is primarily a legislative issue and developed a letter to express concerns to the legislature. At least two meetings per year for committees is seen as a minimum for effective participation.

The final category of problems pertained to the interaction between the advisory committee, department staff, and board members. Some suggested advisory committees should be used as a feeder system for board appointments in order to increase board knowledge of the advisory committee system. Others encouraged more feedback from board on the reasons for board actions. Limits in participation to the federal regional council system were seen as tied to federal support.

Positive features of the advisory committee system were also identified. Members noted how the advisory committees and boards allow individuals to effect regulatory change and how it allows for maximum public participation, particularly from different geographic areas. There was general agreement that it is a sound solid system in need of adjustments more than wholesale change.

A follow-up meeting on April 29-30, 2002, task force members reviewed a summary of the first meeting, identified additional problem areas, and categorized problems into four arenas for change:

- Legislative (Statute)
- Joint Board (Regulatory)
- Joint Board (Policy)
- ADF&G/Boards Section procedures (Internal Policy)

The group also reviewed possible alternatives to structuring the advisory committee system. They reviewed a draft listing of seven alternatives developed by staff for discussion purposes (Appendix 6). An eighth alternatives was considered as were alternatives in combination with each other.

Alternative H, board use of a “super subcommittees” was suggested by the task force. Here subcommittees would be formed by a board to work on a specific issue, such as Upper Cook Inlet finfish. Here the board would appoint members, with the involvement of advisory committees. This would not replace but rather enhances the advisory committee system.

The alternative of reducing the number of advisory committees (*Alternative F*) drew some interest in instances where membership make-up could be reviewed committee by committee for balance and for background on the initial composition when first formed. Some saw a problem with too many advisory committees on the highway system, such as the eight committees within 60 miles of each other on Kenai Peninsula, but in general there was support for a review on case-by-case basis rather than arbitrary limits. Analysis should consider similarity of use and cost effectiveness.

Alternative D, forming separate fishery-only and wildlife only advisory committees was determined as undesirable at this time because it would be difficult to choose which to join for a person concerned with both areas, potential workload problems, and loss of strength from not meeting regularly. It could be redundant with the subcommittee approach taken by some committees already.

The group discussed a combination of *Alternatives B and F* which would add regional committees and reduce the current number of advisory committees. Regional committees could be appointed by the boards from current advisory committee membership to consider regional issues and try for consensus. Here positions taken could go back to individual advisory committees for support. Some saw advantages if a board member also attended and if meetings were held the day prior to board meetings.

There was general support for adding regional committees or meetings for advisory committee chairs within a region. The concept of a regional Board of Fisheries was resoundingly rejected. Specific suggestions for procedures in meetings were also discussed.

SYNOPSIS

The task force members will receive a copy of the draft summaries from the April 6, 2002 and April 29-30, 2002 meetings. Their review of these summaries will help insure that all issues identified during the meetings are included. These will form the basis of a scoping document to be made available to each board and the public by March 1, 2003. This allows each board to consider during their March 2003 meetings the best approach to addressing advisory committee topics.

The boards will use this background to establish a schedule for a regulatory process. Steps in the regulatory process include issuing a call for proposals by the boards, publishing a proposal booklet, offering public comment period, compiling written comments, and holding a Joint Board regulatory meeting. The steps could take place during 2003-2004 regulatory cycle.

**JOINT BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT
October 2001**

SUMMARY

The Joint Board Committee recommends the joint boards adopt the following statement of work:

The Joint Boards of Fish and Game will conduct a review of the state's advisory committee system. The boards will use a task force to create a scoping document that will examine the statewide structure and provide alternatives to strengthen the system. The scoping document will be distributed widely for public comment, culminating in a statewide regulatory meeting in the 2002/2003 board cycle.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The joint boards have never performed a broad, comprehensive review of the state's advisory committee system. Some publics feel disenfranchised from both the advisory committee and board process.

There is sentiment among various user groups that the membership of the local advisory committees does not adequately reflect the full range of users and values that exist in Alaska. The current election process allows opportunity for biased results in the representation on advisory committees.

There is sentiment among some advisory committees that their recommendations are not followed by the board(s) and that their input is not given proper deference by the board(s).

Finally, the current budget for the advisory committee system is inadequate. There is not enough funding for each AC to meet twice per year as the current regulation requires in order to remain active. In addition, there is not enough funding for each AC to attend the respective board meetings in their regions each year.

GOAL/STRATEGY

Ensure the state has an effective advisory committee system. Ensure that the public is enfranchised in the advisory committee process.

Design and implement a process that enables the joint boards to revitalize the current advisory committee system structure. That process will include input from the local advisory committees and the public.

Maximize the ability of the boards, working separately and together, to gain a budget increase to maintain the advisory committee system, rather than trying to do more with less.

BACKGROUND

The boards have not met jointly for over three years, however the regulations envision an annual joint board meeting (5 AAC 96.600). A Joint Board Committee, consisting of two board members from each board, recently met with staff from ADF&G and Dept. of Law to identify issues for a joint board meeting, and recommend to the joint board a process and timeline to address the issues. Board members include Ed Dersham and Russell Nelson from the Board of Fisheries, and George Matz, Greg Roczicka, and Greg Streveler from the Board of Game. The committee discussed the areas of jurisdiction for the joint boards, the workload of the individual boards for the 2001/2002 meeting cycle, budget issues, and timelines as well as coordination of schedules.

There are a number of regulatory topics for the joint boards to schedule and consider. The Joint Board Committee prioritized these areas of work, with a recommended schedule, as follows:

1. Advisory Committee System: Begin addressing this cycle (2001/2002)
2. Nonsubsistence Use Areas: Begin addressing upon receipt of pending court decision
3. Regulatory Procedures: Address in a future cycle, possibly 2002/2003, after preliminary work by the Department of Law and Boards Support Section of ADF&G.

1. The Joint Board Committee focused on the review of the advisory committee system as a priority for the joint boards' agenda. The committee discussed and designed a process to suggest to the full boards that enables a thorough review of the state's advisory committee system and engages the public in that review. The method for this review is discussed below.

2. It has been almost ten years since the boards have performed a regulatory review of the state's nonsubsistence use areas. The Joint Board Committee recommends the joint boards schedule a review of these regulations soon. However, at the time of this committee meeting, the issue was still in court (*Kenaitze v. State*) and the committee suggested that it would not be advisable to do further work until the court has rendered a decision and until the full boards have had the opportunity to discuss any court decision with the Attorney General's office. [Subsequent to the committee meeting, a decision came in. The Department of Law will brief both boards this fall and may recommend a joint board meeting be scheduled soon in response to the decision. More detail will be provided at each board's first fall 2001 meeting.]

3. "Regulatory Procedures" include areas of the fish and game code such as the Subsistence Proposal Policy, the Joint Board Petition Policy, etc. In general, these regulations are working well for the public and the board, but may need some housekeeping work to clarify portions of the procedures within the regulations.

METHODOLOGY

In order to meet the objective of ensuring that the state has an effective advisory committee system, the Joint Board Committee recommends the following process:

- Appoint a 12-member task force, made up of advisory committee members and interested members of the public. Each board names 6 members. (Fall 2001)
- The task force composes a scoping document that provides a wide range of alternatives for an effective state advisory committee system, including recommendations for statute and regulatory changes. (Fall/Winter 2001-2002)
- Distribute the scoping document for full advisory committee and public review. (Early 2002)
- The joint boards review the scoping document at a work session. (April 2002)
- A "Call for Proposals" is issued, with the proposal deadline set for late fall 2002.
- Joint boards regulatory session is scheduled for spring 2003.

ACTION NEEDED

The Joint Board Committee recommends:

- Each board reviews this report and approves the approach described within.
- Continue to use the Joint Board Committee as the boards' working members on this project.
- Each board names six members to a task force.
- Request the Boards Support Section begin the process for scheduling a spring 2002 joint board work session.
- Each board work, both individually and collectively, to gain an adequate budget for the state's advisory committee system.

Appendix 2. List of panel members selected by the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game

Panel Members of the Joint Board Task Force

Roy Ashenfelter (former AC chair), Nome
David O. David (Central Bearing Sea AC), Kwigillingok
Tim Evers (sport fish charter; Cen. Pen AC), Ninilchik
Bob Galloway (Fairbanks AC), Fairbanks
Robert Heyano (former chair Nushagak AC), Dillingham
Bill Paden (former chair, Sitka AC), Sitka
Randy Alvarez (chair, Lake Iliamna AC), Igiugig
Bob Churchill (former chair, Anchorage AC, former Board of Game member), Anch.
Cliff Judkins (Matanuska Valley AC), Wasilla
Royce Purinton (chair, Middle Yukon R. AC), Nulato
Tom Sparks (Northern Norton Sound AC), Nome
David van den Berg (tour operator), Fairbanks

Participating Board members

Russell Nelson (Board of Fisheries), Dillingham
Virgil Umphenour (Board of Fisheries) Fairbanks
George Matz (Board of Game), Anchorage
Dana Pruhs (Board of Game), Anchorage

Appendix 3. Letter to Task Force Members

March 1, 2002

Dear Joint Board Task Force Members:

First of all, thank you for agreeing to serve on the joint board task force. I appreciate your donation of time and effort to this important process.

In the letter soliciting nominations for this task force, we noted that the joint boards have never performed a broad, comprehensive review of the state's advisory committee system. Some members of the public feel disenfranchised from both the advisory committee and board process. There is sentiment among various user groups that the membership of the local advisory committees does not adequately reflect the full range of users and values that exist in Alaska. Some advisory committees believe that the boards do not follow their recommendations and that their input is not given deference by the boards. Finally, the budget for the advisory committee system is inadequate. The Joint Board Committee recommended a task force approach to conduct the review of the advisory committee system.

The charge to the task force is to serve a "scoping" function and develop a wide range of alternatives for discussion prior to a Joint Board work session (tentatively scheduled for early May 2002). A scoping document is envisioned, providing a wide range of alternatives to ensure that the state has an effective state advisory committee system, including recommendations for statute and regulatory changes. Based on this input, the Joint Board plans to issue a public "Call for Proposals" for a late Fall 2002 deadline and schedule a regulatory meeting for Spring 2003.

In order to begin the work, I am enclosing a few documents for your review and use. Along with a list of participants to this task force, a recent history of joint board meetings and topics is enclosed. The October 2001 Joint Board Committee Report is included, and a draft "Comparison of Alternatives on Advisory System Changes" is the last piece. This comparison was provided to the joint board committee as a tool to begin composing a scoping document. I hope you find these useful as you begin your work.

Currently, we have scheduled a joint board task force meeting in Anchorage on April 6, beginning at 10 a.m. The location is being secured and my office will contact each of you when it is known. We plan to adjourn at 5 p.m., and at that time will assess whether another meeting of the task force is needed. The state will pay each member's airfare (or mileage), hotel if needed, and per diem; please make your own arrangements for travel. If you are not currently an advisory committee member, please contact my office to provide your social security number and home address. The contact person is: Lori VanSteenwyk, Administrative Assistant, at (907) 465-6096 or email at: lori_vansteenwyk@fishgame.state.ak.us.

Thanks again for participating in this task force. I look forward to meeting each of you.

Sincerely,

Diana Cote, Executive Director
Alaska Boards of Fisheries and Game

Appendix 4. Summary of April 6, 2002 Task Force Meeting

**Draft
JOINT BOARD TASK FORCE MEETING SUMMARY
April 6, 2002
Millennium Hotel, Anchorage**

Panel members present: Roy Ashenfelter, David O. David, Tim Evers Bob Galloway, Robert Heyano, Bill Paden, Randy Alvarez, Bob Churchill, Cliff Judkins Royce Purinton, Tom Sparks

Panel members absent: David van den Berg

Joint Board committee members present: George Matz (BOG), Dana Pruhs (BOG), Russell Nelson (BOF), Virgil Umphenour (BOF)

Facilitator: Teri Arnold

Staff present: Matt Robus (WC), Geron Bruce (CF), Kelly Hepler (SF), Susan Bucknell (Boards), Joe Chythlook (Boards), Justin Crawford (Boards), Trim Nick (Boards), Sherry Wright (Boards), Jim Marcotte (Boards)

Meeting Objectives

- To form as a team for reviewing the AC system
- To review the strengths and weaknesses of the current system
- To determine the characteristics of a good/desired AC system
- To build a list of criteria for evaluating options for a new/revised AC system
- To begin developing options for a new/revised AC system

Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Roles of facilitator, report writer, recorder, resource people, participants and observers
- Task Force introduction - Name, affiliation and where from
- Housekeeping - travel reimbursement
- Agenda Review
- Ground Rules, Task forces charge from Joint Boards, Guidelines for reaching consensus
- Problem Identification
- Weaknesses of current system - discussion of weaknesses and causes
- Strength Identification
- Develop characteristics of a good/desired AC system (brainstorming without evaluating). Use lists generated as launching point for discussion.
- Develop Criteria for evaluating a new/revised system
- Sideboards from the state (if any)
- Decide how to move forward into the final step of developing options, including a review of the Comparison of Alternatives on AC system changes.
- Meeting Evaluation

- Adjourn

Ground Rules

- Be candid and open to others point of view in a positive spirit of wanting to help.
- Focus on group interests not special interests.
- Show mutual respect be sensitive to others feelings; especially when in disagreement.
- It's OK to disagree Everyone doesn't have to buy in to everything said. A discussion is preferable to ignoring an issue. Remember conflict is good. It is inevitable and necessary for reaching effective and creative solutions to problems.
- Listen One person speaks at a time. Look to your facilitator for your opportunity to speak.
- I statements Speak for yourself, owning your concern, idea or problem. Don't speak for others.
- Don't interrupt Listen carefully to understand others point of view.
- Be open to learning.
- Please - no side conversations.
- Be flexible
- Share your sense of humor.
- Every person needs and deserves two things - to be valued and to be understood.

Joint Board Task Force Charge

To review the State's Advisory committee system and develop a wide range of alternatives to submit to the Joint Boards to be used as a basis to launch a full regulatory review.

Guidelines for Reaching Consensus

- Make sure everyone is heard from and feels listened to.
- Do not vote; your aim is to talk through the issue until you've reached an agreement everyone can support.
- Consensus may not mean that you are in 100% agreement; BUT you've been heard, and you'll support the team or group's decision.
- Do not give in just to reach agreement – view conflict and differences of opinion as good.
- Be open. Strive for a creative solution.
- Think outside the box
- Ask questions and make sure you understand everyone's opinion before you make up your mind.

Identification of Weaknesses and Causes

1) Process

AC not present at Board meeting during deliberations - Boards should allow AC testimony (funding needed). AC forced to be present first 2 days of meeting to sign up

for public testimony, but only allowed 5 days per diem maximum. Boards not fully using people in attendance at meetings as a resource.

- Change in agenda during the meeting and the order of proposals that don't seem to have the AC or public participation or economics in mind
- BOF need 2-3 AC members covered for travel to cover committee work that is held concurrently
- Committee work creates proposals that lack full public review process
- Difference in BOF and BOG process - committee work
- Frustration as audience member during the meeting - lack of ability to participate
- AC hinges on adequate funding - need to be present at entire meeting
- Lack of communication

AC don't have enough say in concerns and issues of their own areas

- Should have more say in the area they represent, don't feel valued.
- Not able to participate during deliberations
- Board needs to understand why AC came to decision
- Board should utilize authority to question the AC during deliberations and may not realize that they have the option to do that. Boards may not understand what they can or can't do as far as communication
- Adequate notice for AC participation is needed

Agenda Change Requests process primarily used successfully by ADF&G. Should be more accessible to ACs.

- Board has criteria to accept or reject an ACR. Resource versus allocation criteria or to correct an unforeseen effect.
- Lack of education on what ACR should be used for
- This issue was withdrawn - although there was agreement that there is abuse in the use of ACR's.

AC minutes - organized and legible reports

- AC secretaries may be unsure what the Board wants or needs, but need to incorporate the requested information. Need better instruction.
- AC minutes should include maps of the geographic location that comments are dealing with
- Standardized format is lacking
- Secretaries are volunteers - organize proposals like the Board roadmap
- Lack of funding for sufficient secretarial support

2) Timing/Organization

Schedule of meetings - BOF/BOG/Federal RAC and AC meetings scheduled back to back requiring AC and public input. Too much on the agenda - sheer volume of proposals - not enough time to complete the work. The other aspects of this were timely receipt of ADF&G recommendations to the AC, timely receipt of AC minutes to the Boards, timely receipt of workbooks to the Boards.

- Board is flooded with information. Organization improvements are needed for the Board workbooks. Board doesn't receive the information early enough to adequately review it.

- ADF&G is trying to streamline their recommendation process and agree it's a problem
- Comment deadline generally two weeks prior to the Board meeting, Board support puts book together - Cut off dates, whole proposal process timeline needs to be reviewed and improved.
- AC meetings are sometimes postponed because of travel/winter weather.
- Sheer volume of proposals - overload.
- Schedule of meetings and order of proposals not done with AC/public participation in mind.
- ACs limited by funding on what issues they can/should address
- Schedule based on Board's ability to attend

3) Public Input

Publicity/awareness of Boards and AC meeting schedules - advertisement of meetings. Board summary of actions. Public participation at AC meetings.

- "Unofficial" duty of the chair is public notice of meeting - goes unnoticed or undone.
- Lack of general public participation at AC meetings - varies by area
- Lack of recreational user participation
- Issue driven participation (usually divisive issues - makeup of AC)
- AC can't make public participate
- Bad decisions usually draw a crowd

4) Training

AC members - new and current - systematic training of new chairs needed.

- No training, other than written manual - insufficient preparation for meaningful participation
- Lack of statewide meeting where annual training could occur
- Lack of mentoring program of experienced chairs with new chairs
- Concern of chairs lacking a broader vision of the process

Lots of technical information that's hard to digest - biological education of the issues.

- Complexity and volume of issues addressed
- Lack of availability of the information in advance of the AC meeting or Board meetings.
- Request for biological data prior to proposals written.

5) Elections

Process

- Lack of election meeting notice (2 week prior - rules not always being followed)
- Too many AC's in concentrated area
- Lack of definition of the "area" in elections - who can vote. Members of the region can move around to vote in the region -sometimes affecting the outcome of the vote.
- Elections held only in the "hub" community - disenfranchises other villages who may not be able to afford to travel to the election meeting.

- Good diverse input needed by Boards not being met due to lack of diversity
- Only those who show up get elected. If all bowhunters show up, they vote in a bowhunter.
- Statutory system supports a democratic process
- Disenfranchises user groups with a minority view or range of value

Designated Seats

- Solution suggested holding election for designated seat in the appropriate village and allowing only that village to elect that seat.
- Designated seats are community, not user group based
- Lack of participation by user groups - disenfranchised user groups
- Holding election in the same community repeatedly creates potential to pit village against village where multiple communities serve together on the AC
- Minority view under or not represented by user group not in regulatory language (current regulations specify minimum of three user groups must be represented)

Long term chairs on AC

- Lack of people who want to serve, lots of work involved
- Many do not see this as a problem
- Lack of understanding of the responsibilities of AC chair
- Lack of turnover may create perception of biased AC by Board - making them ineffective

6) Funding

AC per diem travel claims reimbursement needs to be timely. Adequate funding for AC travel to board meetings, coordinator travel to AC meetings, appropriate length of time for attendance regionally for board and community meetings. ADF&G do not put the AC system as a high priority. AC funding should be independent of ADF&G. One AC meeting per year is not enough to tell the Boards what the public wants - need funding for appropriate number of meetings. Need funding to allow for additional time needed for interpretation of the proposals to cross cultural participants.

- Funding is a legislative issue, but without adequate funding all other resolutions may or may not be accomplished.
- Frustration of what AC can do regarding funding.
- AC needs to go on record to support more funding, so it was determined that Bill Paden and Bob Churchill would draft a letter to the Joint board (with a cc to the legislators) from the task force lobbying adequate funding of the AC system. Letter draft will be done by April 13.
- At least two meetings per year are needed.
- Funding should be independent of ADF&G to eliminate potential "payback" on AC positions that are not in line with the department.
- Actual budget figures are needed for discussion on this issue.
- ADF&G concern of budget cuts to Department rather than increase to cover Boards/AC cost. This would mean cuts in current programs or research.

7) Interaction

Staff proposals are not reviewed by AC.

- Lack of interaction by the Department with the AC when writing proposals
- Issue varies by area (not all areas have this problem)
- Idea is desirable - not typically done

New board members lack knowledge of how AC system works/can be used

- Governor currently appoints someone to BOF/BOG. Board members who are not familiar with the AC process affect that process - suggested Governor use ACs as a feeder system for Board appointments
- Value of AC members affected
- Level of interaction affected

Lack of feedback from Board to ACs on decisions made

- Lack of communication between Boards/ACs
- Lack of real time interaction with boards during public testimony

AC/Fed RAC systematic interaction with urban areas is lacking

- Historical lack of interaction
- Lack of federal funding to participate in the Fed RAC system.
- Lack of communication between AC and Fed RAC in some areas
- Dual management issue - not a Joint Board issue
- Lack of information about the MOA process occurring
- Comment to Joint Board - interagency meeting

Coordination between chairs on regional and statewide basis

- Lack of effective communication between ACs. (cost effective/prohibitive)
- Lack of statewide/regional AC chair meetings

Strengths of the Advisory Committee System

- Individuals can effect regulatory change
- Sound, solid system - needs a few tweaks
- Allows maximum public participation
- Expected improvements to current system
- AC system allows geographic area meaningful input
- Boards recognize importance of ACs - weigh good information heavily
- Educational for all users - access to ADF&G staff
- Offers communities meaningful participation in resource management
- Need for more regular Joint Board work

Appendix 5. Summary of April 29 Task Force Meeting

Draft
JOINT BOARD TASK FORCE MEETING SUMMARY
April 29-30, 2002
Marriott Hotel, Anchorage

Categories of Weaknesses Identified at Previous (April 5, 2002) Meeting

(NEW items added are below; previous weaknesses are included in April 5 Summary)

- Budget
 - Stipend for AC members is needed
 - Consider purchasing teleconference system for AC use

- AC Influence
 - Ability for AC chairs to vote with board members
 - Large interest groups

- Training
 - AC use of subcommittees, task forces allowed

- Workload/Timeline
 - Require AC approval of proposals prior to publishing
 - ADF&G should consider traditional knowledge/experience within data provided to boards

- AC/Public Interaction
 - Homogenous thinking on some ACs
 - Alternative election systems should be explored; e.g., "instant run-off system"
 - Using elections to "work issues" then the new member does not return for other business
 - Feedback loop from board(s) could be strengthened (e.g., problems w/elections, chair, etc.)

Arenas for Change

- Legislative (Statute)
- Joint Board (Regulatory)
- Joint Board (Policy)
- ADF&G/Boards Section (Internal Policy)

Comments of possible alternatives

(Refer to "Comparisons of Alternatives" draft document dated 8/4/01)

New Alternative H: "Super Subcommittee"

Summary: Short-term, issue-specific "AC" formed by a board to work an issue (e.g., Upper Cook Inlet finfish)

- Board appoints members, with AC involvement
- Urban/road-connected ACs may be able to use better than rural ACs
- Does not replace AC; enhances the system
- Tap other funding sources, including match money
- Downside to tapping other funding: decisions may be viewed as biased toward entity that provided funds; legislature may reduce funding by the amount received
- Timing: Need ADF&G comments on proposals prior to this group convening; is this doable?

Alternative F: Reduce current number of ACs (see also Alternatives B & F below)

Summary: Review AC membership make-up committee by committee for balance, including number of seats

- Look into history of why ACs are combined instead of just combining
- Number of seats in ACs w/multiple community reps (e.g., some 15, some 9 members)
- Nome example: majority of seats are designated for Nome, remaining are from villages. Sets up possibility of running meeting just on Nome membership.

Alternative D: Fish-only and Wildlife-only advisory committees

Summary: Undesirable at this time

- Hard to choose which one to be a member of
- Workload problems
- Person becomes "expert" through knowledge and experience gained with general AC membership so would have to train and educate more people
- Game ACs would have to only meet every other year; Fish ACs only every 3 years
- Some of this specialization is already happening within committees; including thru subcommittees on fish, game
- Some areas of state may not have enough issues to split up (e.g., Southeast)
- Could end up with same members on each fish/game AC

Blend Alternatives B and F: Add Regional Committees/Reduce Current Number of ACs

Summary: Regional committees appointed by board(s) from current AC membership that consider regional issues and try for consensus; positions/results go back to individual ACs. One board member from pertinent board attends meeting; meetings held day prior to board meeting

Adding Regional Committees:

- Discussed Fran Ulmer's concept of regional boards and resoundingly rejected
- Keep localized representation and add to it with board-appointed regional committees
- Allow for statewide meeting of AC chairs
- Allow for regional meetings of ACs and/or AC chairs
- Regional meetings of chairs only work if AC represents ALL stakeholders
- Regional meetings work for specific issues (e.g., WACH, but not moose in NW Alaska)

- Use as problem-solving group—not making decisions for ACs but getting together on “burning issues” then go back to ACs to get concurrence
- Regional committees would be appointed by a board from current AC membership (not just automatically the chairs of ACs)
- At times ACs go to board meetings without knowledge of positions of neighboring ACs
- Rep needs to be able to represent AC vs. personal interest
- Where does this fit into Workload/Timeline?
- Even if group does not reach consensus it still strengthens and allows system to be proactive instead of reactive
- BOF prepares in-meeting committee structure early; need roadmap earlier from BOG
- Regional committees could get together the day prior to a board meeting
- Would need facilitator if regional committees operate on consensus basis
- Cost effective? Information gained worth effort? Does it get public involved? Will it help solve conflicts between user groups?
- ACs would choose issues that go to regional committees
- Position of regional committee would not go directly to board; rather, would go back to individual ACs
- Ask one board member to attend regional committee meeting; board members are overworked, however if meeting held day prior to board meeting it could be easier
- Board member attendance is cost-effective because group can get board feedback earlier rather than later, especially “global” input (e.g., winter king issue: AC members may not know what’s going on in Canada whereas board member probably does)

Reducing Number of ACs: (see also Alternative F discussion above)

- Too many ACs on highway system (e.g., 8 ACs within 60 miles of each other on Kenai P)
- What criteria to use to consolidate/eliminate/combine ACs?
- Consolidation can increase cost in some regions
- Can reduce public input if some ACs are eliminated, especially in rural areas
- Not recommending a certain number of ACs—review on case-by-case basis
- Consider how resources are used: similar patterns of use or use of same fish/game resource, and consider cost effectiveness (e.g., travel)

The group discussed use of an “instant run-off ballot” method of voting for members and whether it would help include minority views on committees.

General Discussion on Teleconferencing

- Teleconferencing supplements, does not replace, face-to-face meetings
- Difficulties with technology, inconsistent quality of phone calls in some areas
- Discussion of new issues does not work well on teleconference
- Videoconferencing could be looked at in future to expand interaction
- Example of YRDFA teleconferences was given; keeps people informed on management

Appendix 6. Alternatives provided to Task Force for Discussion Purposes

These were options developed by staff for the purpose of encouraging the exploration of advantages and disadvantages to various structural changes to the existing system. These were not developed by the task force. The task force reviewed these alternatives during the April 29, 2002 meeting made recommendations which refer to these. They are included here for background.

Alternative A – Maintain status quo. This alternative would continue the existing system of 81 local fish and game advisory committees. Specific committees could continued to be added, modified, or combined on a case-by case basis in response to specific proposals.

Alternative B – Add regional advisory committees to existing advisory committee system. This alternative would add state regional committees to the existing local advisory committee system. State regional councils are already provided for in regulation but have not been funded or activated since the early 1990s when the state lost ANILCA compliance. Variations could include use of either six regional committees, as was used in the 1980s, ten regional committees to mirror the ten regions currently used in the federal regulatory system, or more such as those identified in Alternatives D and E.

Alternative C – Switch to regional advisory committees. This alternative would replace the local advisory council system with a smaller number of regional advisory committees. Variations could include use of either six regional councils, as was used in the 1980s, or ten regional councils to mirror the ten regional areas as currently used in the federal regulatory system.

Alternative D – Switch to regional advisory committees with fish or wildlife specialty. This alternative would replace the local advisory council system with a regional advisory committees each dedicated to either fishing topics or wildlife use topics for each of 6 or 10 regions.

Alternative E – Switch to regional advisory committees for each regional management area. This alternative would establish regional advisory committees for each of the broad regional management areas as used by the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game. Regional *fishery* committees: Southeast, Yakutat, PWS/Copper River, Arctic, Yukon River, Kuskokwim River, Bristol Bay, Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian, Cook Inlet (Upper and Lower or just one?), Kodiak, Chignik, Crab/shellfish, Statewide. Regional *game* committees: Southeast (Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5), Arctic and Western (units 18, 22, 23, 26A), BB (Units 9A, 9B, 9C, 9E, 17), Kodiak/Aleutians (Units 8, 9D, 10), Southcentral (Units 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16), Eastern Interior (Units 12, 20, 25, 26B, 26C), Western Interior (Units 19, 21, 24), Statewide. This would result in 13 fishery-based advisory committees and 8 game-based advisory committees for a total of 21. Note the possible inclusion or exclusion of committees for the “statewide” sections of the regulations

Alternative F – Retain existing local advisory committee system but reduce or combine committees on a case-by-case basis. This alternative would continue the existing system of 81 local fish and game advisory committees but would reduce

the number of committees by combining similarly situated committees and elimination of inactive committees. Also, the Joint Board could change the number of seats, community representation, and specify user group representation on specific committees on a case-by case basis to address identified problems.

Alternative G – Establish charter committees for specific management issues or for specific geographic areas In this alternative, the boards could establish new committees on a charter basis for specific management issues. These charter committees could also be for a specific geographic area. The charter would provide basic guidelines such as fair and open public meetings but leave specifics on committee structure, membership, meeting planning, and travel coordination to the chartering group. These charter committees could be funded through ADF&G within budget constraints on a cooperative agreement basis with periodic review. A model for this is the North Slope Borough's fish and game committee, which operates independently of ADF&G. They are self funded however. Existing local advisory committees may choose to operate independently under a charter arrangement. For example, local village councils could operate the Yukon Flats advisory committee under a charter agreement. Native non-profit corporations would likely be interested in other areas as well. Committees could also be chartered to represent non-consumptive uses.