

Hello Members of the Alaska Board of Fish,

I am sending a copy of 5AAC 96.625 Joint Board Petition Policy

In (d) it states : The public has come to rely on this regular participatory process as the basis for changing fish and game regulations. Commercial fishermen, processors, guides, trappers, hunters, sport fishermen, subsistence fishermen, and others plan business and recreational ventures around the outcome of these public meetings.

## 5 AAC 96.625. JOINT BOARD PETITION POLICY

*(effective September 19, 2019)*

(a) Under AS 44.62.220, an interested person may petition an agency, including the Boards of Fisheries and Game, for the adoption, amendment, or repeal of a regulation. The petition must clearly and concisely state the substance or nature of the regulation, amendment, or repeal requested, the reason for the request, and must reference the agency's authority to take the requested action. Within 30 days after receiving a petition, a board will deny the petition in writing, or schedule the matter for public hearing under AS 44.62.190--44.62.210, which require that any agency publish legal notice describing the proposed change and solicit comment for 30 days before taking action. AS 44.62.230 also provides that if the petition is for an emergency regulation, and the agency finds that an emergency exists, the agency may submit the regulation to the lieutenant governor immediately after making the finding of emergency and putting the regulation into proper form.

(b) Fish and game regulations are adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Board of Game. Annually, the boards solicit regulation changes through regulatory proposals described in 5 AAC 96.610(a). Several hundred proposed changes are usually submitted to each board annually. The Department of Fish and Game compiles the proposals and mails them to all fish and game advisory committees, and to other interested individuals.

(c) Copies of all proposals are available at local Department of Fish and Game offices and on the boards support section's website. When the proposal books are available, the advisory committees and hold public meetings in the communities and regions they represent, to gather local comment on the proposed changes. Finally, the boards convene public meetings, which have lasted as long as six weeks, taking department staff reports, public comment, and advisory committee reports before voting in public session on the proposed changes.

(d) The public has come to rely on this regularly scheduled participatory process as the basis for changing fish and game regulations. Commercial fishermen, processors, guides, trappers, hunters, sport fishermen, subsistence fishermen, and others plan business and recreational ventures around the outcome of these public meetings.

(e) The Boards of Fisheries and Game recognize the importance of public participation in developing management regulations, and recognize that public reliance on the predictability of the normal board process is a critical element in regulatory changes. The boards find that petitions received under (a) of this section can detrimentally circumvent this process and that an adequate and more reasonable opportunity for public participation is provided by regularly scheduled meetings.

(f) The Boards of Fisheries and Game recognize that in rare instances circumstances may require regulatory changes outside the process described in (b) - (d) of this section. It is the policy of the boards that a petition will be denied and not scheduled for hearing unless the problem outlined in the petition justifies a finding of emergency under AS 44.62.250(a). In accordance with state policy expressed in AS 44.62.270, emergencies will be held to a minimum and are rarely found to exist. Except for petitions dealing with subsistence hunting or subsistence fishing, an emergency is an unforeseen, unexpected event that either threatens a fish or game resource, or an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay would be significantly burdensome to the petitioners because the resource would be unavailable in the future. Petitions dealing with subsistence hunting or subsistence fishing will be evaluated under these criteria:

(1) the petition must address a fish or game population that has not previously been considered by the board for identification as a population customarily and traditionally used for subsistence under AS 16.05.258; or

(2) the circumstances of the petition otherwise must require expedited consideration by the board, such as where the proposal is the result of a court decision or is the subject of federal administrative action that might impact state game management authority.

(Eff. 9/22/85, Register 95; am 8/17/91, Register 119; readopt 5/15/93, Register 126; am 2/23/2014, Register 209; am 9/19/2019, Register 231)

Authority: AS 16.05.251, AS 16.05.255, AS 16.05.258

With the cancellation of the 2023 Upper Cook Inlet meeting, and postponed for a year, due process was denied. Regulations that could have been addressed and possible changes made to King Salmon Management Plans did not happen. This was definitely

unforeseen in 2020 when an OEG of 15,000-30,000 Late Run King Salmon was set for the Kenai River

OEG's and possibly SEG's might have changed for the Kenai River Late Run King Salmon, thus affecting commercial fishing in 2023.

ADFG closed the Sport Fishery for King Salmon in the Kenai River for 2023, thus the ESSN fishery was closed for the season.

This occurred preseason. As stated in RC 4 this emergency petition is asking the Board of Fish to give ADFG clear guidance to fish a limited set net fishery for 2 days in each of the Kenai and Kasilof sections, based on sockeye abundance on the beaches. After the 33% quartile (July 20), an in-season projection would be made. If the Late Run King Salmon OEG projection could not be made, the ESSN fishery would close. If the OEG was made later, the ESSN fishery would open.

This petition, if passed, would sunset 12/31/2023.

Thank you,  
Gary Hollier