Alaska Board of Game

Meeting Workbook



Work Session Anchorage, Alaska October 11, 2013

Alaska Board of Game October 11, 2013 Work Session Anchorage, Alaska

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ALASKA BOARD OF GAME October 11, 2013 Work Session Downtown Hilton Hotel Anchorage, Alaska

~<u>TENTATIVE AGENDA</u>~

NOTE: This Tentative Agenda is <u>subject to change</u> throughout the course of the meeting. The board will <u>not</u> take oral testimony or written comments at the meeting.

Friday, October 11, 9:00 am

- 1. Call to Order; Introductions of Board Members and Staff
- 2. Reports (See attached list)
- 3. Board of Game Schedule
 - a. Three Year Cycle
 - b. Long Term Cycle
 - c. Approval of the 2014/2015 Board Meeting Schedule
- 4. Joint Board Topics
 - a. Guidelines for Board Generated Proposal
 - b. Advisory Committee Comment Template
 - c. Changes to the Proposal Form
 - d. Other Issues
- 5. Miscellaneous business, if any
- 6. ADJOURN

Special Notes

- A. This agenda is TENTATIVE and subject to change during the meeting.
- B. Meeting materials are available at: <u>www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo</u> or by contacting the ADF&G Boards Support Office in Juneau at 465-4110.
- C. A live audio stream for the meeting is intended to be available at: <u>www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov</u>
- D. The State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, and/or special modifications to participate in this hearing and public meeting should contact 465-4110 no later than October 4, 2013 to make any necessary arrangements.

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME October 11, 2013 Work Session Tentative List of Oral Reports

- 1. Agency Reports
- 2. Federal Agencies Superseding Board Regulations Doug Vincent-Lang, ADF&G
- 3. Federal Agency Reports
- 4. Federal Subsistence Memorandum of Understanding Jennifer Yuhas & Doug Vincent-Lang ADF&G
- 5. Big Game Commercial Services Board Update Bob Mumford, Board Member
- 6. Guide Client Agreement Doug Vincent-Lang, ADF&G
- 7. Allowing the Take of Predators in Guide Use Areas within Intensive Management Areas Doug Vincent-Lang & Natalie Weber, ADF&G
- 8. Sheep Management Tony Kavolak and Mark Burch, ADF&G
- 9. Unit 13 Moose and Caribou Hunting Update Bruce Dale & Lisa Olson, ADF&G
- 10. Hunter Recruitment and Retention Tony Kavalok, ADF&G
- 11. Permit Application Process Natalie Weber, ADF&G
- 12. Disabled Hunter Status Natalie Weber, ADF&G
- 13. Waterfowl Regulations Dan Rosenberg, ADF&G
- 14. Boards Support Section Budget Update Glenn Haight, ADF&G

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

The Alaska Board of Game (board) will conduct a one-day meeting on Friday, October 11, 2013, at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel located at 500 West 3rd Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska, beginning at 9:00 am. No regulatory action will be taken at the meeting. Agenda topics include: approval of the 2014/2015 meeting schedule, review of the board long term schedule, informational reports provided by the Department of Fish and Game, and administrative issues that may come before the board.

The meeting is open to the public but no oral public testimony will be taken. Written comments may be mailed to: Boards Support Section, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526, or faxed to: (907) 465-6094. The deadline for submitting written comments has been extended to <u>October 3, 2013</u>.

The audio of the meeting is intended to be streamed live on the website at: <u>www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.main</u>. The agenda, a list of reports, and any other meeting documents will be available prior to the meeting on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Board of Game, meeting information webpage at: <u>www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo</u>

If you are a person with a disability who needs a special accommodation in order to participate in any of these public meetings, please contact the Boards Support Section at (907) 465-4110 no later than Friday, October 4, 2013 to make any necessary arrangements.

For more information about the meeting, contact Kristy Tibbles at 465-4110.

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Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director ADF&G, Boards Support Section

September 24, 2013 Date

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

MEMBER LIST

NAME AND ADDRESS	TERM EXPIRES
Ted Spraker , Chairman 49230 Victoria Ave. Soldotna, AK 99669	6/30/2014
Nathan Turner, Vice-Chairman P.O. Box 646 Nenana, AK 99760	6/30/2016
Stosh (Stanley) Hoffman P.O. Box 2374 Bethel, AK 99559	6/30/2014
Teresa Sager Albaugh HC 72 Box 835 Tok, AK 99780	6/30/2015
Nick Yurko 9412 Long Run Drive Juneau, AK 99801	6/30/2014
Pete Probasco P.O. Box 861 Palmer, AK 99645	6/30/2016
Bob (Robert) Mumford 13391 Baywind Drive Anchorage, AK 99516	6/30/2015

Alaska Board of Game members may also be reached at:

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME Boards Support Section P.O. Box 115526 Juneau, AK 99811-5526 (907) 465-4110 PHONE (907) 465-6094 FAX Boards Support Section website: <u>www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/</u> Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director, Alaska Board of Game e-mail: <u>kristy.tibbles@alaska.gov</u>

Department of Fish and Game

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BOARDS SUPPORT SECTION Headquarters Office

> 1255 West 8th Street P.O. Box 115526 Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526 Main: 907.465.4110 Fax: 907.465.6094

DATE: October 4, 2013

- TO: Board of Game Members
- FM: Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director Board of Game
- RE: Discussion of the 2014/2015 Meeting Dates

The Board of Game will be asked to review and approve the proposed schedule for the **2014/2015** meetings at the October 11, 2013 meeting. The board will also be asked to decide the locations for the meetings.

The following considerations were used in drafting the meeting schedules. These considerations have been used in years past and are listed below for board members' benefit:

- The meeting dates are based on the duration of past meetings needed to address that region's issues.
- The options begin on Friday start dates to accommodate the public for providing testimony over the weekend which is traditional practice by the board.
- The options take into consideration the timing for the needs of the Department of Fish and Game such as surveying/data collecting, conflicts with hunting seasons, the legal review process for new regulations, and the publishing of the regulations handbook (handy dandy).
- The schedule takes into consideration the meeting dates for the Board of Fisheries.
- Meetings are scheduled to be approximately four weeks apart.

Recently, the board changed the proposal process by issuing a single Call for Proposals rather than multiple calls which allows for publishing a single proposal book during the summer/early fall, instead of multiple books during the meeting cycle. The Board of Game also added an extra meeting to the schedule by dividing the Southcentral Region meeting into two region meetings: Central/Southwest Region and Southcentral Region. These changes provided the board an opportunity to reevaluate its' schedule. Beginning with the 2012/2013 meeting cycle, the board approved a meeting schedule so that meetings occur in January, February, and March. The proposed 2014/2015 meeting dates follow the same schedule.

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Alaska Board of Game Proposed Meeting Dates & Locations 2014/2015 Cycle

Proposed Dates	Торіс	Location
January 8, 2015	Work Session	
Past Meetings:		
October 11, 2013		Anchorage
January 10, 2013		Sitka
January 9-13, 2014 (5 days)	Southeast Region	
Past Meetings:		
January 10 – 13, 2014 (5 days)		Sitka
November 5 – 9, 2010 (5 days)		Ketchikan
November 7 – 11, 2011 (5 days)		Juneau
November 10 -15, 2006 (6 days)		Wrangell
February 13–20, 2015 (10 days)	Central\Southwest Region	· · · ·
Past Meetings:	-	
February 8 – 15, 2013 (8 days)		Wasilla
March 4 – 10, & 25, 2011 (8 days)		Wasilla
March 13 – 17, 2015 (5 days)	Southcentral Region	
Past Meetings:		
March 15 – 19, 2013 (5 days)		Kenai
March 26 – 30, 2011 (5 days)		Anchorage

Agenda Change Request Deadline: 60 days prior to each meeting.

The proposal deadline for the 2014/2015 meeting cycle will be May 1, 2014 at 5:00 pm. The Call for Proposals will be open to regulations for the Southeast, Central/Southwest, and Southcentral Regions.

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME TENTATIVE MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS 2013/2014 MEETING CYCLE

Arctic/Western and Interior Regions and Statewide Regulations

Meeting Dates	Topics	Location	Comment Deadline
October 11, 2013 [1 day]	Work Session	Anchorage Hilton	Sept. 27, 2013
January 10-13, 2014 [4 days]	Arctic/Western Region	Kotzebue National Guard Armory	Dec. 27, 2013 [ACR Deadline: Nov. 11, 2013]
February 14-23, 2014 [10 days]	Interior Region	Fairbanks Alpine Lodge	Jan. 31, 2014 [ACR Deadline: Dec. 16, 2013]
March 14-18, 2014 [5 days]	Statewide Regulations Cycle A Schedule	Anchorage Dena'ina Center	Feb. 28, 2014 [ACR Deadline: Jan. 13, 2014]

Total Meeting Days: 20 Agenda Change Request Deadline: <u>60 days</u> prior to each meeting.

Proposal deadline for 2014/2015 cycle is Thursday, May 1, 2014.

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME MEETING CYCLE

The board regulations meeting cycle generally occurs from January through March. The board considers changes to regulations on a region-based schedule. Each region will be discussed on a two-year cycle. When the regional area is before the board, the following regulations are open for consideration within that region:

- Trapping Seasons and Bag Limits -- All species
- General and Subsistence Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits -- All species (Except antlerless moose hunts as noted below)
- Wolf Control Implementation Plans
- Bag Limit for Brown Bears
- Areas Closed To Hunting
- Closures and Restrictions in State Game Refuges
- Management Areas; Controlled Use Areas, and Areas Closed To Trapping

Regulations specific to an area (e.g., Permits for Access to Round Island) will be taken up when the board is scheduled to consider regulations in that Region. Proposals for changes to regulations pertaining to reauthorization of all antlerless moose hunts, 5 AAC 85.045, and all brown bear tag fee exemptions, 5 AAC 92.015, will be taken up annually.

The Board of Game does not consider proposals to statewide regulations in every meeting cycle. Instead, the Board of Game reviews statewide regulations on a four-year cycle, distributed between winter meetings, every other year. The list of statewide regulations and the associated "Cycle A" and "Cycle B" meeting schedule is set forth on the next page of this publication.

<u>The proposal deadline is May 1 every year</u>. If May 1 falls on a weekend, the proposal deadline is the Friday preceding that weekend.

<u>REGION:</u> <u>MEETING CYCLE:</u>

Southeast Region (Region I) Game Management Units: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	2014/2015	2016/2017	2018/2019
Southcentral Region (Region II) Game Management Units: 6, 7, 8, 14C, 15	2014/2015	2016/2017	2018/2019
Central / Southwest Region (Region IV) Game Management Units: 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16, 17	2014/2015	2016/2017	2018/2019
Arctic /Western Region (Region V) Game Management Units: 18, 22, 23, 26A	2013/2014	2015/2016	2017/2018
Interior Region (Region III) Game Management Units: 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, 26C	2013/2014	2015/2016	2017/2018

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS SCHEDULE **ALASKA BOARD OF GAME**

CYCLE "A" 2014, 2018, 2022

.250 Transfer of Musk oxen for Science and Education Purposes
.230 Feeding of Game
.220 Salvage of Game Meat, Furs, and Hides
.210 Game as Animal Food or Bait
.171 Sealing of Dall sheep horns
.170 Sealing of Marten, Lynx, Beaver, Otter, Wolf, and Wolverine
.165 Sealing of Bear Skins and Skulls
.141 Transport, Harboring, or Release of Live Muridae Rodents Prohibited
.116 Special Provisions in Predation Control Areas
.115 Control of Predation by Bears
.110 Control of Predation by Wolves
.106 Intensive Management of Identified Big Game Prey Populations
.104 Authorization for Methods and Means Disability Exemptions
.047 Permit for Using Radio Telemetry Equipment
.042 Permit to Take Foxes for Protection and Enhancement of Migratory Birds
.039 Permit for Taking Wolves Using Aircraft
.034 Permit to Take and Use Game for Cultural Purposes
.033 Permit for Science, Education, Propagative, or Public Safety Purposes
.031 Permit for Selling Skins, Skulls, and Trophies
.030 Possession of Wolf Hybrid Prohibited
.029 Permit for Possessing Live Game
.028 Aviculture Permits
.025 Permit for Exporting a Raw Skin
.020 Application of Permit Regulations and Permit Reports
.019 Taking of Big Game for Certain Religious Ceremonies
.018 Waterfowl Conservation Tag
.013 Migratory Bird Hunting Guide Services
.012 Licenses and Tags
.011 Taking of Game by Proxy
.010 Harvest Tickets and Reports
.005 Policy for Changing Board Agenda
.004 Policy for Off-Road Vehicle Use for Hunting and Transporting Game
.003 Hunter Education and Orientation Requirements
.002 Liability for Violations
.001 Application of this Chapter
5 AAC Chapter 92 Statewide Provisions:

CYCLE "B" 2016, 2020, 2024

5 AAC Chapter 92 Statewide Provisions:

- .009 Obstruction or Hindrance of Lawful Hunting or Trapping
- .035 Permit for Temporary Commercial Use of Live Game
- .036 Permit for taking a Child Hunting
- .037 Permit for Falconry
- .040 Permit for Taking of Furbearers with Game Meat
- .041 Permit to Take Beavers to Control Damage to Property
- .043 Permit for Capturing Wild Furbearers for Fur Farming
- .044 Permit for Hunting Black Bear with the Use of Bait or Scent Lures
- .049 Permits, Permit Procedures, and Permit Conditions
- 050 Required Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures
- .051 Discretionary Trapping Permit Conditions & Procedures 052 Discretionary Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures
- 057 Special Provisions for Dall Sheep and Mountain Goat Drawing Permit Hunts
- 062 Priority for Subsistence Hunting; Tier II Permits
- .068 Permit Conditions for Hunting Black Bear with Dogs
- 069 Special Provisions for Moose Drawing Permit Hunts
- .070 Tier II Subsistence Hunting Permit Point System
- .075 Lawful Methods of Taking Game
- 085 Unlawful Methods of Taking Big Game; Exceptions 080 Unlawful Methods of Taking Game; Exceptions
- 090 Unlawful Methods of Taking Fur Animals
- 095 Unlawful Methods of Taking Furbearers; Exceptions
- .100 Unlawful Methods of Hunting Waterfowl, Snipe, Crane
- 130 Restriction to Bag Limit
- .135 Transfer of Possession
- .140 Unlawful Possession or Transportation of Game
- .150 Evidence of Sex and Identity
- .160 Marked or Tagged Game
- .200 Purchase and Sale of Game
- .260 Taking Cub Bears & Female Bears with Cubs Prohibited
- .400 Emergency Taking of Game
- .410 Taking of Game in Defense of Life or Property
- .420 Taking Nuisance Wildlife

- .990 Definitions

REGION I

92.008 Harvest guideline levels

92.064 Permit for access to the Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary

92.072 Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions

92.108 Identified big game prey populations and objectives

92.132 Bag limit for brown bears

92.510 Areas closed to hunting

92.520 Closures and restrictions in state game refuges

92.530 Management areas

92.540 Controlled use areas

92.550 Areas Closed to Trapping

REGION II

92.015 Brown bear tag fee exemptions
92.061 Special provisions for Unit 8 brown bear permit hunts
92.065 Permit for access to McNeil River State Game Sanctuary
92.066 Permit for access to Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary
92.071 Tier I subsistence permits.
92.072 Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions
92.108 Identified big game prey populations and objectives
92.125 Wolf predation control implementation plan
92.132 Bag limit for brown bears
92.132 Bag limit for brown bears

92.255 Reduction of the Adak caribou herd

92.510 Areas closed to hunting 92.520 Closures and restrictions in state game refuges

92.530 Management areas

92.540 Controlled use areas

92.550 Areas Closed to Trapping

REGION V

92.008 Harvest guideline levels
92.016 Muskoxen Tag Fees
92.016 Muskoxen Tag Fees
92.046 Permits for taking incidental or stranded musk oxen
92.072 Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions
92.108 Identified big game prey populations and objectives
92.125 Wolf predation control implementation plan
92.132 Bag limit for brown bears
92.510 Areas closed to hunting
92.520 Closures and restrictions in state game refuges
92.530 Management areas
92.540 Controlled use areas

REGION III

92.550 Areas Closed to Trapping

92.015 Brown bear tag fee exemptions
92.017 Koyukon potlatch ceremony
92.017 Koyukon potlatch ceremony
92.046 Permits for taking incidental or stranded musk oxen
92.053 Permit to take moose for Nuchalawoyya Potlatch
92.055 Stickdance permit
92.057 Special provisions for Tok Management area Dall sheep
92.072 Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions
92.074 Community harvest hunt areas

92.074 Community harvest hunt areas
92.108 Identified big game prey populations and objectives
92.125 Wolf predation control implementation plan
92.132 Bag limit for brown bears
92.130 Areas closed to hunting
92.520 Closures and restrictions in state game refuges
92.530 Management areas
92.550 Areas Closed to Trapping

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ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

CRITERIA FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BOARD-GENERATED PROPOSAL

It has been suggested that criteria need to be established to guide Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) members when deliberating on whether or not to develop a board-generated proposal. The board will consider the following criteria when deliberating the proposed development and scheduling of a board-generated proposal:

- 1. Is it in the public's best interest (e.g., access to resource, allocation concerns, consistent intent, public process)?
- 2. Is there urgency in considering the issue (e.g., potential for escapement objectives not being met or sustainability in question)?
- 3. Are current processes insufficient to bring the subject to the board's attention (e.g., reconsideration policy, normal cycle proposal submittal, ACRs, petitions)?
- 4. Will there be reasonable and adequate opportunity for public comment (e.g., how far do affected users have to travel to participate, amount of time for affected users to respond)?

Approved: January 20, 2013 Vote: 6-0 Anchorage, Alaska

Karl Johnstone, Chairman Alaska Board of Fisheries

Name of Advisory Committee Date Location of Meeting

- I. Call to Order: Time by [name of chair or acting acting for the meeting]
- II. Roll Call: Members Present: [include role here by name ie: officer; designated seat; at large member?] Members Absent: Number Needed for Quorum on AC:
- III. Approval of Agenda:
- IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: From meeting date....
- V. Fish and Game Staff Present:
- VI. Guests Present:
- VII. New Business:

This space may be used for them to take record their minutes as they wish.

	Mandatory- Please Summarize Your Proposal Comments in this Form										
BOG or BOF	Proposal Number	Carries or Fails?	# Who Support	# Who Do Not Support	Amended?	Comments/Discussion (list Pros and Cons)/Amendments to Proposal					

Old Business:

Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: _____ Minutes Approved By: _____ Date: _____

{EXAMPLE TAKEN FROM THE SOUTHWEST AC}

{The AC RECEIVES}

 PROPOSAL 16 ACTION:

 DESCRIPTION: Modify boundary description of the South Alaska Peninsula groundfish area.
 AMENDMENT:

 DISCUSSION:
 DISCUSSION:

{The AC FILLS IN}

PROPOSAL 16– *Ken Moves; Gilda 2nds* **ACTION:** Carries as Amended 4-0 **DESCRIPTION:** Modify boundary description of the South Alaska Peninsula groundfish area. **AMENDMENT:** Move the proposed district boundary line from Scotch Cap east to Cape Lutke – Create a waiting period of 72 hours for boats that want to transfer between the proposed districts – Cap harvest for the area WEST of Cape Lutke at no more than 10% of the GHL.

DISCUSSION: Mark addresses the intent/effect of the proposals. This proposal would divide the existing area in roughly half and create two separate districts with separate quotas.

Tom states we have caught cod tagged from different areas. If this went through how would the Dept. determine quota for the western part of the fishery?

Mark: The board would need to decide although it may be helpful if the AC provide specific recommendations. The Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska cod stocks are two separate cod stocks. The department opposes reallocating cod from the Bering Sea to the Gulf of Alaska.

Instead of taking Bering Sea quota could they cap the quota west of the boundary line?

Mark: This occurs in a similar fashion in Kodiak based on boat length. You could ask the board to create two separate GHL's or establish harvest caps for the two separate areas.

Tom: is there more interest now West of Scotch Cap?

Mark: As of 2007 catch has increased west of Scotch Cap. The pace of the under 60 foot federal Bering Sea fishery has increased and now some boats are moving down into the Peninsula state-waters fishery after the Bering Sea federal fishery closes.

Tom asked would a super exclusive registration stop this from happening?

Mark: No. State registration requirements do not apply to parallel or federal fisheries. Tom how would ADF&G base the cap?

Mark: That's really up to the public and board to decide. You could consider using average catch as a basis or choose a fixed percentage among other options. ADF&G is neutral and has no recommendation on how much catch should occur on either side of the line.

Tom, would anyone like to take action on this proposal?

Travis comments having a cap could be in the local fleets favor.

Tom again, if we were to cap that's where we could go to super exclusive if someone is fishing west when the cap is caught they cannot move east.

Mark if you created two separate districts within one area I don't know if there could be separate registration requirements. Susie details Nushagak example sub district for set netting.

Tom we would like to change the line from Scotch cap to Cape Lutke because it would be further from the line from Area O. False Pass AC considers King Cove AC's stance that they do not want to formally allocate additional quota for the area west of Scotch Cap.

Mark lets AC know the 10 year average catch west of the proposed Scotch Cap line is about 1.8 million lbs or about 13% of the GHL.

AC discusses what the two areas harvest caps should be. 10 year average is discussed also a fixed number or a percentage. Agree on a 10% cap to the area west of Cape Lutke and no cap to the east.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Gilda – Yes Ken – Yes Travis – Yes Tom – Yes

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES AND ALASKA BOARD OF GAME REGULATION PROPOSAL FORM PO BOX 115526, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-5526

BOARD OF FISHERI	ES REGULATIONS		BOARD OF GAM	E REGULATIONS	
☐ Fishing Area			Game Managemer	nt Unit (GMU)	
Subsistence	Personal Use		Hunting	☐ Trapping	
Sport	Commercial		Subsistence	Other	
JOINT BOARD REGU	LATIONS		Resident		
Advisory Committee	e 🔲 Regional Council	Rural	☐ Nonresident		
(address and phone nu	ions to the best of your ability. nbers will not be published). U The board will reject multiple o	se separate for	rms for each proposa		
1. Alaska Administrativ	ve Code Number 5 AAC			Regulation Book	Page No.
2. What is the problem	you would like the Board to ac	ldress?			
3. What solution do you	ı prefer? In other words, if the	Board adopted	d your solution, wha	t would the new regula	ntion say?
Submitted By: Name					
	Individual or Group				
Address		(City, State		ZIP Code
Home Phone	Work l	Phone		Email	

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES AND ALASKA BOARD OF GAME REGULATION PROPOSAL FORM PO BOX 115526, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-5526

BOARD OF FISHERIES REGULATIONS	BOARD OF GAME REGULATIONS							
Fishing Area and Fishery	Game Management Unit (GMU)							
Subsistence Personal Use	Hunting Trapping							
Sport Commercial	Subsistence Other							
JOINT BOARD REGULATIONS	Resident							
Advisory Committee	Nonresident							
Please answer all questions to the best of your ability. All answers we (address and phone numbers will not be published). Use separate for								
1. Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC	Regulation Book Page No.							
2. What is the problem you would like the Board to address?								
3. What will happen if this problem is not solved?								
4. What solution do you prefer? In other words, if the Board adopted	d your solution, what would the new regulation say?							
5. Does your proposal address improving the quality of the resource	harvested or products produced? If so, how?							
6. Solutions to difficult problems benefit some people and hurt other A. Who is likely to benefit if your solution is adopted?	s:							
B. Who is likely to suffer if your solution is adopted?								
7. List any other solutions you considered and why you rejected then	n. DO NOT WRITE HERE							

Submitted By: Name

Individual or Group

City, State

AGENDA CHANGE REQUEST FORM ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

The Board of Game (board) will accept requests to change its schedule under certain guidelines set forth in 5 AAC 92.005. The board will accept these agenda change requests (ACRs) only:

- 1) for a conservation purpose or reason; or
- 2) to correct an error in regulation; or
- 3) to correct an effect on a hunt that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.

The board will not accept an ACR that is predominantly allocative in nature in the absence of new compelling information, as determined by the board [5 AAC 92.005 (a) (2)].

Please answer all questions to the best of your ability.

1) CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD. If possible, enter the series of letters and numbers that identify the regulation to be changed. If it will be a new section, enter "5 AAC NEW."

Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC: 92.072 – "Community Subsistence Harvest hunt Area and Permit Conditions"

2) WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM. Address only one issue. State the problem clearly and concisely. The board will reject multiple or confusing issues.

The Community Subsistence Harvest (CSH) for the Copper Basin Hunt Area is not meeting the Board's intent in establishing this hunt. The regulation's current standards for participation in the CSH do not ensure that groups that apply are genuinely a "community" and are engaged in the pattern of subsistence uses described in Board of Game Findings #2006-170-BOG. Groups are issued CSH permits from as far away as Juneau, and with as little connection between group members as an Internet solicitation for hunters to join the group. Consequently, the communities that initiated establishing the Copper Basin Community Hunt are not meeting their subsistence needs for moose.

3) WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER? Or, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new or amended regulation say?

There are several options for the Board to consider, including: 1) changing the requirement from a group of 25 people to an established community of 25 or more households – a concept much more in keeping with the general accepted understanding of a "community" and consistent with studies and information about the community pattern of subsistence uses and the subsistence way of life for such communities; 2) requiring a community to commit to no less than 5 consecutive years of participation in the CSH; 3) requiring that all households participating in the CSH hunt for all wildlife (birds, small game and big game) in the CSH area and limit subsistence or personal use salmon fishing to the CSH area; 4) require communities wanting to participate in a CSH to make proposals and come before the Board to establish eligibility for the CSH; 5) eliminate the requirement that Nelchina caribou Tier I hunters may only hunt for moose in GMU 13 – this causes too much pressure on the moose population and crowds the hunting grounds; 6) other solutions that may be developed through public comments and participation and by Advisory Committees. The Board should also use the ACR to give greater direction to the Department about administering the CSH.

4) STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE CRITERIA STATED ABOVE. If one or more of the three criteria set forth above is not applicable, state that it is not.

a) for a conservation purpose or reason:

During the 2013 moose hunting season the subunit quota for GMU 13A for any bull moose for the CSH was significantly exceeded. Other subunits were closed even though the quota for these subunits had not been reached because of the excessive harvest in 13A. Most of this problem is because of the overly broad

eligibility of groups permitted in the Board's regulation and the implementation of the regulation by the Department. Even with changes in the regulation, the Department needs guidance regarding setting subunit quotas and how to manage these quotas in the event a subunit quota is exceeded. Other subunits should not be closed because the quota is exceeded for a different subunit. Doing so greatly and unfairly impacts the ability of those who depend on a subunit to meet their needs when that subunit is closed even though the quota for that subunit has not been met.

- b) to correct an error in regulation: not applicable
- c) to correct an effect on a hunt that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted:

The Board expressed its confidence when adopting the Copper Basin community subsistence harvest hunt that the Alaska hunting public would not try to undermine the CSH or take unfair advantage of the hunt. Many hunters have met this expectation. Too many others, however, are exploiting the system to either kill the hunt administratively and by crowding the hunting grounds and taking all the harvest. Others simply view the CSH as an easy way to exploit the system to get more hunting opportunity without having to change the way they have always hunted except for issuing an invitation to join a group, even through the internet, filing a short report requiring no substance, and by holding one barbeque. Altha also had faith that the CSH could work under what the Board passed in 2010-11. It is now very clear that it is not working for Ahtna, other genuine communities with a real and meaningful pattern of customary and traditional community-based subsistence uses, the Departments of Wildlife and Subsistence that must try and administer this CSH, or other local hunters within the Copper Basin Community Hunt areas who are seeing their hunting grounds overrun and their subsistence opportunity greatly diminished by the flood of hunters gaming the CSH regulations and the Department's implementation to get a leg up. The Board can let those whose intent it is to crash and destroy the CSH prevail through continued manipulation and loopholing of the current regulation and its implementation. Or the Board can take this opportunity to make some changes that are consistent with its original intent, and tighten up the regulation and the Department's implementation - and take another step towards advancing meaningful implementation of the state subsistence law, and reasonable opportunity, in the Copper Basin.

5) WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE? The problems described above will get worse, perhaps much worse. The groups participating in the CSH for moose almost doubled for the 2013 season to 45 groups representing over 2000 hunters, far too many to allow for effective administration of the harvest and to allow for those who truly depend upon this community hunting opportunity to meet their needs. 6) STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE. The ACR does not ask to change the seasons, quotas or bag limits for the Copper Basin CSH.

7) IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE. Not applicable

8) STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR. (e.g., hunter, guide, subsistence user, trapper, etc.)

Ahtna was the original sponsor for the Copper Basin CSH and is a current participant and CSH permit holder.

9) STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF GAME MEETING.

Some of the changes suggested in the ACR for 5 AAC 92.072 have been previously proposed, others are new or modified. However, these are only suggestions about necessary reforms. Other solutions may be developed through the Board process as the ACR is formally addressed. The ACR can also be used to provide greater direction to the Department for administering the application and reporting process and developing and implementing subunit quotas.

Submitted by:

NAME <u>Ahtna Customa</u> Individual or Grou	ry and Traditional Use Committee	<u>_</u>
P.O. Box 649	Glennallen, AK	99588
Address	City, State	Zip
	(907) 822-3476	gstickwan@ahtna-inc.com
Home Phone	Work Phone	Email
		1

SIGNATURE: Boy Eum Champer Phone GT DATE: 10/3/13

Note: Addresses and telephone numbers will not be published.

Ahtna, Incorporated

October 3, 2013

Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game Boards Support Section P.O. Box 115526 Juneau, AK., 99811-5526

Dear Ms. Tibbles:

Ahtna Tene Nene' Customary & Traditional Use Committee is hereby submitting comments to the Alaska Board of Game Work Session. Our comments are directed to necessary reforms it the Copper Basin Community Subsistence Hunt. Thank you.

<u>Ahtna Tene Nene's Comments Related to the Copper Basin</u> <u>Community Subsistence Hunt</u>

Alaska Board of Game Work Session October 11, 2013

The Copper Basin Community Subsistence Hunt (CSH), as currently being implemented, is far from what the BOG intended. It is in serious need of reform.

An Agenda Change Request (ACR) is attached to these comments. Ahtna urges the Board to accept the ACR and to set a date for a special meeting to be held as soon as possible so that regulatory changes for the CSH adopted at the meeting can come into effect in time for the 2014-15 hunting season. If the Board chooses not the schedule a special meeting, the ACR should be adopted for the next meeting and actions should be taken to allow changes to be implemented for the 2014 season.

After accepting and scheduling the ACR, notice should be provided to the public, and specifically to all groups that participated in the CSH for the 2013-14 hunt, that the Board may be making changes to the hunt. The deadline for CSH group applications should be postponed until after the Board meets on the ACR. All households of groups that participated in this year's CSH should be allowed to submit applications for a 2014-15 Nelchina caribou household Tier I permit in case they decide not to participate in the CSH under new regulations the Board may adopt pursuant to the ACR. If households receiving a Tier I permit decide to participate in the CSH, they can simple return the Household Tier I permit and obtain harvest tickets through the CSH. In this way, no one

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BSFA

is disadvantaged by changes the Board may make for next year's hunt – they have the option of hunting under the household tier I permit or the CSH as it may be revised.

The Board needs to address how the Department is implementing the CSH application and reporting process. The Board also needs to consider amending the CSH regulations to better define eligible communities. The number of groups that have applied to participate in the moose CSH has grown far beyond expectations, and there is good reason to believe that many of these groups are not engaging in the communitybased pattern of subsistence uses upon which the Copper Basin CSH is based. Forty-five groups, representing 2069 individuals, were issued CSH permits for 2013 season moose hunt. Twenty-seven groups, representing 672 individuals, were issued CSH permits for the Nelchina caribou subsistence hunt.

Groups that ADF&G deemed eligible to participate in the community hunt includes groups from as far away as Juneau. The vast majority of groups were not located within, or even close, to the Copper Basin CSH area. How is it possible for hunters from as far away as Juneau to have the intimate relationship with the area and its wildlife resources that the Board's 2006 Findings - #2006-170-BOG –recognize as part of the community-based subsistence use pattern and the subsistence way of life? The simple answer is that it is highly unlikely that these groups can demonstrate this kind of relationship.

The current administrative system for CSH applications and reports allows the CSH process to be abused and "gamed" by those who either want to unfairly expand their hunting opportunity or want to flood and thereby crash the CSH. Changes are necessary both in the regulations and the administrative process for implementing the CSH regulations. The Board should accept the ACR submitted by Ahtna and work on a package of regulatory changes and administrative directions that will bring the hunt back to want was intended.

Ahtna has requested on several occasions that the Board require communities that want to participate in a community hunt to come before the Board and establish first that they are a "community" – not just a bunch of loosely affiliated individuals brought together to slide into eligibility for the CSH. And second, that the community has established a pattern of use community-based subsistence uses that conforms to the pattern the Board has identified for the community hunt area.

This may seem like an overwhelming task for the Board, but it could very well turn out that few, if any, communities would actually make a proposal to join a community hunt. No other community other than Ahtna has made a proposal for community hunt since the CSH regulation, 5 AAC 92.072 was amended in 2010-11 to provide for hunts like that established for the Copper Basin Community hunt area. It is not asking too much of a genuine community that really wants to engage in a pattern of community based subsistence uses to appear before the Board to establish a community hunt and hunt area, or to demonstrate the community's eligibility to join a CSH already established for an area. And chances are that the Board's work-load will not significantly increase with this kind of requirement, especially after the process is in place for a few years.

The Board needs to provide direction to the Department on how to set and administer subunit quotas. The CSH moose hunt for any bulls was closed by Emergency Order 5 days after it opened for all of GMU's 13 and 11 because the sub-unit quota for 13A – set at 16 any bulls – was far exceed with a harvest of 41 reported by August 15. Exceeding the 13A quota was not surprising since Unit 13A is the closest to Anchorage and the Mat-Su where the vast majority of groups are from. The result of exceeding the quota in 13A was that the other GMU subunits that Ahtna depends upon for moose harvests were closed even though the quotas in these units were not met. The Department's rationale for closing subunits where the quota was not met was to ensure that the total harvest of any bulls would not exceed the 100 allocated by regulation for the CSH.

This issue must be addressed. Perhaps the quota for 13A needs to be zero for a few years given the excessive harvest and the pressure of that hunt. Perhaps the opening for that subunit needs to be a day and then another day after the harvest is reported. In any event, the Department should not be allowed to close a distant subunit because the harvest in another subunit is exceeded. This favors CSH groups located close to 13A at the expense of others located in different subunits.

The household Tier I hunt for Nelchina caribou should be revised to eliminate the requirement that Tier I hunters may only hunt for moose in GMU 13. This restriction on Tier I household caribou hunters has had no demonstrable impact on the number of applicants for Tier I Nelchina permits. If the Board wants to ensure that those who apply for Nelchina permits are truly engaged in subsistence uses, there are other more effective ways. Ahtna is prepared to discuss and develop these with the Board and the public as soon as given the opportunity. The current system goes less than part way in trying to verify an applicant's subsistence use of caribou by requiring that Tier I permit holders must hunt moose in GMU 13. This halfway measure has perhaps unintended effect of pushing a large number of moose hunters into GMU 13 who would not otherwise hunt for moose in that area. The impact has fallen on those who genuinely engage in subsistence uses of the GMU 13 moose population - they do not have the opportunity necessary to meet subsistence uses. If this restriction on moose hunting for Nelchina Tier I permit holders were eliminated, it would also likely reduce the number of CSH moose permits. There is no downside currently for a Tier I Nelchina hunter - they have to hunt for moose in GMU 13 so why not game the system and get in on the CSH moose hunt.

Other suggestions for administering the CSH:

1. The Copper Basin Community Harvest Participant Applications for moose and caribou should include a box for an email address of Head of Household. It should have a box for cell phone numbers as well as landline phone numbers.

2. CSH applications should also do away with signatures for every household member. The head of household' signature is sufficient and should be the only signature needed.

3. 2014-2015 Copper Basin Community Harvest Participant Application should not include a requirement for hunting license to be on m/c CSH applications nor have a submittal deadline of December 16, 2013 to Alaska Department of Fish & Game Office.

4. The ADF&G Office in Glennallen should be the main office in taking Individual applications for moose and caribou, not the Anchorage ADF&G branch office.

5. If a Group's Coordinator's annual reports are incomplete or insufficient, that group and all members of that group should be excluded from participating in the next year's community hunt. There should be no exceptions to this rule.

6. There must be well developed, objective standards for annual coordinator reports that should verify that every group is genuinely a community, and that the community is meaningfully engaged in the customary and traditional use pattern established, all eight criteria, for the Copper Basin Community Hunt.

7. A full explanation and description of broad community-wide sharing of moose, caribou, fish, berries and other subsistence resources should be required in Group Coordinators' reports. Also an explanation on how the organs, head and hide are used should be thoroughly written into Report by Coordinators.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

by Jus an

Roy S. Ewan, Chair, Ahtna Customary and Traditional Use Committee