

# ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

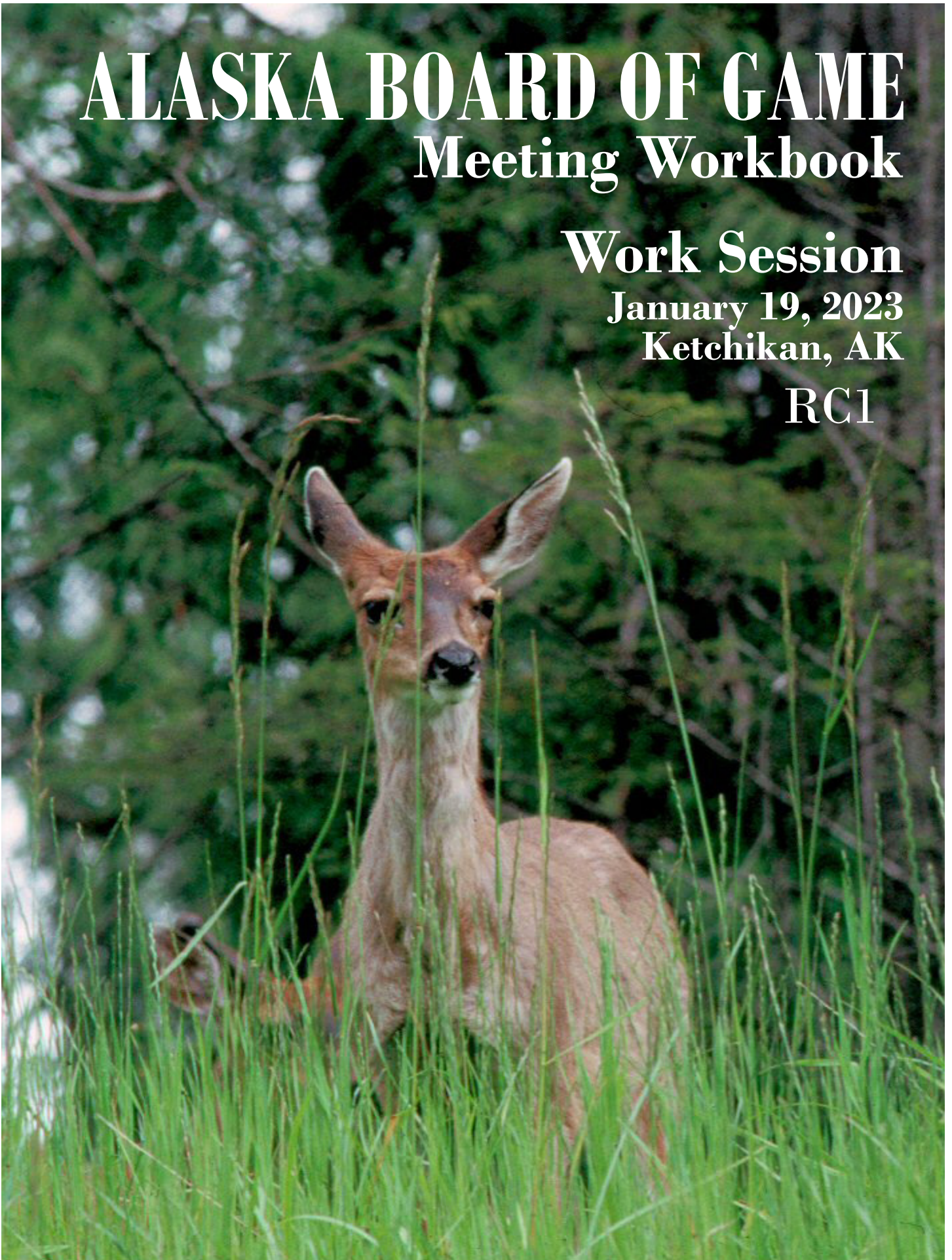
## Meeting Workbook

**Work Session**

**January 19, 2023**

**Ketchikan, AK**

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**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME**

**Work Session**

Ketchikan, AK | January 19, 2023

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## Alaska Board of Game

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

(907) 465-4110

[www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov](http://www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov)

### ALASKA BOARD OF GAME Work Session - January 19, 2023 The Landing Hotel, Ketchikan, Alaska

#### TENTATIVE AGENDA

**NOTE: This Tentative Agenda is subject to change throughout the course of the meeting. The board will not be taking oral testimony at the meeting.**

#### **Thursday, January 19, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m.**

- 1) Call to Order and Introductions of Board Members and Agency Staff
- 2) Election of Officers
- 3) State & Federal Agency Reports and Updates
- 4) Board of Game Committee Reports and Assignments
  - Big Game Commercial Services Board
  - Joint Board of Fisheries and Game Committee
- 5) Board of Game Findings
  - Renewal of the Bear Management and Conservation Policy (#2016-214-BOG)
  - Renewal of the Wolf Management Policy (#2016-215-BOG)
- 6) Approve the 2023/2024 Meeting Dates and Locations
- 7) Other Business
- 8) Executive Session

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#### **Special Notes**

1. Meeting materials are available at: [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo) or by contacting the ADF&G Boards Support Office in Juneau at 465-4110.
2. A live audio stream for the meeting is intended to be available at: [www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov](http://www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov)
3. 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 January 9, 2023 to make any necessary arrangements.



## **NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE REGULATIONS OF THE ALASKA BOARD OF GAME**

The Alaska Board of Game proposes to adopt regulation changes in Title 5 of the Alaska Administrative Code, dealing with the use and taking of game. Regulations subject to board action are in 5 AAC 84, 85, 92, 98, and 99 for the Southeast and Southcentral Regions. The board will also address additional topics for other Game Management Units and statewide provisions including statewide reauthorization of antlerless moose hunts and brown bear tag fee exemptions as described below:

The following subject matter areas to be addressed for the Southeast and Southcentral Region, Game Management Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 14C, and 15 are:

- A. TRAPPING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS for furbearers, including: Marten, beaver, coyote, otter, wolverine, wolf, and lynx.
- B. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS for all species, including: Moose, caribou, deer, black bear, brown bear, elk, goat, Dall sheep, wolf, small game including waterfowl, migratory game birds, ptarmigan, and grouse. In addition, the potential Tier I or Tier II subsistence hunting for each population; and the reauthorization of antlerless moose hunts.
- C. LICENSES, HARVEST TICKETS, HARVEST REPORTS, TAGS, FEES, AND PERMITS, including: Discretionary and required permit hunting and trapping conditions and procedures including limits on registration permits; permits for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures; and special provisions for Dall sheep, mountain goat, moose, and brown bear drawing permit hunts.
- D. METHODS AND MEANS FOR TAKING BIG GAME, GAME, FUR ANIMALS, AND FURBEARERS, including: Lawful methods of taking big game and game including restrictions for taking big game from boats, with the use of motorized vehicles, and with the use of dogs to retrieve dead or wounded game; lawful methods of taking furbearers and fur animals including requirements for trap identification, signage, breakaway mechanisms, minimum size for jaw spread; and restrictions for trapping near trails, trailheads, roads, and dwellings.
- E. POSSESSION, TRANSPORTATION AND THE USE OF GAME, including: Salvage requirements for deer; sealing requirements for moose, bear, and wolf; and evidence of sex and identity including moose antlers in Units 1 and 3.
- F. GENERAL PROVISIONS, including: Harvest guideline levels for wolves, and requirements for hunter safety education.
- G. RESTRICTED AREAS, including: Areas closed to hunting and trapping including Mitchell Bay, Petersburg Creek Drainage on Kupreanof Island, and the Petersburg Road System; proposed areas closed for trapping in the Chugach State Park, Glacier Creek drainage, near roads, trails, beaches, structures, and campgrounds; controlled use areas including the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area; management areas including Douglas Island, Anchorage, Chugach State Park, Eagle River,

and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Management Areas; and state game refuges including the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge.

- H. INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT AND PREDATOR CONTROL IMPLEMENTATION PLANS including: Prey populations and populations having a positive finding as identified big game prey populations, and the Unit 15C Intensive Management Plan.
- I. ADDITIONAL TOPICS: The board will address the following topics, as a result from action during the November 17, 2022 board meeting, or in the case of antlerless moose hunts and brown bear tag fees, must be authorized annually. For the Southeast Region meeting, January 20 – 24, 2023: Seasons and bag limits for wolf in Unit 2 (Proposal 202). For the Southcentral Region meeting, March 17-22, 2023: Annual reauthorization of antlerless moose hunts and brown bear tag fee exemptions; seasons and bag limits for sheep in Units 19C (Proposal 204) and 14C (Proposal 208); seasons and bag limits for moose including Units 14C and 19C (Proposals 200, 203, 205, 209 and 210); reauthorization of the Unit 21E Intensive Management Plan (Proposal 206); and establishing a Tier II hunt in regulation for the Nelchina caribou herd in Unit 13 (Proposal 207).

The board may make changes to the hunting and trapping regulations as may be required to ensure the subsistence priority in AS 16.05.258, including reexamining customary and traditional use findings and determinations for amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence use.

The board will also consider non-regulatory items during this meeting such as findings, letters, and delegations. Miscellaneous actions occur typically at the end of the meeting under miscellaneous business, but action may occur earlier in the meeting.

The proposed regulation changes are available on the Board of Game meeting websites at [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo) or by contacting the ADF&G Boards Support Section Office at (907) 465-4110. Additional meeting information such as the roadmap, agency reports, and advisory committee and public comments will be added to the website as they become available.

Anyone interested in, or affected by, the subject matter contained in this legal notice should make written or oral comments to have their views considered by the board. You may comment on the proposed regulation changes, including the potential costs to the private persons of complying with the proposed changes, by submitting written comments by the announced deadlines listed below, limited to no more than 100 single-sided or 50 double-sided pages.

New this cycle, Boards Support will utilize an online form at [www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov](http://www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov), that will allow comments to be uploaded as a file or entered manually. With the new online form in place, **Boards Support will no longer accept comments via email.** Written comments are encouraged to be submitted online. Additionally, comments will be accepted if sent by mail to ADF&G, Boards Support Section, at P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526 or by fax to (907) 465-6094

**Comments must include a first and last name, community of residence, and the proposal number/s for which the comments pertain.** Comments without this information will not be part of

the board meeting workbook, indexed, or cross referenced with proposals, but they will be compiled and posted on the meeting information website. Written comments that are submitted are public records and are subject to public inspection.

**The deadlines for receiving comments are January 6, 2023 for the Southeast Region meeting, and March 3, 2023 for the Southcentral Region meeting.** Once the meetings begin, comments will be accepted online as record copies, by hand delivery at the meeting, or via fax to (907) 465-6094. Comments submitted during the meetings are limited to ten single-sided or five double-sided pages in length from any one individual or group.

As a practical matter, comments submitted after the board begins deliberations on relevant proposals are likely to receive less consideration than comments submitted earlier. Additionally, groups of people submitting numerous, form-like comments containing similar language during the meeting is not advisable, and Boards staff will be unable to process and distribute the comments to the board during the meeting. These types of comments will be grouped together or summarized for the board in a single submission.

The Board of Game shall consider all factual, substantive, and relevant comments in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, Alaska Statute 44.62.210. Comments having disparaging statements or personal attacks or information, will be withheld or redacted.

The public hearing portion of the meetings is scheduled for the beginning of each meeting following staff reports and will continue until everyone who has signed up and is present when called has been given the opportunity to be heard. However, state advisory committee representatives and federal regional advisory council representatives may elect to provide testimony at a later portion of the meeting. Additional public hearings may be held throughout the meeting just before consideration and adoption of proposed changes in the regulations. The board will take oral testimony only from those who register before the cut-off time which will be announced by the board chair prior to the meeting. The length of oral testimony may be limited to three to five minutes or less for members of the public and 10 to 15 minutes or less for fish and game advisory committee and federal regional advisory council representatives. Everyone interested in, or affected by, the subject matter contained in this legal notice should make written or oral comments if they wish to have their views considered by the board.

### **Tentative Board of Game Meeting Dates & Locations**

#### **Southeast Region Meeting**

**January 20-24, 2023**

**The Landing Hotel**

**3434 Tongass Avenue**

**Ketchikan, AK 99901**

#### **Southcentral Region Meeting**

**March 17-22, 2023**

**The Soldotna Sports Center**

**538 Arena Drive**

**Soldotna, AK 99669**

Any changes to meeting location, dates or times, or rescheduling of topics or subject matter will be announced by news release and posted on the board’s website. Please watch for these announcements or call (907) 465-4110. Please carefully review the **PROPOSAL INDEX and the additional proposal listing on the above-mentioned website** for all specific proposal issues to be addressed by the board.

Anyone interested in or affected by subsistence and general hunting or trapping regulations is hereby informed that, by publishing this legal notice, the Board of Game may consider any or all of the subject areas covered by this notice. **THE BOARD IS NOT LIMITED BY THE SPECIFIC LANGUAGE OR CONFINES OF THE ACTUAL PROPOSALS THAT HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED BY THE PUBLIC OR STAFF.** Pursuant to AS 44.62.200, the board may review the full range of activities appropriate to any of the subjects listed in this notice. After the public hearing, the Board of Game may adopt these or other provisions dealing with the same subject without further notice, or amend, reject, supplement, or decide to take no action on them. The language of the final regulations may be different from that of the proposed regulations. **YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO COMMENT DURING THE TIME ALLOWED IF YOUR INTERESTS COULD BE AFFECTED.**

If you are a person with a disability who may need special accommodations in order to participate in this process, please contact ADF&G, Boards Support Section at (907) 465-4110 no later than two weeks prior to the beginning of the meeting to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

**Statutory Authority:** AS 16.05, AS 16.30.

**Statutes Being Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific:** AS 16.05.255; AS 16.05.256; AS 16.05.258; AS 16.05.270; AS 16.05.315; AS 16.05.330; AS 16.05.340; AS 16.05.346; AS 16.05.405; AS 16.05.407; AS 16.05.780; AS 16.05.783; and AS 16.30.010 – .030.

**Fiscal Information:** The proposed regulation changes are not expected to require an increased appropriation.

DATE: December 15, 2022

/ S /

Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director  
Alaska Board of Game  
465-6098



**ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS NOTICE INFORMATION  
(AS 44.62.190(g))**

1. Adopting agency: Alaska Board of Game
2. General subject of regulation: Hunting and trapping regulations and other miscellaneous provisions for the Southeast and Southcentral Regions, statewide reauthorizations for antlerless moose hunts and brown tag fees, and miscellaneous topics for other game management units.
3. Citation of regulations: 5 AAC 84, 85, 92, 98, and 99
4. Department of Law file numbers: 2022200297 and 2022200301
5. Reason for the proposed action:
  - ( ) compliance with federal law
  - ( ) compliance with new or changed state statute
  - ( ) compliance with court order
  - ( ) development of program standards
  - (X) Other: Regularly scheduled topics and other miscellaneous provisions for the Board of Game Southeast and Southcentral Region meetings. Implement, interpret, or make specific the provisions of AS 16.05-16.30.
6. Appropriation/Allocation: Natural Resources and all RDUs
7. Cost of implementation to the state agency and available funding: It is not possible to estimate costs. However, this action is not expected to require an increased appropriation.

8. The name of the contact person for the regulations:

Name: Kristy Tibbles  
 Title: Executive Director, Board of Game  
 Address: Boards Support Section  
 Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game  
 PO Box 115526  
 Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
 Telephone: (907) 465-4110  
 E-mail: kristy.tibbles@alaska.gov

9. The origin of the proposed action:

- staff of state agency
- federal government
- general public

10. Date: December 15, 2022

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_ / S /

Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director  
 Alaska Board of Game  
 (907) 465-6098





**Alaska Board of Game**

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**Alaska Board of Game Members**

<u>NAME AND ADDRESS</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Jerry Burnett, Juneau, Chair <a href="mailto:Jerry.burnett@alaska.gov">Jerry.burnett@alaska.gov</a>	6/30/2024
Stosh (Stanley) Hoffman, Bethel, Vice- <a href="mailto:Stosh.hoffman@alaska.gov">Stosh.hoffman@alaska.gov</a>	6/30/2023
Al Barrette, Fairbanks <a href="mailto:Allen.barrette@alaska.gov">Allen.barrette@alaska.gov</a>	6/30/2025
Lynn Keogh, Wasilla <a href="mailto:Lynn.keogh@alaska.gov">Lynn.keogh@alaska.gov</a>	6/30/2023
Jake Fletcher, Talkeetna <a href="mailto:Jacob.fletcher@alaska.gov">Jacob.fletcher@alaska.gov</a>	6/30/2023
James Cooney, Eagle River <a href="mailto:James.Cooney@alaska.gov">James.Cooney@alaska.gov</a>	6/30/2024
Ruth Cusack, Chugiak <a href="mailto:Ruth.Cusack@alaska.gov">Ruth.Cusack@alaska.gov</a>	6/30/2025

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Alaska Board of Game members may also be reached by contacting  
 Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director, Alaska Board of Game  
 Email: [kristy.tibbles@alaska.gov](mailto:kristy.tibbles@alaska.gov) | Phone: (907) 465-6098  
[www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov](http://www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov)



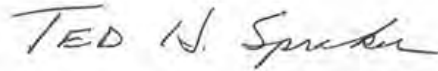
**Alaska Board of Game  
2015-212-BOG**

**Policy on Election of Officers**

At its January 2015 Work Session, the Board of Game (Board) adopted a policy setting the schedule for officer elections based upon the following:

It is the policy of the Board for officer elections to be held annually at the work session, regardless of whether or not the membership changes. In the event a work session is not scheduled, the Board shall hold the officer elections at the first regular meeting of the year. Officers will serve until the Board is able to elect new officers or unless circumstances require the officer to step down.

Adopted: January 8, 2015  
Vote: 7-0  
Juneau, Alaska



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Ted Spraker, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Game

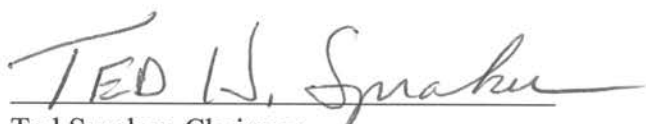
ALASKA JOINT BOARDS OF FISHERIES AND GAME

## CRITERIA FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BOARD-GENERATED PROPOSAL

It has been suggested that criteria need to be established to guide the Alaska Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game, Board of Fisheries, and Board of Game (boards) members when deliberating on whether or not to develop a board-generated proposal. The boards 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, consistent intent, public process)?
2. Is there urgency in considering the issue (e.g., potential for fish and wildlife 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)?

Findings adopted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October 2013.



Ted Spraker, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Game  
Vote: 6-0



Karl Johnstone, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Fisheries  
Vote: 7-0

**Findings of the Alaska Board of Game  
2016-215-BOG  
BOARD OF GAME WOLF MANAGEMENT POLICY  
(Policy duration: Date of finding through March 31,  
2022. This policy supersedes BOG policy 185-2011-  
BOG)**

Background and Purpose

Alaskans are proud that wolves occur throughout their historic range in Alaska. Wolves are important to people for a variety of reasons, including as furbearers, big game animals, competitors for ungulate prey animals, and as subjects of enjoyment, curiosity, and study. Wolves are important components in the natural functioning of northern ecosystems. Over time, many people have come to appreciate wolves as exciting large carnivores that contribute significantly to the quality and enjoyment of life in Alaska.

The primary purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to the public, the Department, and the Board of Game on wolf management issues as the Board and the Department implement constitutional and statutory direction and respond to public demands and expectations. The Board recognizes the need for ongoing responsible wolf management to maintain sustainable wolf populations and harvests, and to help maintain sustainable ungulate populations upon which wolves are largely dependent. The Board also recognizes that when conflicts arise between humans and wolves over the use of prey, wolf populations may have to be managed more intensively to minimize such conflicts and comply with existing statutes (e.g. AS 16.05.255). Under some conditions, it may be necessary to greatly reduce wolf numbers to aid recovery of low prey populations or to arrest undesirable reductions in prey populations. In some other areas, including national park lands, the Board also recognizes that non-consumptive uses of wolves may be considered a priority use. With proper management, non-consumptive and consumptive uses are in most cases compatible but the Board may occasionally have to restrict consumptive uses where conflicts among uses are frequent.

Wolf/Human Use Conflicts

Conflicts may exist between wolves and humans when priority human uses of prey animals cannot be reasonably satisfied. In such situations, wolf population control will be considered. Specific circumstances where conflicts arise include the following:

1. Prey populations or recruitment of calves into populations are not sufficient to support existing levels of existing wolf predation and human harvest;
2. Prey populations are declining because of predation by wolves or predation by wolves in combination with other predators;
3. Prey population objectives are not being attained; and
4. Human harvest objectives are not being attained.

Wolf Management and Wolf Control

The Board and the Department have always distinguished between wolf management and wolf control. Wolf management involves managing seasons and bag limits to provide for general public hunting and

trapping opportunities. These seasons provide for both subsistence and other traditional economic harvest opportunities and, as a side benefit, allow for participants to directly aid in mitigating conflicts between wolves and humans or improving ungulate harvest levels. In most cases trapping seasons will be kept to times when wolf hides are prime. However, some hunters are satisfied to take wolves during off-prime months including August, September, April, and May. Opportunity may be allowed for such harvest.

Wolf control is the planned, systematic regulation of wolf numbers to achieve a temporarily lowered population level using aerial shooting, hiring trappers, denning, helicopter support, or other methods which may not normally be allowed in conventional public hunting and trapping. The purpose of wolf control is not to eradicate wolf populations. Under no circumstances will wolf populations be eliminated or reduced to a level where they will not be able to recover when control efforts are terminated, and wolves will always be managed to provide for sustained yield.

In some circumstances it may be necessary to temporarily remove a high percentage (>70%) of wolf populations to allow recovery of prey populations. In other situations, it may be necessary to temporarily remove a smaller percentage of wolf populations (40-70%) to allow prey populations to increase or meet human harvest objectives. Once prey population objectives have been met, wolf populations will generally be allowed to increase to or above pre-control levels.

During the 1997 review of predator control in Alaska by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences (National Research Council 1997), only two clearly successful cases were found where increased harvests of ungulates resulted from control in the Yukon and Alaska. In the last 13 years since that review, several other programs have been successful, including programs in GMUs 9, 13, 16 and 19. In addition, there is now a thirty year history of intensive wolf and moose management and research, including 2 periods of wolf control in GMU 20A. It is clear, and well documented, that periodic wolf control has resulted in much higher harvests of moose than could be realized without control (Boertje et al., 2009). Biologists now have considerable experience successfully managing moose at relatively high density (Boertje et al., 2007). The GMU 20A case history has provided a great deal of information on what biologists can expect from intensive management programs and these programs are scientifically well founded. However, GMUs are different ecologically and new information on which areas are best suited to intensive management programs will continue to be gathered.

#### Decisions by the Board to Undertake Wolf Control

Generally, there are two situations under which the Board will consider undertaking wolf control (implementing extraordinary measures outside normal hunting and trapping). In rare cases, control may be implemented where sustained yield harvests of ungulates cannot be maintained or where extirpation of ungulate populations may be expected. More commonly, the Board may implement wolf control to comply with Alaska Statutes (AS 16.05.255) where ungulate populations are declared “depleted” or where ungulate harvests must be significantly reduced and these populations have been found by the Board to be important for “high levels of human harvest”. In most cases when wolf control is implemented, the Board will favor and promote an effective control effort by the public. Experience has shown that often a joint effort by the public and the Department has been most effective. However, the Board recognizes that there are areas and situations where the public cannot effectively or efficiently control predation and that the Department may, under its own authority and responsibilities, conduct the necessary wolf population control activities. Such situations arise in part because public effort to take wolves tends to diminish



before an adequate level of population control is achieved. In areas where wolf reduction is being conducted, ungulate and wolf surveys should be conducted as frequently as necessary to ensure that adequate data are available to make management decisions and to ensure that wolf numbers remain sufficient to maintain long-term sustained yield harvests.

#### Methods the Board Will Consider When Implementing Wolf Control Programs

- 1) Expanding public hunting and trapping into seasons when wolf hides are not prime.
- 2) Use of baiting for hunting wolves.
- 3) Allowing same-day-airborne hunting of wolves when 300 ft from aircraft.
- 4) Allowing land-and-shoot by the public.
- 5) Allowing aerial shooting by the public.
- 6) Allowing use of Department staff and helicopters for aerial shooting.
- 7) Encouraging the Department to hire or contract with wolf trappers and other agents who may use one or more of the methods listed here.
- 8) Allowing denning by Department staff and use of gas for euthanasia of sub-adults in dens.

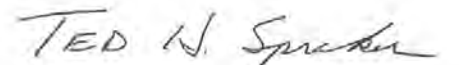
#### Terminating Wolf Control

Depending on the response to wolf control and ungulate population and harvest objectives, control may either be of short or long duration. In some cases, control may last less than five years. In other cases it may be an ongoing effort lasting many years. As ungulate harvest objectives are met, the Board will transition from a wolf control program to a wolf management program, relying to a greater extent on public hunting and trapping. In cases where ungulates respond very well and hunting is ineffective at controlling ungulate numbers for practical reasons, it may be necessary for the Board to restrict the taking of predators.

#### References Cited

- Boertje, Rodney D.; Valkenburg, Patrick, and McNay, Mark E. 1996. Increases in moose, caribou, and wolves following wolf control in Alaska. *Journal of wildlife management*. 1996; 60(3):474-489.
- Boertje, R. D., K. K. Kellie, C. T. Seaton, M. A. Keech, D. D. Young, B. W. Dale, L. G. Adams, A. R. Aderman. 2007. Ranking Alaska moose nutrition: signals to begin liberal antlerless moose harvests. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 71(5): 1494-1506.
- Boertje, R. D., M. A. Keech, D. D. Young, K. A. Kellie, and C. T. Seaton. 2009. Managing for elevated yields of moose in Alaska. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 73 (3): 314-327.
- National Research Council. 1997. *Wolves, bears, and their prey in Alaska*. National Academy Press, Wash., D.C.

Vote: 7-0  
March 17, 2016  
Fairbanks, Alaska

  
Ted Spraker, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Game



**Findings of the Alaska Board of Game  
2016-214-BOG  
BOARD OF GAME BEAR CONSERVATION, HARVEST,  
AND MANAGEMENT POLICY  
Expiration Date: March 31, 2022**

**Purposes of Policy**

1. To clarify the intent of the Board and provide guidelines for Board members and the Department of Fish and Game to consider when developing regulation proposals for the conservation and harvest of bears in Alaska, consistent with the Alaska Constitution and applicable statutes.
2. To encourage review, comment, and interagency coordination for bear management activities.

**Goals**

1. To ensure the conservation of bears throughout their historic range in Alaska.
2. To recognize the ecological and economic importance of bears while providing for their management as trophy, food, predatory, and furbearer species.
3. To recognize the importance of bears for viewing, photography, research, and non-consumptive uses in Alaska.

**Background**

The wild character of Alaska's landscapes is one of our most important natural resources and the presence of naturally abundant populations of brown/grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*) and black bears (*Ursus americanus*) throughout their historic range in Alaska is important to that wild character. Bears are important to Alaskans in many ways, including as food animals, predators of moose, caribou, deer and muskox, trophy species for nonresident and resident hunters, furbearers, problem animals in rural and urban settings, and as objects of curiosity, study, awe, and enjoyment. Bears are also important components of naturally functioning Alaskan ecosystems.

Bear viewing is a rapidly growing industry in selected areas of the state. The interest exceeds the opportunities provided now by such established and controlled sites as McNeil River, Pack Creek, Anan Creek, Wolverine Creek and Brooks Camp. In most areas, hunting and viewing are compatible uses but the Board may consider bear viewing as a priority use in some small areas, especially where access for people is good and bears are particularly concentrated. The Board and the Department will continue to discourage people from feeding bears to provide viewing opportunities.

Bears are frequently attracted to garbage or to fish and hunting camps, and can be a nuisance where they become habituated to humans and human food sources. Dealing with problem bears has been especially difficult in Anchorage, Juneau, and the Kenai Peninsula. The department has worked hard, and successfully, with municipalities to educate people and solve waste management

problems. The department's policy on human food and solid waste management (<http://www.wc.adfg.state.ak.us/index.cfm?adfg=bears.bearpolicy>) provides guidance on reducing threats to humans and the resulting need to kill problem bears.

Bears can pose a threat to humans in certain situations. Statewide, an average of about six bear encounters a year result in injuries to people. Most attacks now occur in suburban areas and do not involve hunters. About every two or three years, one of the attacks results in a human fatality. The Department and the Board will continue to educate people about ways to minimize threats to humans and the resulting need to kill problem bears.

Alaska is world-renowned as a place to hunt brown bears, grizzly bears and black bears. Alaska is the only place in the United States where brown and grizzly bears are hunted in large numbers. An average of about 1,500 brown and grizzly bears is harvested each year. The trend has been increasing, probably because of both increased demand for bear hunting and increasing bear numbers. Many of the hunters are nonresidents and their economic impact is significant to Alaska. Hunters have traditionally been the strongest advocates for bears and their habitat, providing consistent financial and political support for research and management programs.

Because bears can be both prey and predator, their relationship with people is complex. Throughout much of Interior Alaska and in some areas of Southcentral Alaska, the combined predation by bears and wolves keeps moose at relatively low levels. Bear predation on young calves has been shown to contribute significantly to keeping moose populations depressed, delayed population recovery, and low harvest by humans. People in parts of rural Alaska (e.g. Yukon Flats) have expressed considerable frustration with low moose numbers and high predation rates on moose calves in hunting areas around villages. The Board and the Department have begun to take a more active role in addressing bear management issues. Because the Constitution of the State of Alaska requires all wildlife (including predators) to be managed on a sustained yield basis, the Board of Game and the Department will manage all bear populations to maintain a sustained yield, but the Board recognizes its broad latitude to manage predators including bears to provide for higher yields of ungulates (*West vs State of Alaska*, Alaska Supreme Court, 6 August 2010).

### **Brown and grizzly bears**

Although there is no clear taxonomic difference between brown and grizzly bears, there are ecological and economic differences that are recognized by the Board and Department. In the area south of a line following the crest of the Alaska Range from the Canadian border westward to the 62<sup>nd</sup> parallel of latitude to the Bering Sea, where salmon are important in the diet of *Ursus arctos*, these bears are commonly referred to as brown bears. Brown bears grow relatively large, tend to be less predatory on ungulates, usually occur at high densities, and are highly sought after as trophy species and for viewing and photography. Bears found north of this line in Interior and Arctic Alaska; where densities are lower and which are smaller in size, more predatory on ungulates, and have fewer opportunities to feed on salmon; are referred to as grizzly bears. Brown and grizzly bears are found throughout their historic range in Alaska and may have expanded their recent historic range in the last few decades into places like the Yukon Flats and lower Koyukuk River.

Although determining precise population size is not possible with techniques currently available, most bear populations are estimated to be stable or increasing based on aerial counts, Capture-Mark-Resight techniques (including DNA), harvest data, traditional knowledge, and evidence of expansion of historic ranges. Throughout most coastal habitats where salmon are abundant, brown bears are abundant and typically exceed 175 bears/1,000 km<sup>2</sup> (450 bears/1,000 mi<sup>2</sup>). A population in Katmai National Park on the Alaska Peninsula was measured at 550 bears/1,000 km<sup>2</sup> (1,420 bears/1,000 mi<sup>2</sup>). In most interior and northern coastal areas, densities do not exceed 40 bears/1,000 km<sup>2</sup> (100 bears/1,000 mi<sup>2</sup>). Mean densities as low as 4 grizzly bears/1,000 km<sup>2</sup> (12 bears/1,000 mi<sup>2</sup>) have been measured in the eastern Brooks Range but these density estimates may be biased low and the confidence intervals around the estimates are unknown. Extrapolations from existing density estimates yielded statewide estimate of 31,700 brown bears in 1993, but the estimate is likely to be low.

Although some northern grizzly bear populations have relatively low reproductive rates, most grizzly bear and brown bear populations are capable of sustaining relatively high harvest rates comparable to moose, caribou, sheep, goats, and other big game animals that exist in the presence of natural numbers of large predators in most areas of Alaska. In addition, grizzly bears and brown bears have shown their ability to recover relatively quickly (<15 years) from federal poisoning campaigns during the 1950s and overharvest on the Alaska Peninsula during the 1960s. Biologists were previously concerned about the conservation of brown bears on the Kenai Peninsula and brown bears there were listed by the state as a “species of special concern”. The Department implemented a conservation strategy there through a stakeholder process. In recent years it has become apparent that brown bears remain healthy on the Kenai and the Board and the Department no longer believes there is a conservation concern.

In some areas of the state (e.g. Unit 13) where the Board has tried to reduce grizzly bear numbers with liberal seasons and bag limits for over 15 years, there is no evidence that current increased harvests have affected bear numbers, age structure, or population composition. In areas of Interior Alaska, where access is relatively poor, long conventional hunting seasons and bag limits of up to 2 bears per year have not been effective at reducing numbers of grizzly bears. In these areas, most biologists believe that as long as sows and cubs are protected from harvest it will not be possible to reduce populations enough to achieve increases in recruitment of moose.

### **Black bears**

American black bears (*Ursus americanus*) are generally found in forested habitats throughout the state. Like brown and grizzly bears, black bears also occupy all of their historic ranges in Alaska and are frequently sympatric with grizzly and brown bears. Because they live in forested habitats it is difficult to estimate population size or density. Where estimates have been conducted in interior Alaska, densities ranged from 67 bears/1,000 km<sup>2</sup> (175 bears/1,000 mi<sup>2</sup>) on the Yukon Flats to 289 bears/1,000 km<sup>2</sup> (750 bears/1,000 mi<sup>2</sup>) on the Kenai Peninsula. In coastal forest habitats of Southeast Alaska’s Alexander Archipelago black bear densities are considered high. A 2000 estimate for Kuiu Island was 1,560 black bears/1,000 km<sup>2</sup> (4,000 black bears/1,000 mi<sup>2</sup>).

In most areas of the state, black bears are viewed primarily as food animals, but they are also important as trophy animals, predators of moose calves, and for their fur. The Board recently classified black bears as furbearers, recognizing the desire of people to use black bear fur as trim

on clothing, to enhance the value of black bears, and to enable the Board and the Department to use foot-snares in bear management programs. The classification of black bears as a furbearer has legalized the sale of some black bear hides and parts (except gall bladders), and has thus made regulations in Alaska similar to those in northern Canada in this regard.

Black bears exhibit higher reproductive rates than brown and grizzly bears. In all areas of the state black bear populations are healthy and can sustain current or increased harvest levels. However, hunting pressure on black bears in some coastal areas like Game Management Unit (GMU) 6 (Prince William Sound), GMU 2 (Prince of Wales Island) and parts of GMU 3 (Kuiu Island) may be approaching or have exceeded maximum desired levels if trophy quality of bears is to be preserved, and are the subjects of frequent regulatory adjustments.

In some other parts of the state, deliberately reducing black bear numbers to improve moose calf survival has proven to be difficult or impossible with conventional harvest programs. The Board has had to resort to more innovative regulations promoting baiting and trapping with foot snares. The Department has also tried an experimental solution of translocating bears away from an important moose population near McGrath (GMU 19D) to determine if reduced bear numbers could result in significant increases in moose numbers and harvests. The success of the McGrath program has made it a potential model for other small areas around villages in Interior Alaska, if acceptable relocation sites are available.

### **Guiding Principles**

**The Board of Game and the Department will promote regulations and policies that will strive to:**

1. Manage bear populations to provide for continuing sustained yield, while allowing a wide range of human uses in all areas of the state.
2. Continue and, if appropriate, increase research on the management of bears and on predator/prey relationships and methods to mitigate the high predation rates of bears on moose calves in areas designated for intensive management.
3. Continue to provide for and encourage non-consumptive use of bears without causing bears to become habituated to human food.
4. Favor conventional hunting seasons and bag limits to manage bear numbers.
5. Encourage the human use of bear meat as food.
6. Employ more efficient harvest strategies, if necessary, when bear populations need to be substantially reduced to mitigate conflicts between bears and people.
7. Primarily manage most brown bear populations to maintain trophy quality, especially in Game Managements 1 through 6, and 8 through 10.
8. Work with the Department to develop innovative ways of increasing bear harvests if conventional hunting seasons and bag limits are not effective at reducing bear numbers to mitigate predation on ungulates or to deal with problem bears.
9. Simplify hunting regulations for bears, and increase opportunity for incidental harvest of grizzly bears in Interior Alaska by eliminating resident tag fees.

10. Recognize the increasing value of brown bears as a trophy species and generate increased revenue from sales of brown bear tags.
11. Review and recommend revision to this policy as needed.

### **Conservation and Management Policy**

The Board and the Department will manage bears differently in different areas of the state, in accordance with ecological differences and the needs and desires of humans. Bears will always be managed on a sustained yield basis. In some areas, such as the Kodiak Archipelago, portions of Southeast Alaska and the Alaska Peninsula, brown bears will generally be managed for trophy-hunting and viewing opportunities. In Southeast Alaska and Prince William Sound, black bears will generally be managed as a trophy species, food animals, or for viewing opportunities. In Interior and Arctic Alaska, black bears and grizzly bears will be managed primarily as trophy animals, food animals, and predators of moose and caribou. However in some parts of Interior Alaska, the Board may elect to manage populations of black bears primarily as furbearers.

#### **Monitoring Harvest and Population Size**

The Board and the Department recognize the importance of monitoring the size and health of bear populations on all lands in Alaska to determine if bear population management and conservation goals are being met. In areas where monitoring bear numbers, population composition, and trophy quality is a high priority, sealing of all bear hides and skulls will be required. At the present time, all brown and grizzly bears harvested under the general hunting regulations must be inspected and sealed by a Department representative. Where monitoring bear numbers and harvests is a lower priority, harvest may be monitored using harvest tickets or subsistence harvest surveys.

Harvest of black bears will generally be monitored either with harvest tickets or sealing requirements. Where harvests are near maximum sustainable levels or where the Department and the Board need detailed harvest data, sealing will be required.

Large areas of the state have subsistence brown/grizzly bear hunts with liberal seasons and bag limits, mandatory meat salvage, and relaxed sealing requirements. The Department will continue to accommodate subsistence needs.

Bear viewing also is an important aspect of bear management in Alaska. Increasing interest in watching bears at concentrated feeding areas such as salmon streams and sedge flats, and clam flats is challenging managers to find appropriate levels and types of human and bear interactions without jeopardizing human safety. Bear hunting and viewing are compatible in most situations.

Nothing in this policy affects the authority under state or federal laws for an individual to protect human life or property from bears (5 AAC 92.410). All reasonable steps must be taken to protect life and property by non-lethal means before a bear is killed.

#### **Managing Predation by Bears**

In order to comply with the AS 16.05.255 the Board and Department may implement management actions to reduce bear predation on ungulate populations. The Board may elect to work with the

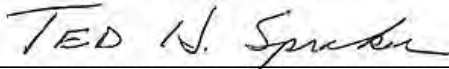
Department to remove individual problem bears or temporarily reduce bear populations in Game Management Units, Subunits, or management areas. The Board and the Department may also need to reduce bear predation on ungulates to provide for continued sustained yield management or conservation of ungulates. In addition, it may be necessary for the Department to kill problem bears to protect the safety of the public under AS 16.05.050 (a) (5). In some cases the Board may direct the Department to prepare a Predation Control Areas Implementation Plan (5 AAC 92.125 or 92.126) or in other cases the Board may authorize extensions of conventional hunting seasons, or implement trapping seasons to aid in managing predation on ungulates.

To comply with AS 16.05.255 to maintain sustained yield management of wildlife populations, or to prevent populations of ungulates from declining to low levels, the Board may selectively consider changes to regulations allowing the public to take bears, including allowing the following:

- Baiting of bears
- Trapping, using foot-snares, for bears under bear management or predator control programs.
- Incidental takes of brown or grizzly bears during black bear management or predator control programs.
- Use of communications equipment between hunters or trappers.
- Sale of hides and skulls as incentives for taking bears.
- Diversionary feeding of bears during ungulate calving seasons.
- Use of black bears for handicraft items for sale, except gall bladders.
- Use of grizzly bears for handicraft items for sale, except gall bladders.
- Taking of sows accompanied by cubs and cubs.
- Same-day-airborne taking.
- Aerial shooting of bears by department staff
- Suspension or repeal of bear tag fees.
- Use of helicopters.

The Board intends that with the exception of baiting, the above-listed methods and means will be authorized primarily in situations that require active control of bear populations, and only for the minimum amount of time necessary to accomplish management objectives. The Board allows baiting of black bears as a normal method of take in broad areas of the state, and will consider allowing brown bear baiting as a normal method of take in select areas.

Vote: 7-0  
March 17, 2016  
Anchorage, Alaska

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ted Spraker, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Game



**Findings of the Alaska Board of Game**  
**2016-214-BOG**  
**BOARD OF GAME BEAR CONSERVATION, HARVEST,**  
**AND MANAGEMENT POLICY**  
**Expiration Date:**

**Purposes of Policy**

1. To clarify the intent of the Board and provide guidelines for Board members and the Department of Fish and Game (Department ) to consider when developing regulation proposals for the conservation and harvest of bears in Alaska, consistent with the Alaska Constitution and applicable statutes.
2. To encourage review, comment, and interagency coordination for bear management activities.

**Goals**

1. To ensure the conservation of bears throughout their historic range in Alaska.
2. To recognize the ecological and economic importance of bears while providing for their management as a harvestable opportunity, food, predatory, and furbearer species.
3. To recognize the importance of bears for viewing, photography, research, and non-consumptive uses in Alaska.

**Background**

The wild character of Alaska's landscapes is one of our most important natural resources and the presence of naturally abundant populations of brown/grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*) and black bears (*Ursus americanus*) throughout their historic range in Alaska is important to that wild character. Bears are important to Alaskans in many ways, including as food animals, predators of moose, caribou, deer and muskox, a unique species opportunity for nonresident and resident hunters, furbearers, , and as objects of curiosity, study, awe, and enjoyment. Bears are also important components of naturally functioning Alaskan ecosystems.

Bear viewing is a rapidly growing industry in selected areas of the state. The interest exceeds the opportunities provided now by such established and controlled sites as McNeil River, Pack Creek, Anan Creek, Wolverine Creek and Brooks Camp. In most areas, hunting and viewing are compatible uses but the Board may consider bear viewing as a priority use in some small areas, especially where access for people is good and bears are particularly concentrated. The Board, the Department , and the Alaska Wildlife Troopers will continue to discourage people from feeding bears to provide viewing and will continue to enforce laws against persons who feed bears illegally.

Bears are frequently attracted to garbage or to fish and hunting camps and can be a nuisance where they become habituated to humans and human food sources. Dealing with problem bears

has been especially difficult in Anchorage, Juneau, and the Kenai Peninsula. The Department has worked hard, and successfully, with municipalities to educate people and solve waste management problems. The Department's policy on human food and solid waste management (<http://www.wc.adfg.state.ak.us/index.cfm?adfg=bears.bearpolicy>) provides guidance on reducing threats to humans and the resulting need to kill problem bears.

Bears can pose a threat to humans in certain situations. The Department has the regulatory authority to address human/bear conflicts and has developed a detailed approach to investigating incidents involving bears and humans. In addition, the Department has developed a detailed wildlife safety curriculum for use internally and by the public, with considerable focus on bears. The Department and the Board will continue to educate people about ways to minimize threats to humans and the resulting need to remove problem bears.

Alaska is world-renowned as a place to hunt brown bears, grizzly bears and black bears. Alaska is the only place in the United States where brown and grizzly bears are hunted in large numbers. The brown bear harvest has remained stable over the last 10 years, despite more liberal regulations governing take. Many of the hunters are nonresidents and their economic impact is significant to Alaska. Hunters have traditionally been the strongest advocates for bears and their habitat, providing consistent financial and political support for research and management programs.

Because bears can be both prey and predator, their relationship with people is complex. Throughout much of Interior Alaska and in some areas of Southcentral Alaska, the combined predation by bears and wolves keeps moose at relatively low levels. Bear predation on young calves has been shown to contribute significantly to keeping moose populations depressed, delayed population recovery, and low harvest by humans. People in parts of rural Alaska (e.g., Yukon Flats) have expressed considerable frustration with low moose numbers and high predation rates on moose calves in hunting areas around villages. The Board and the Department take an active role in addressing bear management issues. Because the Constitution of the State of Alaska requires all wildlife (including predators) to be managed on a sustained yield basis, the Board of Game and the Department will manage all bear populations to maintain a sustained yield, and the Board recognizes its broad latitude to manage predators including bears to provide for higher yields of ungulates (*West vs State of Alaska*, Alaska Supreme Court, 6 August 2010).

### **Brown and grizzly bears**

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found throughout their historic range in Alaska and may have expanded their recent historic range in the last few decades into places like the Yukon Flats and lower Koyukuk River.

Although determining precise population size is not possible with techniques currently available, most bear populations are estimated to be stable or increasing based on aerial counts, Capture-Mark-Resight techniques (including DNA), harvest data, traditional knowledge, and evidence of expansion of historic ranges. Throughout most coastal habitats where salmon are abundant, brown bears are abundant and typically exceed 175 bears/1,000 km<sup>2</sup> (450 bears/1,000 mi<sup>2</sup>). A population in Katmai National Park on the Alaska Peninsula was measured at 550 bears/1,000 km<sup>2</sup> (1,420 bears/1,000 mi<sup>2</sup>). In most interior and northern coastal areas, densities do not exceed 40 bears/1,000 km<sup>2</sup> (100 bears/1,000 mi<sup>2</sup>). Mean densities as low as 4 grizzly bears/1,000 km<sup>2</sup> (12 bears/1,000 mi<sup>2</sup>) have been measured in the eastern Brooks Range but these density estimates may be biased low and the confidence intervals around the estimates are unknown. Extrapolations from existing density estimates yielded statewide estimate of 31,700 brown bears in 1993, but the estimate is likely to be low.

Although some northern grizzly bear populations have relatively low reproductive rates, most grizzly bear and brown bear populations are capable of sustaining relatively high harvest rates comparable to moose, caribou, sheep, goats, and other big game animals that exist in the presence of natural numbers of large predators in most areas of Alaska. In addition, grizzly bears and brown bears have shown their ability to recover relatively quickly (<15 years) from federal poisoning campaigns during the 1950s and overharvest on the Alaska Peninsula during the 1960s. Biologists were previously concerned about the conservation of brown bears on the Kenai Peninsula and brown bears there were listed by the state as a “species of special concern”. The Department implemented a conservation strategy there through a stakeholder process. In recent years it has become apparent that brown bears remain healthy on the Kenai and the Board, and the Department no longer believes there is a conservation concern.

In some areas of the state (e.g., Unit 13) where the Board has tried to reduce grizzly bear numbers with liberal seasons and bag limits for over 15 years, there is no evidence that current increased harvests have affected bear numbers, age structure, or population composition. In areas of Interior Alaska, where access is relatively poor, long conventional hunting seasons and bag limits of up to 2 bears per year have not been effective at reducing numbers of grizzly bears. In these areas, most biologists believe that as long as sows and cubs are protected from harvest it will not be possible to reduce populations enough to achieve increases in recruitment of moose.

### **Black bears**

American black bears (*Ursus americanus*) are generally found in forested habitats throughout the state. Like brown and grizzly bears, black bears also occupy all of their historic ranges in Alaska and are frequently sympatric with grizzly and brown bears. Because they live in forested habitats it is difficult to estimate population size or density. Where estimates have been conducted in interior Alaska, densities ranged from 67 bears/1,000 km<sup>2</sup> (175 bears/1,000 mi<sup>2</sup>) on the Yukon Flats to 289 bears/1,000 km<sup>2</sup> (750 bears/1,000 mi<sup>2</sup>) on the Kenai Peninsula. In coastal forest habitats of Southeast Alaska’s Alexander Archipelago, black bear densities are considered high. A 2000 estimate for Kuiu Island was 1,560 black bears/1,000 km<sup>2</sup> (4,000 black bears/1,000 mi<sup>2</sup>).

In most areas of the state, black bears are viewed primarily as food animals, but they are also sought after for their fur/hides, and as predators of moose calves. The Board classified black bears as furbearers, recognizing the desire of people to use black bear fur as trim on clothing, to enhance the value of black bears, and to enable the Board and the Department to use foot-snares in bear management programs. The classification of black bears as a furbearer has legalized the sale of some black bear hides and parts (except gall bladders) and has thus made regulations in Alaska similar to those in northern Canada in this regard.

Black bears exhibit higher reproductive rates than brown and grizzly bears. In all areas of the state black bear populations are healthy and can sustain current or increased harvest levels. However, hunting pressure on black bears in some coastal areas like Game Management Unit (GMU) 6 (Prince William Sound), GMU 2 (Prince of Wales Island) and parts of GMU 3 (Kuiu Island) may be approaching or have exceeded maximum desired levels if mature bears are to be preserved and are the subjects of frequent regulatory adjustments.

In some other parts of the state, deliberately reducing black bear numbers to improve moose calf survival has proven to be difficult or impossible with conventional harvest programs. The Board has had to resort to more innovative regulations promoting baiting and trapping with foot snares. The Department has also tried an experimental solution of translocating bears away from an important moose population near McGrath (GMU 19D) to determine if reduced bear numbers could result in significant increases in moose numbers and harvests. The success of the McGrath program has made it a potential model for other small areas around villages in Interior Alaska, if acceptable relocation sites are available.

### **Guiding Principles**

**The Board of Game and the Department will promote regulations and policies that will strive to:**

1. Manage bear populations to provide for continuing sustained yield, while allowing a wide range of human uses in all areas of the state.
2. Ensure subsistence uses of bears are provided in accordance with state law.
3. Ensure public safety near population centers.
- 4.
5. Continue and, if appropriate, increase research on the management of bears and on predator/prey relationships and methods to mitigate the high predation rates of bears on moose calves in areas designated for intensive management.
6. Continue to provide for and encourage non-consumptive use of bears without causing bears to become habituated to human food.
7. Favor conventional hunting seasons and bag limits to manage bear numbers.
8. Encourage the human use of bear meat as food.
9. Employ more efficient harvest strategies, if necessary, when bear populations need to be substantially reduced to mitigate conflicts between bears and people.

10. Work with the Department to develop innovative ways of increasing bear harvests if conventional hunting seasons and bag limits are not effective at reducing bear numbers to mitigate predation on ungulates or to deal with problem bears.
11. Simplify hunting regulations for bears and increase opportunity for incidental harvest of grizzly bears in Interior Alaska by eliminating resident tag fees.
12. Recognize the increasing value of mature brown bears, especially in Units 1-6 and 8-10, and generate increased revenue from sales of brown bear tags.
13. Review and recommend revision to this policy as needed.

### **Conservation and Management Policy**

The Board and the Department will manage bears differently in different areas of the state, in accordance with ecological differences and the needs and desires of humans. Bears will always be managed on a sustained yield basis. In all non-subsistence areas, the priority is to ensure continued subsistence uses of bears in accordance with state law. In some areas, such as the Kodiak Archipelago, portions of Southeast Alaska and the Alaska Peninsula, brown bears will generally be managed for mature adult bears for hunting, and for viewing opportunities. In Southeast Alaska and Prince William Sound, black bears will generally be managed as for sustainable populations for harvest, food animals, and viewing opportunities. In Interior and Arctic Alaska, black bears and grizzly bears will be managed primarily for sustainable populations, food animals, and predators of moose and caribou. Near population centers bears will be managed to ensure for public safety. In some parts of Interior Alaska, the Board may elect to manage populations of black bears primarily as furbearers.

#### **Monitoring Harvest and Population Size**

The Board and the Department recognize the importance of monitoring the size and health of bear populations on all lands in Alaska to determine if bear population management and conservation goals are being met. In areas where monitoring bear numbers, population composition, and age class is a high priority, sealing of all bear hides and skulls will be required. At the present time, all brown and grizzly bears harvested under the general, drawing, or registration hunting regulations must be inspected and sealed by a Department representative. Where monitoring bear numbers and harvests is a lower priority, harvest may be monitored using harvest tickets or subsistence harvest surveys.

Harvest of black bears will generally be monitored either with harvest tickets or sealing requirements. Where harvests are near maximum sustainable levels or where the Department and the Board need detailed harvest data, sealing will be required.

Large areas of the state have subsistence brown/grizzly bear hunts with liberal seasons and bag limits, mandatory meat salvage, and relaxed sealing requirements. The Department will continue to provide for subsistence needs.

Bear viewing also is an important aspect of bear management in Alaska. Increasing interest in watching bears at concentrated feeding areas such as salmon streams and sedge flats, and clam

flats is challenging managers to find appropriate levels and types of human and bear interactions without jeopardizing human safety. Bear hunting and viewing are compatible in most situations.

Nothing in this policy affects the authority under state or federal laws for an individual to protect human life or property from bears (5 AAC 92.410). All reasonable steps must be taken to protect life and property by non-lethal means before a bear is killed.

### **Managing Predation by Bears**

In order to comply with the AS 16.05.255, the Board and Department may implement management actions to reduce bear predation on ungulate populations. The Board may promulgate regulations that allow the Department to temporarily reduce bear populations in Game Management Units, Subunits, or management areas. The Board and the Department may also need to reduce bear predation on ungulates to provide for continued sustained yield management or conservation of ungulates. In addition, it may be necessary for the Department to kill problem bears to protect the safety of the public under AS 16.05.050 (a) (5). In some cases, the Board may direct the Department to prepare a Predation Control Areas Implementation Plan (5 AAC 92.125 or 92.126) or in other cases the Board may authorize extensions of conventional hunting seasons or implement trapping seasons to aid in managing predation on ungulates.

To comply with AS 16.05.255 to maintain sustained yield management of wildlife populations, or to prevent populations of ungulates from declining to low levels, the Board may selectively consider changes to regulations allowing the public to take bears, including allowing the following:

- Baiting of bears
- Trapping, using foot-snares, for bears under bear management or predator control programs.
- Incidental takes of brown or grizzly bears during black bear management or predator control programs.
- Use of communications equipment between hunters or trappers.
- Sale of hides and skulls as incentives for taking bears.
- Diversionary feeding of bears during ungulate calving seasons.
- Use of black bears for handicraft items for sale, except gall bladders.
- Use of grizzly bears for handicraft items for sale, except gall bladders.
- Taking of sows accompanied by cubs and cubs.
- Same-day-airborne taking.
- Aerial shooting of bears by Department staff
- Suspension or repeal of bear tag fees.
- Use of helicopters.

The Board intends that with the exception of baiting, the above-listed methods and means will be authorized primarily in situations that require active control of bear populations, and only for the

minimum amount of time necessary to accomplish management objectives. The Board allows baiting of black bears as a normal method of take in broad areas of the state and will consider allowing brown bear baiting as a normal method of take in select areas.

Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

Insert Date  
Insert location, Alaska

\_\_\_\_\_  
Insert Name, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Game

DRAFT







**Alaska Board of Game**

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

(907) 465-4110

www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME**

**2022/2023 Meeting Cycle**

**Tentative Meeting Dates**

<b>Meeting Dates</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Comment Deadline</b>
<b>January 19, 2023</b> (1 day)	<b>Work Session</b>	<b>Ketchikan</b> The Landing Hotel	<b>January 13, 2023</b>
<b>January 20 - 24, 2023</b> (5 days)	<b>Southeast Region</b> Game Management Units 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	<b>Ketchikan</b> The Landing Hotel	<b>January 6, 2023</b>
<b>March 17 - 22, 2023</b> (5 days)	<b>Southcentral Region</b> Game Management Units 6, 7, 8, 14C and 15	<b>Soldotna</b> Soldotna Sports Complex	<b>March 3, 2023</b>

Total Meeting Days: 11

**Agenda Change Request Deadline: Monday, November 1, 2022**

*(The Board of Game will meet via teleconference to consider Agenda Change Requests following the November 1 deadline.)*



## Alaska Board of Game

P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
(907) 465-4110

www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov

### Long-Term Meeting Cycle

The Board of Game meeting cycle generally occurs from November through March. The board considers changes to regulations on a region-based schedule that cycle every three years. When the regional regulations are 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)
- Intensive Management Plans
- Closures and Restrictions in State Game Refuges
- Management Areas, Controlled Use Areas, and Areas Closed to Hunting and Trapping
- Changes specific to Units or Regions under 5 AAC Chapter 92

Proposals pertaining for the reauthorization of all antlerless moose hunts, 5 AAC 85.045, and all brown bear tag fee exemptions, 5 AAC 92.015, are taken up annually. Changes having statewide applicability to 5 AAC Chapters 92 and 98.005 listed on the following page are considered once every three years at Statewide Regulations meetings.

The proposal deadline is May 1 every preceding year. If May 1 falls on a weekend, the deadline is the Friday before. Boards Support issues a “Call for Proposals” generally in January before the May 1 deadline, which will also specify which regulations are open for proposed changes.

Topic & Meeting Schedule
<b>Southeast Region - Game Management Units: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5</b> <i>Meeting Cycle: 2022/2023 2025/2026 2028/2029</i>
<b>Southcentral Region - Game Management Units: 6, 7, 8, 14C, 15</b> <i>Meeting Cycle: 2022/2023 2025/2026 2028/2029</i>
<b>Western Arctic / Western Region - Game Management Units: 18, 22, 23, 26A</b> <i>Meeting Cycle: 2023/2024 2026/2027 2029/2030</i>
<b>Interior and Eastern Arctic Region - Game Management Units: 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, 26C</b> <i>Meeting Cycle: 2023/2024 2026/2027 2029/2030</i>
<b>Central and Southwest Region - Game Management Units: 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16, &amp; 17</b> <i>Meeting Cycle: 2024/2025 2027/2028 2030/2031</i>
<b>Statewide Regulations*</b> (see next page) <i>Meeting Cycle: 2024/2025 2027/2028 2030/2031</i>
<i>*5 AAC 92.037. Permits for falconry is scheduled every six years: 2021/2022 2027/2028 2033/2034</i>

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME**  
**Statewide Regulations ~ 5 AAC Chapters 92 and 98**

**General Provisions & Definitions:**

- 92.001 Application of this Chapter
- 92.002 Liability for Violations
- 92.003 Hunter Education and Orientation Requirements
- 92.004 Policy for Off-Road Vehicle Use for Hunting and transporting game.
- 92.005 Policy for Changing the Board of Agenda
- 92.008 Harvest Guideline Levels
- 92.009 Policy Obstruction or Hindrance of Lawful Hunting or Trapping
- 92.990 Definitions

**Licenses, Harvest Tickets, Reports, Tags, & Fees:**

- 92.010 Harvest Tickets and Reports
- 92.011 Taking of Game by Proxy
- 92.012 Licenses and Tags
- 92.013 Migratory Bird Hunting Guide Services
- 92.018 Waterfowl Conservation Tag
- 92.019 Taking of Big Game for Certain Religious Ceremonies

**Permits:**

- 92.020 Application of Permit Regulations and Permit Reports
- 92.028 Aviculture Permits
- 92.029 Permit for Possessing Live Game
- 92.030 Possession of Wolf Hybrid and Wild Cat Hybrids Prohibited
- 92.031 Permit for Selling Skins, Skulls, and Trophies
- 92.033 Permit for Science, Education, Propagative, or Public Safety Purposes
- 92.034 Permit to Take Game for Cultural Purposes
- 92.035 Permit for Temporary Commercial Use of Live Game
- 92.037 Permit for Falconry (to be *addressed every 6 years*)
- 92.039 Permit for Taking Wolves Using Aircraft
- 92.040 Permit for Taking of Furbearers with Game Meat
- 92.041 Permit to Take Beavers to Control Damage to Property
- 92.042 Permit to Take Foxes for Protection of Migratory Birds
- 92.043 Permit for Capturing Wild Furbearers for Fur Farming
- 92.044 Permit for Hunting Bear w/the Use of Bait or Scent Lures
- 92.047 Permit for Using Radio Telemetry Equipment
- 92.049 Permits, Permit Procedures, and Permit Conditions
- 92.050 Required Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures
- 92.051 Discretionary Trapping Permit Conditions & Procedures
- 92.052 Discretionary Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures
- 92.057 Special Provisions for Dall Sheep Drawing Permit Hunts
- 92.061 Special Provisions for Brown Bear Drawing Permit Hunts
- 92.062 Priority for Subsistence Hunting; Tier II Permits
- 92.068 Permit Conditions for Hunting Black Bear with Dogs
- 92.069 Special Provisions for Moose Drawing Permit Hunts
- 92.070 Tier II Subsistence Hunting Permit Point System
- 92.071 Tier I Subsistence Permits
- 92.072 Community subsistence Harvest Hunt Area and Permit Conditions

**Methods & Means:**

- 92.075 Lawful Methods of Taking Game
- 92.080 Unlawful Methods of Taking Game; Exceptions
- 92.085 Unlawful Methods of Taking Big Game; Exceptions
- 92.090 Unlawful Methods of Taking Fur Animals
- 92.095 Unlawful Methods of Taking Furbearers; Exceptions
- 92.100 Unlawful Methods of Hunting Waterfowl, Snipe, Crane
- 92.104 Authorization for Methods and Means Disability Exemptions

**Intensive Management and Predator Control:**

- 92.106 Intensive Management of Identified Big Game Prey Populations
- 92.110 Control of Predation by Wolves
- 92.115 Control of Predation by Bears
- 92.116 Special Provisions in Predation Control Areas

**Possession and Transportation:**

- 92.130 Restrictions to Bag Limit
- 92.135 Transfer of Possession
- 92.140 Unlawful Possession or Transportation of Game
- 92.141 Transport, Harboring, or Release of Live Muridae Rodents Prohibited
- 92.150 Evidence of Sex and Identity
- 92.151 Destruction of trophy value of game required in specific areas.
- 92.160 Marked or Tagged Game
- 92.165 Sealing of Bear Skins and Skulls
- 92.170 Sealing of Marten, Lynx, Beaver, Otter, Wolf, and Wolverine
- 92.171 Sealing of Dall Sheep Horns

**Use of Game:**

- 92.200 Purchase and Sale of Game
- 92.210 Game as Animal Food or Bait
- 92.220 Salvage of Game Meat, Furs, and Hides
- 92.230 Feeding of Game
- 92.250 Transfer of Musk oxen for Science and Education Purposes
- 92.260 Taking Cub Bears & Female Bears with Cubs Prohibited

**Emergency Taking of Game:**

- 92.400 Emergency Taking of Game
- 92.410 Taking Game in Defense of Life or Property
- 92.420 Taking Nuisance Wildlife

**Game Management Units:**

- 92.450 Description of Game Management Units

**Antlerless Moose Reauthorization:**

- 98.005 Areas of Jurisdiction for Antlerless Moose Season





## MEMORANDUM

TO: Alaska Board of Game DATE: January 13, 2023  
PHONE NO: (907) 465-6098  
FROM: Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director SUBJECT: Meeting dates for the 2023/2024 Board of Game Meeting Cycle

The 2023/2024 Alaska Board of Game (board) meeting dates and locations are expected to be set by the board during the January 19, 2023, Work Session. The topics on the board’s schedule for this meeting cycle are the Western Arctic / Western Region (Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A), and the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region (Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B & 26C.)

The following considerations have been used by the board in past years when setting meeting dates and locations.

- The meeting dates are based on the duration of past meetings, needed to address that region’s issues.
- The meetings begin on a Friday to accommodate the public for providing testimony over the weekend which is traditional practice by the board.
- The schedule takes 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 publishing the hunting regulations handbook.
- Duration between meetings need to be at least four weeks apart.
- The board’s ACR deadline is November 1, and at least 30 days public notice is required for any that are accepted by the board.
- The options take into consideration the meeting dates for the Board of Fisheries to minimize overlap for agencies, advisory committees, and public participants. The Board of Fisheries tentative meeting dates in 2024 are:

January 9-12, 2024: Kodiak Finfish  
February 23 – March 7, 2024: Upper Cook Inlet Finfish]

Another factor for the board to consider is the need to schedule a Joint Board meeting. The Joint Board Committee met December 20, 2022 and is recommending a Joint Board regulatory

meeting occur late March 2024. The committee recommendation is provided in the meeting workbook.

Options for the 2023/2024 Board of Game Meeting Cycle

The dates provided below are options for the 2023/2024 meeting schedule that reflect the above-mentioned considerations. In addition to the regulatory meetings, the board's schedule includes a one-day work session prior to the first regulatory meeting, and a web-conference to consider agenda change requests (ACRs) following the November 1<sup>st</sup> annual deadline. The meeting date for considering ACRs is usually determined later as the deadline approaches.

The Western Arctic / Western Region meeting is expected to be four days based meetings, and the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region meeting has ranged from eight to nine days. The following page provides past information for each of these meetings including the numbers of proposals and testifiers, that may be helpful for setting this schedule.

**Western Arctic / Western Region Meeting (4 days)**

January 19 – 22, 2024

January 26 – 29, 2024

**Interior & Eastern Arctic Region Meeting (8 days)**

March 8 – 15, 2024

March 15 – 22, 2024

*State & Federal Holidays: 1/15/24 0 Martin Luther King, Jr Day; 2/19/24 – Presidents' Day; 3/25/24 – Seward's Day. Also, 1/7/24 - Russian Orthodox Christmas and 1/14/24 – Russian Orthodox New Year.*

The deadline for the 2023/2024 meeting cycle will be Monday May 1, 2023.

With regard to the annual deadline, the board's long-term schedule states: *if May 1, every preceding year. If May 1 falls on a weekend, the deadline is the Friday before.* The board may choose to consider revising this provision for the long-term schedule, given recent confusion with the 4/29/22 proposal the current meeting cycle.

Historical Information for the Western Arctic / Western and Interior & Eastern Arctic Meetings.

<b>Western Arctic / Western Region Information</b>			
<i>Past Meeting Dates</i>	<i>Locations</i>	<i>No. of Proposals</i>	<i>No. of Testifiers</i>
January 17 – 20, 2020 (4 days)	Nome	44	33
January 6-9, 2017 (4 days)	Bethel	50	33
January 10-13, 2014 (4 days)	Kotzebue	38	25
November 11-14, 2011 (4 days)	Barrow	41	15
November 13-16, 2009 (4 days)	Nome	29	23

<b>Interior &amp; Eastern Arctic Region Meeting Information</b>			
<i>Past Meeting Dates</i>	<i>Locations</i>	<i>No. of Proposals</i>	<i>No. of Testifiers</i>
March 6 – 14, 2020 (9 days)	Fairbanks	124	94
February 17-25, 2017 (9 days)	Fairbanks	119	67
February 14 – 21, 2014 (8 days*)	Fairbanks	94	52
March 2-11, 2012 (9 days*)	Fairbanks	143	85
February 26 – March 7, 2020 (10 days)	Fairbanks	145	82

*\*Mtgs were scheduled for ten days but finished in early)*

# State of Alaska

## 2023 STATE CALENDAR

### State Holidays

Date	Holiday
01/01/2023	New Year's Day (observed 01/02/2023)
01/16/2023	MLK Jr.'s Birthday
02/20/2023	Presidents' Day
03/27/2023	Seward's Day
05/29/2023	Memorial Day
07/04/2023	Independence Day
09/04/2023	Labor Day
10/18/2023	Alaska Day
11/11/2023	Veterans' Day (observed 11/10/2023)
11/23/2023	Thanksgiving Day
12/25/2023	Christmas Day

Please refer to appropriate collective bargaining unit agreement for more information regarding holidays.

XX	Holiday
XX	Payday



### JANUARY

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# State of Alaska

## 2024 STATE CALENDAR

### State Holidays

Date	Holiday
01/01/2024	New Year's Day
01/15/2024	MLK Jr.'s Birthday
02/19/2024	Presidents' Day
03/25/2024	Seward's Day
05/27/2024	Memorial Day
07/04/2024	Independence Day
09/02/2024	Labor Day
10/18/2024	Alaska Day
11/11/2024	Veterans' Day
11/28/2024	Thanksgiving Day
12/25/2024	Christmas Day

Please refer to appropriate collective bargaining unit agreement for more information regarding holidays.

XX	Holiday
XX	Payday



### JANUARY

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## Alaska Board of Game

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

(907) 465-4110

[www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov](http://www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov)

### **CALL FOR PROPOSALS** **ALASKA BOARD OF GAME** **2023/2024 Meeting Cycle**

The Alaska Board of Game calls for proposed changes to hunting and trapping regulations for the following Regions:

1. Western Arctic / Western Region – (GMUs 18, 22, 23, and 26A)
2. Interior and Eastern Arctic Region (GMUs 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, AND 26C)

### **PROPOSAL DEADLINE: Monday, May 1, 2023**

The Alaska Board of Game is accepting proposed changes to hunting and trapping regulations for the Interior, Arctic, & Western Regions (Game Management Units 12, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26) including the following topics:

Hunting seasons and bag limits, including subsistence and general hunts for all species; trapping seasons and bag limits; big game prey populations and objectives for intensive management; predation control areas implementation plans; restricted areas including controlled use areas, management areas, closed areas, and closures in state game refuges.

Proposed changes to 5 AAC Chapter 92, Statewide Provisions specific to the GMUs in these regions will also be accepted. This includes regulations under the categories of general provisions, permits, permit conditions and provisions, methods and means, possession and transportation, and the use of game.

#### **The following topics will be considered for all Game Management Units:**

- Brown Bear Tag Fee Exemptions
- Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose Hunts (*State statute requires all antlerless moose hunts be reauthorized annually.*)

#### **Proposals may be submitted by email, mail, fax, or online:**

**Online:** [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposal](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposal)

**Mail:** ADF&G, Boards Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526 Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Fax:** (907) 465-6094

**Proposals must be received by May 1, 2023, at the Boards Support Section office in Juneau. (A postmark is NOT sufficient for timely receipt).**

You are encouraged to submit proposals at the earliest possible date on Board of Game proposal forms available from the Boards Support Section regional offices and on the website at: [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposal](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposal). All proposals must contain an individual's name and an organizational name if appropriate, contact telephone number, and address. Regional proposals must specify the applicable region or game management unit.

Providing clarity on the proposal form helps the board, advisory committees, and the public more fully understand the proposed regulatory changes. Proposals that are incomplete or unclear may be omitted from the proposal book. You are encouraged to contact the Boards Support Section staff if you have questions or need assistance with completing the proposal form. Proposals published in the proposal book will be formatted, referenced with the appropriate Alaska Administrative Code citation, and include a brief description of the action requested. Proposals with emotionally charged language will be rejected or redacted as they detract from the substance of the proposals, may draw opposition not germane to the element(s) of the proposal, and may elicit nonresponsive charges from the public/board members. Proposals not meeting this call or submitted late will not be published.

Proposal books will be available to the advisory committees, agencies, and the public at [www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov](http://www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov) for review and comment.

Proposals received per the above "Call for Proposals" deadline will be considered by the Board of Game at their Western Arctic / Western Region meeting scheduled for January 2024 and the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region Meeting scheduled for March 2024. For more information, please contact the [ADF&G Boards Support Section](#) at (907) 465-4110, or email [kristy.tibbles@alaska.gov](mailto:kristy.tibbles@alaska.gov).

# MEMORANDUM

# STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME Boards Support Section

TO: Alaska Board of Game and  
Alaska Board of Fisheries

DATE: January 12, 2023

PHONE: 907-465-6098

FROM: Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director  
Alaska Board of Game

SUBJECT: Committee Recommendation  
for holding a Joint Board  
Meeting

Art Nelson, Executive Director  
Alaska Board of Fisheries

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Members of the Joint Board Committee of Fisheries and Game (committee) met on December 20, 2022, to develop recommendations for holding a Joint Board meeting in 2024. After consideration of the information provided by ADF&G, the committee recommended a Joint Board meeting be scheduled in March 2024, in Anchorage, following the Board of Game's (BOG) Interior and Eastern Arctic Region meeting, the dates of which will be decided at the BOG's January 2023 annual Work Session. The committee suggested a timeframe of March 25–29, 2024.

Regarding the Call for Proposals, the committee agreed that the Call for Proposals will include 5 AAC Chapters 96 and 97 regarding the fish and game advisory committee system and the regulations process for both boards, and Chapter 99 dealing with subsistence uses and nonsubsistence areas, based on the five-year schedule set by the Joint Board at the March 2019 meeting. Additionally, the committee recommended the Call for Proposals include information regarding the 12 socioeconomic characteristics of nonsubsistence areas as described in Alaska Statute 16.05.258(c). Further, the committee recommended that proposal submissions to change or establish nonsubsistence areas should address some or all of the 12 criteria.

To help inform your decision-making process for scheduling a Joint Board meeting, enclosed is the December 20, 2022, committee meeting summary which provides more details about the committee's discussion, along with a memo to the committee providing information about the Joint Board meeting history, meeting expenses, regulatory authority, and options for the Call for Proposals.

The process for scheduling a Joint Board meeting is described in Alaska Statute 16.05.315, which states: "The Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game may hold a joint meeting upon the call of the commissioner or a board to resolve any conflicts in regulations of the board and to consider matters, as determined by the commissioner or a board that require the consideration of both boards." The committee recommendation will be provided to each board for review and consideration at their upcoming meetings in January 2023. Any action or recommendation taken by one board will be relayed to the other board.

# ***DRAFT***

## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

### **THE ALASKA JOINT BOARD OF FISHERIES AND GAME CALLS FOR PROPOSED CHANGES TO REGULATIONS FOR LOCAL FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROCESSES FOR ADOPTING REGULATIONS, ADVISORY COMMITTEE CLOSURES, AND SUBSISTENCE USES**

#### **PROPOSAL DEADLINE: MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023**

The Joint Board of Fisheries and Game is accepting proposed changes to its regulations pertaining to local fish and game advisory committees, the process for adopting fish and game regulations, and subsistence uses, including nonsubsistence areas, to be considered at its next regulatory meeting, scheduled for March 2024. The following sections of Title 5 Chapters 96, 97, and 99 of the Alaska Administrative Code will be considered:

#### **5 AAC Chapter 96 – Local Fish and Game Advisory Committees and Adoption of Fish and Game Regulations**

- **Article 1: Local Fish and Game Advisory Committee Regulations**
  - Section 010. Establishment of a local fish and game advisory committee system.
  - Section 020. Creation of local fish and game advisory committees.
  - Section 021. Establishment of advisory committees.
  - Section 040. Qualifications for members.
  - Section 050. Functions of local fish and game advisory committees.
  - Section 060. Uniform rules of operation.
- **Article 3: Administration of Local Fish and Game Advisory Committees**
  - Section 440. Board assistance.
  - Section 450. Committee status and change of status.
  - Section 460. Attendance at meetings.
- **Article 5: Adoption of Fish and Game Regulations**
  - Section 600. Meetings.
  - Section 610. Procedures for developing fish and game regulations.
  - Section 615. Subsistence proposal policy.
  - Section 625. Joint board petition policy.
  - Section 630. Special meetings.
  - Section 640. Regular meetings.
  - Section 660. Compliance.

- **Article 6: General Provisions**

- Section 910. Definitions.

## **5 AAC Chapter 97 – Advisory Committee Closures**

- **Article 1: Areas of Jurisdiction**

- Section 005. Areas of jurisdiction for advisory committees.

- **Article 2: Emergency Closures**

- Section 010. Advisory committee emergency closures.

## **5 AAC Chapter 99 – Subsistence Uses**

- Section 010. Boards of fisheries and game subsistence procedures.
- Section 015. Joint Board nonsubsistence areas. (*\*see additional information*)
- Section 016. Activities permitted in a nonsubsistence area.
- Section 021. Definitions.

\*Per Alaska Statute 16.05.258(c), a nonsubsistence area is an area or community where dependence upon subsistence is not a principal characteristic of the economy, culture, and way of life of the area or community. Subsistence hunting or fishing is not permitted in nonsubsistence areas. The current nonsubsistence areas exist around Ketchikan, Juneau, Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai, Fairbanks, and Valdez and were created by the Joint Board in 1992.

Alaska Statute 16.05.258(c) requires the board to identify nonsubsistence areas where “dependence upon subsistence is not a principal characteristic of the economy, culture, and way of life” by considering 12 socioeconomic characteristics of the areas. Therefore, proposal submissions to modify the existing areas, delete areas, or add new areas should also address information about the 12 socioeconomic characteristics of nonsubsistence areas. Page 4 provides the 12 socioeconomic characteristics and links for related information.

**Proposals may be submitted by mail, fax, or online:**

**Online:** [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.jointboard](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.jointboard).

**Mail:** ADF&G, Boards Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526 Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Fax:** (907) 465-6094

**Proposals must be received by Monday, May 1, 2023 at the Boards Support Section office in Juneau. (A postmark is NOT sufficient for timely receipt).**

Interested parties are encouraged to submit proposals at the earliest possible date. Proposals must be submitted on a current Joint Board proposal form available online at [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.jointboard](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.jointboard) or from any ADF&G Boards Support office.

Proposals must contain a contact telephone number and mailing address. Email addresses are also appreciated. Please print or type the individual's or organization's name as appropriate.

Providing clarity on the proposal form helps the board, advisory committees, and the public more fully understand the proposed regulatory changes. Additionally, proposals related to nonsubsistence areas should provide additional information related to nonsubsistence areas as specified above. Proposals that are incomplete, unclear, or lack sufficient information if related to nonsubsistence areas, may be omitted from the proposal book. You are encouraged to contact the Boards Support Section staff if you have questions or need assistance with completing the proposal form.

All proposals are reviewed prior to publication. Language that is emotionally charged detracts from the substance of the proposal and may draw opposition not germane to the element(s) of the proposal. Such language may be edited or deleted prior to publication. Additionally, language that provides personal information, such as names of individuals, will be deleted. Proposals that do not meet the call will not be accepted.

Proposals published in the proposal book will be referenced with the appropriate Alaska Administrative Code citation and include a brief description of the action requested. Proposal books will be available to the advisory committees, agencies, and the public online at [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.jointboard](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.jointboard). Those submitting proposals are encouraged to review the proposal book at their earliest convenience to ensure proposals are included and accurate. Noted errors and omissions should be reported to Boards Support immediately.

Responsive proposals received by the proposal deadline will be considered by the Joint Board of Fisheries and Game at a meeting to be scheduled in March 2024. The public is encouraged to visit the Joint Board of Fisheries and Game website frequently for news and information regarding this meeting.

For more information, please contact the Alaska Board of Fisheries and Game Executive Directors at (907) 465-4110.



## **Additional Information Related to 5 AAC 99.015. Joint Board Nonsubsistence Areas:**

Under AS 16.05.258(c), the Joint Board is charged with identifying nonsubsistence areas, where “dependence upon subsistence is not a principal characteristic of the economy, culture, and way of life” by considering 12 socioeconomic characteristics of the areas.

The 12 characteristics in AS 16.05.258(c) are:

1. The social and economic structure.
2. The stability of the economy.
3. The extent and the kinds of employment for wages, including full-time, part-time, temporary, and seasonal employment.
4. The amount and distribution of cash income among those domiciled in the area or community.
5. The cost and availability of goods and services to those domiciled in the area or community.
6. The variety of fish and game species used by those domiciled in the area or community.
7. The seasonal cycle of economic activity.
8. The percentage of those domiciled in the area or community participating in hunting and fishing activities or using wild fish and game.
9. The harvest levels of fish and game by those domiciled in the area or community
10. The cultural, social, and economic values associated with the taking and use of fish and game.
11. The geographic locations where those domiciled in the area or community hunt and fish.
12. The extent of sharing and exchange of fish and game by those domiciled in the area or community.

### **Data Sources**

Data from the 2020 Census were released in 2021 and are available at:

[www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/decade/2020/2020-census-results.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/decade/2020/2020-census-results.html)

The federal Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) is a major source of demographic and economic data: [www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs)

ADF&G subsistence research publications related to related to nonsubsistence areas are available online at: [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=subsistenceresearch.main](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=subsistenceresearch.main)  
(See [Technical Papers 335](#), [386](#), and [336](#))

Joint Board findings detailing the nonsubsistence areas can be found online at:  
[www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.jbfindings](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.jbfindings)

Fishing (including Commercial Crewmember) and hunting license, stamps, and tags  
[License Statistics, Alaska Department of Fish and Game](#)

"Wildlife harvest data" [Harvest Information, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Alaska Department of Fish and Game](#)

"Commercial fishery harvest data" [Commercial Fisheries Statistics and Data, Alaska Department of Fish and Game](#)

"Sport fishing harvest data" [Sport Fishing Survey \(v2.3.2\) - Sport Fish - ADF&G \(alaska.gov\)](#)

"Community Subsistence Information System" [ADF&G, Subsistence, Community Subsistence Information System \(alaska.gov\)](#)

"Migratory bird harvest data" [Alaska Department of Fish and Game](#)



## **Joint Board of Fisheries and Game Committee Meeting**

Discussion of Scheduling a Future Joint Board Meeting

December 20, 2022 – Web Conference

### ***Preliminary Meeting Summary***

The Joint Board Committee (committee) met by web-conference on Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the schedule for a future joint board meeting. Board of Game (BOG) members Jerry Burnett, Al Barrette, and Lynn Keogh and Board of Fisheries (BOF) members McKenzie Mitchell, Tom Carpenter and Märit Carlson-Van Dort were present. The meeting was chaired by BOF member McKenzie Mitchell.

The meeting was open to the public via video stream. Written public comments were solicited for the meeting, but nothing was received. The audio and the meeting material which includes a memo prepared by ADF&G Boards Support and the Subsistence Section, is available on the Joint Board Committee meeting website at: [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.jbmeetinginfo&date=12-20-2022&meeting=webconference](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.jbmeetinginfo&date=12-20-2022&meeting=webconference).

Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order for the purpose of discussing a Joint Board of Fisheries and Game (Joint Board) regulatory meeting for 2024, based on the five-year schedule set by the Joint Board in March 2019. Kristy Tibbles, Boards Support Executive Director, summarized portions of the ADF&G memo related to the regulatory authorities in 5 AAC Chapters 96 and 97, the history of Joint Board meetings, and the process and expense for having a Joint Board regulatory meeting. Lisa Olson, Deputy Director for the ADF&G Subsistence Section, provided a review of the Joint Board authority and history related to nonsubsistence areas, under 5 AAC Chapter 99.

The committee discussed the options and concerns for having the Joint Board meeting in conjunction with regularly scheduled Board meetings for March and October 2024. As provided in the ADF&G memo, the BOF will hold a 13-day meeting in Anchorage, February 23–March 7, 2024, to address Upper Cook Inlet Finfish. The BOG will meet in March 2024 to consider regulatory changes for the Interior and Northeast Arctic Region, in Fairbanks. In October 2024, the BOF is scheduled to hold its annual Work Session in Anchorage, October 29–30. The committee agreed to recommend to the BOG and BOF, a Joint Board meeting be scheduled for March 2024, in Anchorage, following the BOG meeting, for which the dates will be decided at the January 2023 Work Session. The committee suggested a timeframe of March 25–29, 2024.

With regards to the Call for Proposals, the committee discussed vetting options for proposals related to nonsubsistence areas which have been used by the Joint Board in the past. The committee agreed to recommend the Call for Proposals include information about the 12 socioeconomic characteristics of nonsubsistence areas as described in Alaska Statute 16.05.258(c), and that proposal submissions to change or establish nonsubsistence areas should address some or all of the 12 criteria.

The committee recommendation is expected to be relayed to each board at their upcoming meetings (January 14–18, 2023 for the BOF, and January 19-24, 2023 for the BOG.) Alaska Statute 16.05.315 sets out the process for scheduling a joint board meeting which is called upon by one board or the commissioner.

The committee adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:30 p.m.

# MEMORANDUM

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Boards Support Section

TO: Board of Fisheries & Board of  
Game Joint Committee

DATE: December 16, 2022

THRU:

PHONE: 907-465-6098

FROM: Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director  
Alaska Board of Game

SUBJECT: Planning for a Joint Board  
Regulatory Meeting

Art Nelson, Executive Director  
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Lisa Olson, Deputy Director  
ADF&G Subsistence Section

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This memo provides background information for the December 20, 2022 Board of Fisheries and Game Joint Committee meeting on the topic of scheduling a Joint Board of Fisheries and Game (Joint Board) regulatory meeting. It includes Joint Board statutory and regulatory authorities including statutory provisions related to the establishment of nonsubsistence areas; dates and topics of past Joint Board meetings; the process for issuing the Call for Proposals; and the timeline and budget for holding a Joint Board meeting.

The timeline for the next Joint Board meeting is slated for 2024, based on action at the March 2019 meeting when the Joint Board agreed to schedule regulatory meetings approximately every five years to consider regulations related to advisory committees and those dealing with the process for adopting regulations, and every ten years to consider regulations dealing with subsistence uses and nonsubsistence areas.

As the committee discusses the planning and timeline for scheduling a Joint Board meeting, it is important to point out that conducting a Joint Board regulatory meeting is a large undertaking for the boards, advisory committees, and the Department of Fish and Game (department). Joint Board meetings require a significant workload for the ADF&G Subsistence Section to address nonsubsistence area proposals since it requires compilation and analysis of considerable socioeconomic information for the boards' consideration. The workload for Boards Support staff is also significantly increased with the preparations as well as developing and presenting department comments for proposals dealing with changes to the advisory committee process. Having a Joint Board meeting also incurs a significant cost for the department.

## **Review of Joint Board Statute and Regulatory Authorities**

Alaska Statute provides the Joint Board with the following authorities:

- **AS 16.05.258. Subsistence use and allocation of fish and game.** This statute calls for both boards to identify nonsubsistence areas.
- **AS 16.05.260. Advisory committees.** Both boards are called on to establish local fish and game advisory committees and determine emergency closure authorities.
- **AS 16.05.315. Joint Board meetings.** This statute defines how and why Joint Board meetings are called.
- **AS 44.39.030. Appointment of commissioner.** This statute requires both boards “in a joint session” to provide the Governor with a list of qualified persons to serve as Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Based on these statutory authorities above, the Joint Board has established the following regulations related to fish and game management.

- **5 AAC Chapter 96. Local Fish and Game Advisory Committees and Adoption of Fish and Game Regulations.**
- **5 AAC Chapter 97. Advisory Committee Closures.**
- **5 AAC Chapter 99. Subsistence Uses.**

The complete list of the regulatory topics is provided on page 8.

## **Nonsubsistence Areas Authority and History**

Under AS 16.05.258(c), the Joint Board is charged with identifying nonsubsistence areas, where “dependence upon subsistence is not a principal characteristic of the economy, culture, and way of life” by considering 12 socioeconomic characteristics of the areas.

The 12 characteristics in AS 16.05.258(c) are:

1. The social and economic structure.
2. The stability of the economy.
3. The extent and the kinds of employment for wages, including full-time, part-time, temporary, and seasonal employment.
4. The amount and distribution of cash income among those domiciled in the area or community.
5. The cost and availability of goods and services to those domiciled in the area or community.
6. The variety of fish and game species used by those domiciled in the area or community.
7. The seasonal cycle of economic activity.
8. The percentage of those domiciled in the area or community participating in hunting and fishing activities or using wild fish and game.
9. The harvest levels of fish and game by those domiciled in the area or community.

10. The cultural, social, and economic values associated with the taking and use of fish and game.
11. The geographic locations where those domiciled in the area or community hunt and fish.
12. The extent of sharing and exchange of fish and game by those domiciled in the area or community.

The 12 criteria add a layer of complexity to the regulatory process for modifying nonsubsistence areas, unlike other proposals. The following information is provided to help the committee better understand the complexities.

The Joint Board established the current nonsubsistence areas during two multi-day meetings in 1992 and 1993, following the passage of the current state subsistence law. ADF&G prepared a detailed report addressing each of the 12 socioeconomic characteristics for each area (this is now [Technical Paper 335](#) in the Division of Subsistence Technical Paper Series). The Joint Board also adopted detailed findings for each area (which appear as Appendix C in [Technical Paper 386](#)).

It wasn't until October 2007 that the Joint Board issued a call for proposals to address potential changes to nonsubsistence areas since their establishment. Two proposals were received: Proposal 37 to modify the boundary of the Juneau Nonsubsistence Area, and Proposal 38 to add portions of Game Management Units 13 (Copper Basin) and 20 to nonsubsistence areas. Again, ADF&G prepared a detailed report with summaries of available data relevant to the proposed changes (Division of Subsistence [Technical Paper 336](#)) for the four-day Joint Board meeting in October 2007. In comments on the two proposals, the Department of Law advised:

Similar to past advice we've given on proposals to modify Customary and Traditional Determinations, the Joint Boards should carefully consider proposals to modify Nonsubsistence Area regulations. The current Nonsubsistence Area regulations are presumed to be legally valid. They were based on an extensive administrative record, and reviewed and approved by the Department of Law. We recommend that, in considering the current proposals, the Joint Board concentrate on any new information that has been developed since the adoption of the current regulations in 1993.

Primarily because the Joint Board determined that there had been no new information provided that demonstrated any significant changes relevant to the 12 factors, the Joint Board declined to adopt both proposals and made no changes to nonsubsistence area boundaries.

The most recent Joint Board review of nonsubsistence areas took place during a five-day meeting in October 2013. The Joint Board issued a call for proposals to address nonsubsistence areas in 2012. Four proposals were received. Proposal 38 proposed elimination of all the existing nonsubsistence areas. Two proposals targeted specific communities for nonsubsistence area status: Kodiak (Proposal 40) and Bethel (Proposal 41). The fourth proposal (39) addressed the boundaries of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area. As noted by Department of Law and ADF&G comments, none of these proposals provided any evidence relevant to the 12 factors; as in 2007, the Department of Law advised against changes to nonsubsistence area boundaries absent any "information supporting such a reevaluation." ADF&G updated the extensive data cited in the findings from the 1992/1993 Joint Board meetings in a detailed report (Division of Subsistence [Technical Paper 386](#)). After several days of public testimony, an oral staff report, and deliberations, the Joint Board (as in 2007) chose to make no changes to nonsubsistence areas. This

was, again, primarily because the available data did not justify any significant changes since the areas were established in 1992 and 1993.

### Relevant Data Sources

A primary source for information on many of the characteristics is the federal decennial census. Data from the 2010 Census were used extensively in the 2013 Joint Board report and deliberations. Data from the 2020 Census were released in 2021 and are [available online](#).

The federal Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) is another major source of demographic and economic data. The ACS reports data at the community level only by five-year running averages, rather than a series of single year updates. Therefore, it is uncertain if significant change from values reviewed by the Joint Board in 2013 will be measurably noticeable for most of the 12 socioeconomic characteristics at a community level.

### Joint Board Regulatory Meetings, 1985 to Present

The following list provides a history of Joint Board regulatory meetings since 1985 from the best available information on record. In the absence of having a regular meeting schedule in place, Joint Board regulatory meetings have generally occurred every six to nine years since the late 1990s. Since the 2000s, there have been three Joint Board regulatory meetings for which a Call for Proposals was issued. Those three meetings involved similar numbers of proposals and duration, although the 2019 meeting was originally scheduled for five days but concluded business on the third day. The March 2019 meeting did not address regulations related to subsistence uses and nonsubsistence areas under 5 AAC Chapter 99, unlike the meetings in 2007 and 2013.

Date	Location	Topics
March 21–23,* 2019	Anchorage	Forty proposals on AC regulations and board process; 22 were adopted, primarily clarifying and updating AC uniform rules of operation and board process including the joint board petition policy; membership for three ACs was also adjusted. Regulations related to subsistence uses and non-subsistence Areas were not on the Call for Proposals.
<i>*Originally scheduled to conclude March 25.</i>		
October 12–16, 2013	Anchorage	Forty-one proposals primarily on AC regulations; four regarding nonsubsistence areas. Fourteen proposals were adopted; twelve related to the ACs; one proposal to repeal regional councils; and one related to subsistence procedures. Three new ACs were created, two of which resulted from the splitting of an existing AC.
October 5–8, 2007	Anchorage	Thirty-nine proposals primarily on AC regulations and two on nonsubsistence areas. Four proposals were adopted. Two new ACs were created and two were merged into one.



March 21, 2006	Anchorage	One proposal to modify AC member qualifications. The proposal was amended and deferred to the next Joint Board meeting.
Feb. 27–March 1, 1998	Anchorage	Twenty-four proposals related to AC regulations, board process, and one proposal for a Bristol Bay Reserve. Seven proposals adopted, all related to ACs. Two new ACs were created.
April 3–5, 1997	Anchorage	Initial action on 23 proposals on AC regulations and additional proposals, including Bristol Bay Reserve.
March 6-8, 1993	Juneau	Nonsubsistence area revisions, three AC proposals, and one regarding the Kachemak Bay Management Plan.
November 1-7, 1992	Anchorage	Nonsubsistence Area determinations, eight criteria (5 AAC Chapter 99)
October 27–28, 1992	Anchorage	Four proposals on AC regulations.
February 23–25, 1991	Juneau	Twenty-six proposals on AC regulations, process for adopting regulations, and subsistence procedures.
March 12–14, 1990	Anchorage	Thirty-eight proposals on AC regulations and one to adopt a subsistence proposal policy.
April 24–26, 1989	Anchorage	Fourteen proposals on AC regulations.
March 1985	Anchorage	Twenty-two proposals on AC regulations and one to adopt a Joint Board Petition Policy.

*Note: This table provides Joint Board meetings from the best available information on record.*

### **Scope of the Meeting and Call for Proposals**

Based on the decision by the Joint Board in March 2019 to establish a five-year schedule to address regulations under 5 AAC Chapters 96 and 97, and a ten-year schedule to address regulations under Chapter 99, all three chapters are expected to be on the Call for Proposals (call) for the next Joint Board meeting.

In developing the call, ADF&G recommends no limitations for the regulations under 5 AAC Chapters 96 and 97. However, with regards to proposals related to nonsubsistence areas, the committee may want to consider options for tailoring the call to require that proposals address the 12 criteria in AS 16.05.258(c) that identify the nonsubsistence areas.

The approach utilized for the October 2007 meeting, was a two-step process, whereby proposals related to nonsubsistence areas would be vetted by the Joint Board during the October 2007 meeting,

with the intent to schedule them to a future meeting for further public review and department analysis.

If the committee explores alternatives for the call related to nonsubsistence areas similar to the one utilized for the October 2007 meeting, an option is to ask proposal submissions to address some of the 12 criteria in AS 16.05.258(c) that identify the nonsubsistence areas. This would help inform submitters of the statutory requirements for changing nonsubsistence areas, and prompt submitters to explain why they believe a change is warranted.

Another option is to tailor the call to require the submitter to address the 12 criteria in AS 16.05.258(c) that identify the nonsubsistence areas and utilize a vetting process. This option would necessitate two further process considerations: 1) what information related to the 12 criteria is expected to be provided in the proposal, and 2) a review process to determine if a proposal meets the call. As an example, the boards could require proposals to provide information on at least 4 of the 12 criteria and reconvene the joint committee to assess the proposals that do not meet the call. From this assessment, forward the committee findings for those not meeting the call as consent agenda items for each board's consideration at their earliest meetings in the next cycle. During each board's review, any board member may request a proposal be returned to the Joint Board for full consideration at the scheduled meeting.

Enclosed with this memo is the call for the 2007 meeting which requested proposals to: "identify any significant new information available that the Joint Board did not have available in 1992 when it made the determinations or identify if the board made any errors in its previous decision" and that "proposals should also reference the 12 socioeconomic characteristics specified in AS 16.05.258(c)." Also enclosed is the call from the 2013 meeting which did require new information related to AS 16.05.258(c).

### **Joint Board Meeting Budget**

The cost of the March 2019 Joint Board meeting for the Boards Support program was approximately \$63,000. As mentioned previously, this was a three-day meeting in Anchorage, originally scheduled for five days. It was held immediately following the 2019 Southcentral Region Board of Game (BOG) meeting as an effort to reduce travel-related expenses. The primary expenses to Boards Support for that meeting were for the venue rental, travel and honorarium for 12 board members (two were absent), travel expenses for eight Boards Support staff, and the travel expenses for nine advisory committee members.

The cost of the five-day meeting in October 2013 was approximately \$100,000; it was held in conjunction with annual Work Sessions for each board. This amount covered the same expenses as in 2019; however, the number of AC representatives in travel status was approximately 19.

Boards Support anticipates the cost of a Joint Board meeting in 2024 will be similar to the October 2013 meeting given that the Joint Board is expected to consider changes to all regulations (5 AAC Chapters 96, 97 and 99), for which five days will be necessary for the joint board to conduct its business. In anticipation of a Joint Board meeting being scheduled in Fiscal Year 2024, the department has requested a one-time funding increment for \$75,000 which will need to go through the legislative budget approval process.

**Timing for a Joint Board Meeting:**

During the 2023/2024 meeting cycle, the Board of Fisheries (BOF) will hold a 13-day meeting in Anchorage, February 23–March 7, 2024, to address Upper Cook Inlet Finfish. The BOG is expected to meet approximately eight days in March 2024 to consider regulatory changes for the Interior and Northeast Arctic Region. The meeting dates have not been set yet, but from past cycles, it is expected to occur within the first two weeks of March, located in Fairbanks.

In October 2024, the BOF is scheduled to hold its annual Work Session in Anchorage, October 29–30. The BOG does not typically meet in-person during this month.

In consideration of the boards' meeting schedules for March 2024, it would be possible to schedule a Joint Board meeting in mid to late March 2024, following the conclusion of the BOG meeting. If it's determined that having a Joint Board meeting in March 2024 is too intense with the regularly scheduled board meetings, another option may be to schedule the joint meeting for October 2024 prior to the BOF Work Session, similar to timing of the 2013 Joint Board meeting.

**Process for Calling a Joint Board Meeting**

Alaska Statute 16.05.315 establishes the process for calling a Joint Board meeting. The boards may hold a joint meeting upon the call of the commissioner or a board. Following the joint committee meeting, both boards are scheduled to meet in January 2023, at which time a committee report and recommendation can be provided for each board's consideration at these meetings.

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## JOINT BOARD REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

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### **5 AAC Chapter 96 – Local Fish and Game Advisory Committees and Adoption of Fish and Game Regulations**

- Article 1: Local Fish and Game Advisory Committee Regulations
  - Section 010. Establishment of local fish and game advisory committee system.
  - Section 020. Creation of local fish and game advisory committees.
  - Section 021. Establishment of advisory committees.
  - Section 040. Qualifications for members.
  - Section 050. Functions of local fish and game advisory committees.
  - Section 060. Uniform rules of operation.
- Article 2: Regional Fish and Game Councils – REPEALED
- Article 3: Administration of Local Fish and Game Advisory Committees
  - Section 440. Board assistance
  - Section 450. Committee status and change of status.
  - Section 460. Attendance at meetings.
- Article 4: Administration of Regional Fish and Game Councils - REPEALED
- Article 5: Adoption of Fish and Game Regulations
  - 600. Meetings
  - 610. Procedures of developing fish and game regulations.
  - 615. Subsistence proposal policy
  - 625. Joint board petition policy
  - 630. Special meetings
  - 640. Regular meetings
  - 650. Compliance
- Article 6: General Provisions
  - 910. Definitions.

### **Chapter 97 – Advisory Committee Closures**

- Article 1: Areas of Jurisdiction
  - Section 005. Areas of jurisdiction for advisory committees
- Article 2: Emergency Closures
  - Section 010. Advisory committee emergency closures

### **Chapter 99 – Subsistence Uses**

- Section 010. Boards of Fisheries and game subsistence procedures
- Section 015. Joint board nonsubsistence areas.
- Section 016. Activities permitted in a nonsubsistence area.
- Section 021. Definitions

*Note: Two sections under Chapter 99 are specific to one board: 92.005. Board of Fisheries subsistence finding standards, and 92.025. Customary and traditional uses of game populations.*

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS**  
**Joint Board of Fisheries and Game**

**THE JOINT BOARD OF FISHERIES AND GAME CALLS FOR PROPOSED  
CHANGES TO REGULATIONS FOR LOCAL FISH AND GAME ADVISORY  
COMMITTEES, ADVISORY COMMITTEE CLOSURES, AND SUBSISTENCE USES.**

**PROPOSAL DEADLINE - 5:00 p.m. Friday, November 30, 2012.**

The Joint Board of Fisheries and Game is accepting proposed changes to regulations pertaining to local fish and game advisory committees and subsistence uses to be considered at a regulatory meeting scheduled for October 2013. The following regulations of Title 5, under the Alaska Administrative Code, will be considered:

- **Chapter 96 – Local Fish and Game Advisory Committees and Regional Fish and Game Councils**
    - Article 1: Advisory Committee Regulations
    - Article 2: Regional Fish and Game Councils\*
    - Article 3: Administration of Local Fish and Game Advisory Committees
    - Article 4: Administration of Regional Fish and Game Committees\*
    - Article 5: Adoption of Fish and Game Regulations
- \*Regional Advisory Councils have not been active; their function will be discussed at the Joint Board Meeting.*
- **Chapter 97 – Advisory Committee Closures**
    - Article 1: Areas of Jurisdiction
    - Article 2: Advisory Committee Emergency Closures
  - **Chapter 99 – Subsistence Uses**
    - Section 10: Boards of Fisheries and Game subsistence procedures
    - Section 15: Joint Board nonsubsistence area
    - Section 21: Definition

**Proposals must be submitted by mail, fax, or online:**

**Mail:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Boards Support Section  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Fax:** (907) 465-6094

**Online:** [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.jbforms](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.jbforms)

Proposals must be received by **5:00 p.m. Friday, November 30, 2012.** (A postmark is **NOT** sufficient for timely receipt). You are encouraged to submit proposals at the earliest possible date.

Please submit proposals online at the link above or on Board of Game/Board of Fisheries proposal forms available from the Boards Support Section regional offices and on the website above. All proposals must contain an individual's name or an organization name, if appropriate, contact telephone number, and address. A fax is acceptable and considered an original. Currently, we are

unable to accept submission of proposals via email. (We are working with our information technology section and hope to be able to offer this option soon.)

All proposals are reviewed by the board's proposal review committee prior to publication. The proposal review committee reserves the right to edit proposals containing offensive language. Emotionally-charged language will be eliminated as it detracts from the substance of the proposal, may draw opposition not germane to the element(s) of the proposal, and may elicit nonresponsive charges from the public/board members. Proposals published in the proposal book will be referenced with the appropriate Alaska Administrative Code citation and include a brief description of the action requested. **Proposals not meeting this call will not be published.** Following publication, proposal booklets will be available to advisory committees and the public for review and comment.

You are encouraged to contact Boards Support Section staff if you have questions or need assistance completing the proposal form. Providing clarity on the proposal form helps the board, advisory committees, and the public more fully understand the proposed regulatory changes. Proposals that are incomplete or unclear may be omitted from the proposal book. Please submit proposals at the earliest possible date.

Proposals received per the above "Call for Proposals" deadline will be considered by the Joint Board of Fisheries and Game at a meeting to be scheduled in October 2013.

For more information, please contact the Boards Support Section any of the following regional offices.

**ADF&G Boards Support Section  
Regional Offices:**

**Southeast Region**

Shannon Stone  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99802-5526  
(907) 465-4110

**Western Region**

Alissa Joseph  
PO Box 1467  
Bethel, AK 99559  
(907) 543-2709

**Interior Region**

Nissa Pilcher  
1300 College Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99701-1599  
(907) 459-7263

**Southcentral Region**

Sherry Wright  
333 Raspberry Road  
Anchorage, AK 99518-1599  
(907) 267-2354

[www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us](http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us)

# CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Joint Board of Fisheries and Game calls for proposed changes to

## I. ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULATIONS, and

## II. NONSUBSISTENCE AREA REGULATIONS.

**PROPOSAL DEADLINE – 5:00 p.m., Friday, December 8, 2006**

### I. ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULATIONS

The Joint Board of Fisheries and Game is accepting proposed changes to its regulations pertaining to local fish and game advisory committees to be considered at its next regulatory meeting, to be scheduled in October 2007. The following sections of Title 5 Chapter 96 of the Alaska Administrative Code will be considered:

- 5 AAC 96.010. Establishment of a local fish and game advisory committee system
- 5 AAC 96.020. Creation of local fish and game advisory committees
- 5 AAC 96.021. Establishment of fish and game advisory committees
- 5 AAC 96.040. Qualifications for members
- 5 AAC 96.050. Functions of local fish and game advisory committees
- 5 AAC 96.060. Uniform rules of operation
- 5 AAC 96.410. Distribution of local fish and game advisory committees
- 5 AAC 96.420. Review of requests for local fish and game advisory committees
- 5 AAC 96.440. Board assistance
- 5 AAC 96.450. Committee status and change of status
- 5 AAC 96.460. Attendance at meetings

The Joint Board is particularly interested in receiving proposals to enhance the effectiveness of the advisory committee system. For example, the Joint Board would like to consider options to consolidate committees A) where multiple committees represent the same geographic area or share in the use of the same fish stocks and game populations; B) where committees have been inactive for two or more years; or C) where a change in committee structure would better facilitate resolving resource issues at the local level before coming to the boards.

### II. NONSUBSISTENCE AREA REGULATIONS

The Joint Board of Fisheries and Game is accepting proposed changes to its regulations pertaining to the Joint Board nonsubsistence areas. A nonsubsistence area is an area or community where dependence upon subsistence is not a principal characteristic of the economy, culture and way of life of the area or community. The boards may not permit subsistence hunting or fishing in a nonsubsistence area. The following section of Title 5 Chapter 99 of the Alaska Administrative Code will be considered:

**5 AAC 99.015. Joint Board nonsubsistence areas.**

(Includes Ketchikan, Juneau, Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai, Fairbanks, and Valdez nonsubsistence areas)

The Joint Board established the current nonsubsistence areas as required under AS 16.05.258(c) in 1992. Proposals submitted to modify the existing areas, delete areas, or add new areas should identify any significant new information available that the Joint Board did not have available in 1992 when it made the determinations or identify if the board made any errors in its previous decision. Written findings detailing the boards action can be found on the boards website (<http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/fishgame/regs/jbfind.php>) or by contacting one of

the Board Support offices listed below. Proposals should also reference the 12 socio-economic characteristics specified in AS 16.05.258(c), which are also available by contacting the Boards Support Section.

The Joint Board intends to follow a two-step approach to acting on the nonsubsistence area proposals. The board will perform a preliminary review of the proposals during a meeting scheduled in October 2007. During this preliminary review, the board will conduct an initial assessment of the proposals, will identify the information needed for a full review of appropriate proposals, and will schedule appropriate proposals for further public review and department analysis prior to regulatory action at a meeting to be scheduled in 2008.

**Proposals must be received by 5:00 p.m. Friday, December 8, 2006 at one of the following locations:**

Scott Crass  
ADF&G, Boards Support  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
**Phone: (907) 465-4110**  
**Fax: (907) 465-6094**

Joe Chythlook  
ADF&G, Boards Support  
PO Box 1030  
Dillingham, AK 99576-1030  
**Phone: (907) 842-5142**  
**Fax: (907) 842-5514**

Sherry Wright  
ADF&G, Boards Support  
333 Raspberry Road  
Anchorage, AK 99518-1599  
**Phone: (907) 267-2354**  
**Fax: (907) 267-2489**

Charlie Gregg  
ADF&G, Boards Support  
PO Box 689  
Kotzebue, AK 99752-0689  
**Phone: (907) 442-1717**  
**Fax: (907) 442-2847**

Rita St. Louis  
ADF&G, Boards Support  
1300 College Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
**Phone: (907) 459-7263**  
**Fax: (907) 474-8558**

Proposal forms may be obtained from any office of the Boards Support Section or on the board's website at <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/>. All proposals must contain an original signature, contact telephone number, and address. Please print or type the individual's name and an organizational name if appropriate. A fax is acceptable and considered an original. **Proposals must be received in one of the above offices by the deadline** (a postmark is NOT sufficient for timely receipt). You are encouraged to submit proposals at the earliest possible date.

Proposals are reviewed by the board's proposal review committee prior to publication. Language that is emotionally charged detracts from the substance of the proposal. It may draw opposition that may not be germane to the element(s) of the proposal and may elicit nonresponsive charges from the public/board members. The proposal review committee reserves the right to edit or reject proposals containing offensive language. Following publication, proposal booklets will be available to advisory committees and interested members of the public for review and comment.



## On-Time Public Comments Index

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11 January 2023

Alaska Board of Game  
C/O Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
P.O. Box 115526  
1255 W. 8th Street  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Re: BOARD OF GAME, BEAR CONSERVATION, HARVEST, AND MANAGEMENT POLICY**

Dear Board Members and Director Grasser:

On behalf of Safari Club International, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed version of the Board of Game, Bear Conservation, Harvest, and Management Policy.

The proposed version of the Board of Game, Bear Conservation, Harvest, and Management Policy generally demonstrates responsible and sustainable management of bears while maintaining high levels of opportunity for hunters. SCI believes that sound science-based conservation involving hunting as the primary management tool, while maximizing opportunities for all huntable species, including carnivores such as black, grizzly, and brown bears, is necessary to the long-term health of wildlife. Hunters have long paid the way for conservation, both game and non-game wildlife, and maximizing opportunity for hunting is also key to long-term funding for all conservation. Hunting benefits wildlife conservation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the proposed version of the Board of Game, Bear Conservation, Harvest, and Management Policy. SCI is dedicated to protecting the freedom to hunt and we appreciate the continued partnership with the Department and the Wildlife Board. SCI is always first for hunters!

Sincerely,

Sven Lindquist  
President  
Safari Club International



11 January 2023

Alaska Board of Game  
C/O Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
P.O. Box 115526  
1255 W. 8th Street  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Re: BOARD OF GAME, WOLF MANAGEMENT POLICY**

Dear Board Members and Director Grasser:

On behalf of Safari Club International, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed version of the Board of Game, Wolf Management Policy.

The proposed version of the Board of Game, Wolf Management Policy generally demonstrates responsible and sustainable management of wolves while maintaining high levels of opportunity for hunters. SCI believes that sound science-based conservation involving hunting as the primary management tool, while maximizing opportunities for all huntable species, including carnivores such as wolves, is necessary to the long-term health of wildlife. Hunters have long paid the way for conservation, both game and non-game wildlife, and maximizing opportunity for hunting is also key to long-term funding for all conservation. Hunting benefits wildlife conservation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the proposed version of the Board of Game, Wolf Management Policy. SCI is dedicated to protecting the freedom to hunt and we appreciate the continued partnership with the Department and the Wildlife Board. SCI is always first for hunters!

Sincerely,

Sven Lindquist  
President  
Safari Club International



January 10, 2023

Dear Board Members,

I would like to ask the board to reconsider my request to clarify the intent of my proposal #199, to establish a registration hunt in Unit 8, allowing permits to be picked up in the communities of Ouzinkie and Port Lions by anyone.

The proposal was not intended to establish a village-only registration hunt. The attached document is the original draft of the proposal that was expected to be submitted by the May 1, 2021 deadline, which was then postponed one year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The intended purpose of proposal 199 is to make available 16 permits, (8 Ouzinkie and 8 Port Lions) to be distributed on a first-come first-serve basis to anyone. We did not intend that the permits would be issued to a particular village, I just wanted them available in those villages.

The current lottery drawing program has been a disaster for the two villages involved. There has been zero permits to anyone who lives in either village in the last two years, possibly longer. Permits were fairly common in past years, but the popularity of the Roosevelt elk hunt nationwide has reduced our success rate of getting a tag, to zero in the past two years or longer.

The village elders are no longer capable to hunt for themselves so they rely on the younger hunters in the village to provide their winter meat, fish, duck and berries.

Having the possibility of a registration hunt available will greatly increase the chance to provide meat for the elders. Most members of the hunting community are active hunters and have all committed to provide part of their catch to the elk for elders program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Harold Squartsoff, Chairman Hunting Committee,  
Ouzinkie Native Corporation  
[hsquartsoff@ouzinkie.com](mailto:hsquartsoff@ouzinkie.com)



Submitted 2020

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME  
REGULATION PROPOSAL FORM | 2019-2020 MEETING CYCLE

Send completed form by May 1, 2020 to:  
PO BOX 115526, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-5526  
FAX (907) 465-6094 or EMAIL [afg.bog.comments@alaska.gov](mailto:afg.bog.comments@alaska.gov)

**BOARD OF GAME REGULATIONS**  
Game Management Unit (GMU) \_\_\_\_\_

Hunting       Subsistence  
 Trapping      Other \_\_\_\_\_

Resident       Nonresident

Which meeting would you like to submit your proposal to?  
 Central & Southwest Region (GMUs 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16 & 17)       Statewide Regulations – 5 AAC Ch. 92 provisions & 98.005 (see list on page 4)

Please answer all questions to the best of your ability. All answers will be printed in the proposal book along with the proposer's name (address and phone numbers will not be published). Use separate forms for each proposal. Address only one issue per proposal. State the issue clearly and concisely. The board will reject multiple or confusing items.

1. Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC: \_\_\_\_\_ Regulation Book Page No: \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?  
 Allocation of elk drawing permits on Afognak Island, specifically permit drawing hunts DE715, DE717, DE721 and DE723. We would like to see four permits from each of these four drawing hunts be re-allocated to a registration hunt with the requirement that 8 registrations permits be picked up in Ouzinkie and 8 be picked up in Port Lions.

3. What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say? (Please provide draft regulatory language, if possible.)  
 One elk by registration permit only. Eight permits to be picked up in Ouzinkie and eight permits to be picked up in Port Lions. A total of four registration permits will be issued for each of the hunts (permit numbers to be determined by the Board of Game)

Submitted By: Janet Ruffolo Vice Chair - ONK  
Individual or Group

11001 Omalley Centre DR, Anch, AK 99515  
City, State ZIP Code