

Jack Reakoff – Personal Comments

It is pretty apparent that the boards of Game and Fish do not care to include, or reference valid comments from Advisory Committees during deliberations. My comment today to both boards is to address and include AC advice and concerns during the deliberations process.

As authorized by Alaska Statute 16.05.260, which originally passed in 1959, the Joint Board of Fisheries and Game has established 84 advisory committees for the purpose of providing a local forum for the collection and expression of opinions and recommendations on matters related to the management of fish and wildlife resources. The regulations governing the advisory committee are 5 AAC Chapters 96 and 97.

It is currently very frustrating when both the Board of Game or Fish ignore hundreds of AC members time and effort to inform them with information and opinions. Doing so violates the whole statutory reason for AC's.

These board's do not reference specific AC comments during deliberations, other than whether the proposal was supported or opposed.

Therefore these boards do not have a complete statutory decision record when AC's important information and opinions are not considered and excluded during deliberations, before final action is taken.

The Boards are relying predominantly on opinions of DFG staff which can be, and sometimes deeply flawed. Sometimes DFG opinions do provide critical data, or incomplete data for Board consideration.

Without balanced consideration of all information and options the best interest of the Alaskan public is not being achieved.

Many times this flawed approach Boards are using has compromised sustained yield of replenish-able fish and game resources.

My opinion in no way reflects on any board support staff.

Jack Reakoff
Koyukuk River AC chairman