

(DRAFT) NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE
REGULATIONS OF THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

The Alaska Board of Fisheries proposes to adopt, amend, or repeal regulation changes in Title 5 of the Alaska Administrative Code, dealing with fishery and aquatic plant resources in the areas designated below, including the following regulations:

1. IN THE BRISTOL BAY AREA, INCLUDING THE BRISTOL BAY COMMERCIAL HERRING AREA; IN THE ARCTIC-KOTZEBUE, NORTON SOUND-PORT CLARENCE, YUKON, AND KUSKOKWIM AREAS (collectively referred to as Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim or A-Y-K Areas), INCLUDING THE KUSKOKWIM COMMERCIAL HERRING AREA, AND IN THE YUKON RIVER, TANANA RIVER, AND KUSKOKWIM-GOODNEWS SPORT FISH AREAS; IN THE ALASKA PENINSULA, ALEUTIAN ISLANDS, CHIGNIK, AND ATKA-AMLIA AREAS, INCLUDING THE ALASKA PENINSULA-ALEUTIAN ISLANDS COMMERCIAL HERRING AREA AND THE ALASKA PENINSULA-ALEUTIAN ISLANDS SPORT FISH AREA; IN THE EASTERN GULF OF ALASKA, PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND, COOK INLET, KODIAK, SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA, CHIGNIK, BERING SEA-ALEUTIAN ISLANDS, AND CHUKCHI-BEAUFORT COMMERCIAL GROUND FISH AREAS,; AND STATEWIDE (GENERAL PROVISIONS) FINFISH REGULATION.

A. In the **commercial, sport, guided sport, personal use, and aquatic plant fisheries:** fishing seasons, periods, and opening and closing times; bag, possession, size, age, sex, and harvest limits; harvest levels, thresholds, goals, or quotas; bycatch provisions; districts, subdistricts, sections, subsections, areas, and other management boundaries; locations open and closed to fishing; methods and means; gear specifications; gear, vessel, and general restrictions, including marking requirements definitions, and operational requirements and limitations, and registration and permit requirements; registration areas (including exclusive and superexclusive registration areas), permits, harvest record and reporting, and harvest marking requirements; forage fishery classification and management plans; landing requirements; management plans. special harvest areas, and other regulations for the conservation, development and allocation of fishery and aquatic plant resources among beneficial uses; permit stacking; guiding principles; emergency order authority; restrictions and requirements for the retention, tendering, dispatch, possession, sale, release, or purchase of fish; methods of release; registration and reporting requirements for fish guides, guided anglers, catchers, processors, buyers and transporters; onboard observer requirements; fish storage and inspection requirements.

B. In the **subsistence fisheries:** identify subsistence uses and users; fishing seasons, periods, and opening and closing times; harvest levels; methods and means; size, age, sex, and harvest limits; districts, subdistricts, sections, subsections, areas, and other management boundaries; locations open and closed to fishing; gear, vessel, and general restrictions, including marking requirements, definitions, and operational requirements and limitations; gear specifications; registration and

permit requirements, requirements for marking and possession of fish; management plans and other regulations for the conservation, development and allocation of fishery and aquatic plant resources among beneficial uses and users; identify customary and traditional uses of fish stocks; determine amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence uses; distinguish among subsistence users, including creating and regulating tier II fisheries; and establish, change or adjust subsistence fisheries.

For a copy of the proposed regulation changes contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, (ADF&G) Boards Support Section, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526, (907) 465-4110, or <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.main>.

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 limited to no more than 100 single-sided or 50 double-sided pages to the ADF&G, Boards Support Section, at P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526. Additionally, the Boards Support Section will accept comments by facsimile at (907) 465-6094, by email to dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov (PDF format only), or online at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.main>. Individuals and advisory committees directing public comment at an ADF&G office or personnel other than as prescribed above do not have assurance their comments will be received and entered as public comment.

Comments are due generally no later than two weeks prior to the meeting during which the topics are considered. Unless otherwise specified for a particular meeting in a published notice, written comments exceeding the page limit from any one individual or group relating to proposals at any one meeting will not be accepted. Written comments limited to 10 single-sided or 5 double-sided pages in length from any one individual or group are accepted after the two-week deadline and inserted in board member workbooks at the beginning of the meeting, and are also accepted during the meeting and until the board begins proposal deliberations.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT STANDARD:

Once a meeting begins and during a meeting written comments from any one individual or group may be submitted by hand delivery at any time if the required number of copies are provided (typically in excess of 25 copies). Individuals not in attendance at a meeting may fax comments to 907-465-6094. As a practical matter, comments submitted after the board begins deliberations on relevant proposals are likely to receive less consideration than comments submitted earlier.

Once proposal deliberations begins at meetings, the board will **ONLY** accept written comments on the topics being considered at the meeting from any one individual or group that are not more than five single-sided pages, or the equivalent number of double-sided pages, unless specific information is requested by the board that requires more pages than allowed under this standard.

Each meeting will generally start at 8:30 a.m. on the first day of the meeting dates below unless the board directs a different start time. The public oral testimony period of each regulatory meeting begins after staff reports and continues until everyone who has signed up timely and is present has an opportunity to be heard. The board will take oral testimony only from those who register before

the cut-off time announced by the board chair at each meeting. The length of oral statements may be limited to three minutes or less. 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. Additional public hearings with board committees may be held during the meeting before proposal deliberation.

TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE

Alaska Peninsula / Bering Sea – Aleutian Islands / Chignik Pacific Cod

November 30-December 1, 2015

Egan Convention Center, 555 W. 5th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska

Comment Deadline: November 19, 2015

Bristol Bay Finfish

December 2-8, 2015

Egan Convention Center, 555 W. 5th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska

Comment Deadline: November 19, 2015

Arctic / Yukon / Kuskokwim Finfish

January 12-16, 2016

Alpine Lodge, 4920 Dale Road, Fairbanks, Alaska

Comment Deadline: December 28, 2015

Alaska Peninsula / Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands / Chignik Finfish

February 23-March 1, 2016

Sheraton Hotel, 401 E. 6th Avenue Anchorage, Alaska

Comment Deadline: February 8, 2016

Statewide Finfish General Provisions, State-waters Pollock, and Supplemental Issues

March 8-11, 2016

Hilton Hotel, 500 W 3rd Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska

Comment Deadline: February 18, 2016

Any changes to meeting locations, dates or times, or rescheduling of topics or subject matter will be announced by news release. Please watch for these announcements in the news media or call (907) 465-4110. Please carefully review the ***PROPOSAL INDEX*** available for the meeting for specific proposals to be addressed by the board. Copies of the proposal indices are in the proposal book, available online at <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us>, and at the relevant meeting. State-waters pollock proposals scheduled for the Statewide Finfish meeting, March 8-11, 2016, will be received by Boards Support by September 4, 2015. The board may also include accepted agenda change requests as new proposals following its October 21-22, 2015 work session. Any additional proposals will be noticed and made available online and upon request.

Anyone interested in or affected by subsistence, personal use, commercial fishing, sport, guided sport, or aquatic plant regulations are hereby informed that the Board of Fisheries may consider any or all of the subject areas covered by this notice. Under AS 44.62.200(b), the board may review the full range of activities appropriate to any of the subjects listed in this notice. The board

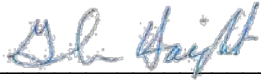
may make changes to the personal use, sport, guided sport or commercial fishing regulations as may be required to ensure the subsistence priority in AS 16.05.258. On its own motion, after public hearing, the board may adopt, amend, reject, supplement, or take no action on these subjects without further notice. In addition, the board may adopt other regulations necessary to implement, administer, or enforce the regulations adopted. **THE BOARD IS NOT LIMITED BY THE SPECIFIC LANGUAGE OR CONFINES OF THE ACTUAL PROPOSALS THAT HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED BY THE PUBLIC OR STAFF.** The language of the final regulations may be different from that of the proposed regulations. YOU SHOULD COMMENT DURING THE TIME ALLOWED IF YOUR INTERESTS COULD BE AFFECTED.

If you are a person with a disability who needs special accommodation in order to participate in the proposed regulation process, please contact Glenn Haight at (907) 465-4110 no later than two weeks prior to the beginning of each meeting to ensure necessary accommodations can be provided.

Statutory Authority: AS 16.05 - AS 16.20, AS 16.40

Statutes Being Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: AS 16.05 - AS 16.20, AS 16.40

Fiscal Information: The proposed regulatory actions are not expected to require an increased appropriation.



Glenn Haight, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries

07/31/2015

Date