



2025-26 CYCLE

# ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES TOOLKIT

Arctic, Yukon,  
Kuskokwim Finfish

Bristol Bay Finfish

Alaska Peninsula,  
Aleutian Island,  
Chignik Finfish

Statewide Finfish



# Board of Fisheries OVERVIEW



## WHAT IS THE BOARD?

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) is a seven-member citizen board appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Legislature. Members serve staggered three-year terms and represent a diversity of backgrounds, including commercial, sport, subsistence, and personal use fisheries.

## WHAT DO THEY DO?

The BOF primary role is to conserve and develop Alaska's fishery resources. This involves establishing seasons, bag limits, methods, and means for the state's subsistence, commercial, sport, guided sport, and personal use fisheries, as well as setting policies and direction for the management of Alaska's fishery resources.

### **Core Responsibilities**

- Set Regulations: BOF members adopt regulations for the conservation and allocation of Alaska's fishery resources across all user groups.
- Review Proposals: They evaluate proposals submitted by the public, agencies, and advisory committees to change fishing seasons, gear types, harvest limits, and other rules.
- Hold Public Meetings: Members participate in annual meetings across Alaska, where they hear public testimony, deliberate proposals, and vote on regulatory changes.
- Balance Interests: They must weigh biological data, Indigenous knowledge, and stakeholder input to make decisions that reflect conservation needs and equitable access.
- Engage with Communities: BOF members interact with local advisory committees, tribal organizations, and fishing communities to understand regional concerns and priorities.

# CURRENT MEMBERS



MÄRIT CARLSON-VAN DORT, **CHAIR**  
Anchorage, term ends 6/30/27  
[marit.carlson-vandort@alaska.gov](mailto:marit.carlson-vandort@alaska.gov)



TOM CARPENTER, **VICE CHAIR**  
Cordova, term ends 6/30/28  
[tom.carpenter@alaska.gov](mailto:tom.carpenter@alaska.gov)



CURTIS CHAMBERLAIN  
Anchorage, ends 6/30/27  
[curt.chamberlain@alaska.gov](mailto:curt.chamberlain@alaska.gov)



GERAD GODFREY  
Eagle River, ends 6/30/26  
[g.godfrey@alaska.gov](mailto:g.godfrey@alaska.gov)



OLIVIA HENAAYEE IRWIN  
Nenana, ends 6/30/28  
[oliviahenaayee.irwin@alaska.gov](mailto:oliviahenaayee.irwin@alaska.gov)



GREG SVEDSEN  
Anchorage, ends 6/30/26  
[greg.svedsen@alaska.gov](mailto:greg.svedsen@alaska.gov)



MIKE WOOD  
Talkeetna, ends 6/30/26  
[mike.wood@alaska.gov](mailto:mike.wood@alaska.gov)

## 2025-2026 MEETING DATES

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>COMMENT DEADLINE</u>
Oct. 28-29	Work Session	Anchorage	Oct. 13
Oct. 30-31	AK Pacific Cod	Anchorage	Oct. 15
Nov. 18-22	Arctic/Yukon/Kusko Finfish	Fairbanks	Nov. 3
Jan. 13-18	Bristol Bay Finfish	Anchorage	Dec. 29
Feb. 18-24	Area M/Chignik Finfish	Anchorage	Feb. 3
Mar. 17-21	Statewide Finfish	Anchorage	Mar. 2

**ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

Written comments are due roughly two weeks before meetings. You may sign up at the meetings to give oral public testimony.

# PROCESS OVERVIEW

The Board of Fisheries (BOF) is responsible for setting regulations for the conservation and allocation of Alaska's fishery resources. The Board holds regular public meetings each year, providing critical opportunities for Indigenous communities, subsistence users, and advocacy organizations to engage in fisheries policy discussions.

## Meeting Types

### Work Sessions (Fall)

- Focus on planning, regulatory review, and setting agendas for the upcoming cycle.
- No regulatory decisions are made.
- **Public testimony is not typically taken.**

### Regulatory Meetings (Winter–Spring)

- Held in three-year cycles by region (e.g., Southeast, Bristol Bay, etc.).
- Include proposals from the public, agencies, & advisory committees (AC's).
- **Public testimony and stakeholder engagement are central.**
- **Final decisions on regulations are made.**

### Special or Emergency Meetings

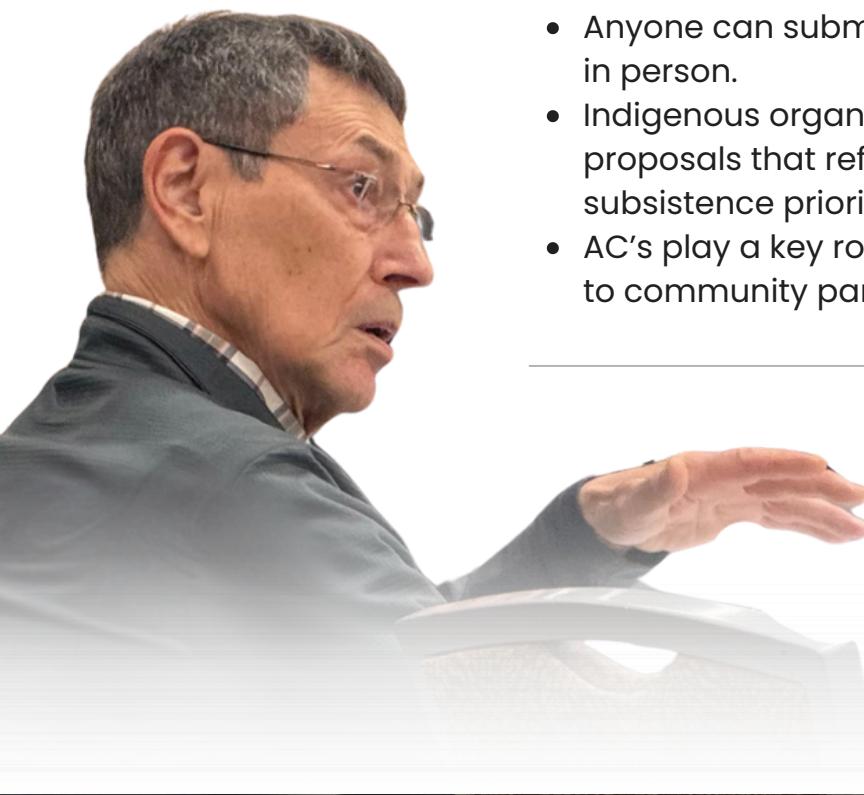
- Called as needed to address urgent conservation or allocation issues.

## Public Participation

- Anyone can submit proposals, written comments, or testify in person.
- Indigenous organizations are encouraged to submit proposals that reflect traditional knowledge and subsistence priorities.
- AC's play a key role in shaping BOF decisions and are open to community participation.

## Proposal Deadlines

- Typically due April 1 for the following year's cycle.
- Early engagement is critical for proposal development and coalition-building.



# THREE WAYS

## to create or change regulations

### THE PUBLIC, OUR PEOPLE

The public can play a key role in changing regulations by drafting a regulatory proposal and submitting it directly to the Board of Fisheries.

### LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

·AC's are another good way to get involved and influence regulation. They can discuss regional issues and incorporate information from ADF&G into their decision-making processes to inform the development or revision of new regulations & proposals.

### ADF&G AND THEIR BIOLOGISTS

·The Department and their biologists often draft proposals based on their active role in management and research. ADF&G will submit proposals directly to the BOF to create or change existing regulations.

## KEY REASONS FOR TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT

**Alaska Native Tribes and Tribal organizations are essential to shaping fisheries policy through active engagement with the BOF.**

- BOF decisions directly impact customary and traditional uses of fish—especially salmon—which are central to Indigenous lifeways, food sovereignty, and cultural survival.
- Tribal advocacy, grounded in protections under the Alaska Constitution and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), ensures that subsistence priorities are upheld in state policy.

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**This engagement directly supports POWOL Strategic Priorities—Protecting Our Ways of Life—by defending subsistence rights, advancing Tribal sovereignty, and uplifting Indigenous knowledge systems.**

- Key policy tools such as the Subsistence Priority Policy, Amount Necessary for Subsistence (ANS) determinations, the Sustainable Salmon Policy, and the Mixed Stock Policy provide mechanisms to conserve Indigenous access and protect vulnerable stocks.
- Through participation in BOF meetings, submitting proposals, and sharing Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), Tribes help safeguard the long-term health of fish populations and ensure that Indigenous values and stewardship are reflected in Alaska's fisheries management.

# WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

## Submit a Proposal

- Anyone can submit a proposal to change fishing regulations.
- Proposals are accepted during the **Call for Proposals**, typically issued in **spring** for the following year's meeting cycle.
- Proposals should include background, justification, and suggested regulatory language.

 [Submit a proposal & view proposal forms](#)

 [Call for proposals information](#)

## Submit Written Comments

- Written comments are accepted **before and during** meetings.
- **On-time comments** (due ~2 weeks before the meeting) are included in board materials.
- **Record copies** can be submitted during the meeting (limited to 5 pages).

Submit via:

 [Online form](#)

- Mail: Boards Support Section, PO Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526
- Fax: (907) 465-6094
- In Person: At the meeting site

## Provide Public Testimony

- Anyone can testify in person at BOF meetings.
- You must **sign up at the meeting site** before the posted deadline (usually 10:00 AM on the second day of the session).
- Testimony is typically limited to **3–5 minutes** per person.

 [Meeting Schedule & Information](#)

## Submit Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Reports

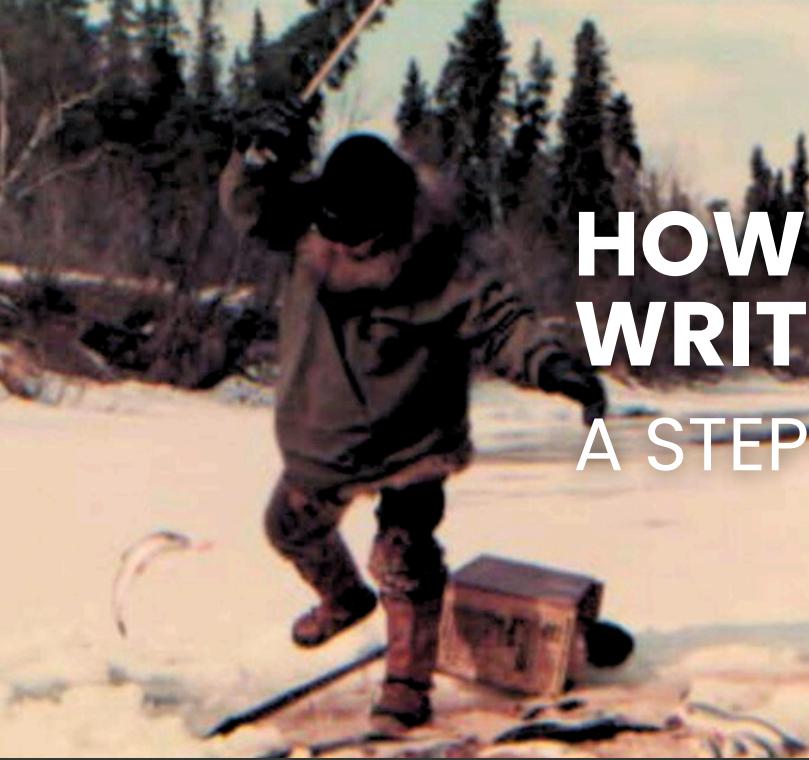
- Tribes and Indigenous knowledge holders can submit TEK reports.
- Must **sign up in advance** and meet criteria outlined in BOF legal notices.
- Contact the BOF Executive Director to participate.  
Art Nelson – [art.nelson@alaska.gov](mailto:art.nelson@alaska.gov) | (907) 267-2292

 [TEK policy](#)

## Join or Engage with Advisory Committees (AC's)

- Local **Fish & Game Advisory Committees** are key forums for shaping proposals and comments.
- Tribes can nominate members or attend meetings to influence BOF decisions.

 [Find Advisory Committees](#)



# HOW TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS

## A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

### 1 IDENTIFY THE MEETING AND PROPOSAL

- Visit the *Board of Fisheries Page* to find the meeting dates and proposal books.
- Review the proposals relevant to your region or interest.
- Note the **proposal numbers** you want to comment on.

### 2 PREPARE YOUR WRITTEN COMMENT

Your comment should include:

- Your **name and (if applicable) organization**
- The **proposal number(s)**
- Whether you **support or oppose** each proposal
- A **brief explanation** of your reasoning
- Limit to **100 single-sided pages** or equivalent
- Avoid inflammatory or inappropriate language

### 3 SUBMIT YOUR COMMENT BEFORE THE DEADLINE

Comments must be received **at least two weeks prior to the meeting**. Late submissions are considered "Record Copies" and may not be included in board materials. Submission options include:

#### Online:

- Go to the *ADF&G Online Comment Form*
- Select the meeting, fill out your contact info, and paste or upload your comment.

#### Mail:

- Send to:  
**Boards Support Section**  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
- **MUST** be **received** (**not** postmarked) by deadline.

#### Fax:

(907) 465-6094

#### In-Person:

Boards Support Section  
1255 W. 8th Street  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

### 4 CONFIRM SUBMISSION

- If submitting online, you'll receive an email confirmation.
- If mailing or faxing, consider calling (907) 465-4110 to confirm receipt.

# TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE (TEK) REPORTS

## SIMPLE STORY FORMAT

1. What my Elders taught
2. What I have seen change
3. How these changes impact my family & community



## WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR TEK REPORT

- 1 TEACHINGS PASSED DOWN FROM ELDERS
  - What did your grandparents or ancestors teach about salmon and the river?
  - What values guide how your people interact with salmon/nonsalmon?
- 2 CHANGES YOU'VE OBSERVED OVER TIME
  - How have salmon runs changed in timing, strength, or behavior?
  - What long-term changes have you seen that are different from what Elders taught?
- 3 RIVER AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS
  - How has the river changed (warm water, low water, ice patterns, storm debris)?
  - What signs of salmon health or abundance did Elders teach you to watch for?
- 4 CONDITION OF THE FISH
  - What changes have you seen in the size, quality, or health of salmon/nonsalmon?
  - Are there new markings, lesions, injuries, or behaviors not seen in the past?
- 5 CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY IMPACTS
  - How has the loss of salmon/nonsalmon affected your family, Elders, youth, or community traditions?
  - Are there ceremonies, practices, or teachings that cannot be done right now?
- 6 SUBSISTENCE PRACTICES AND ADAPTATIONS
  - What sacrifices and/or changes has your community made to protect salmon & nonsalmon?
  - How have people adjusted their gear, timing, or harvest practices?
- 7 MESSAGE FOR THE BOARD
  - What do you want the Board to understand about your relationship with salmon/nonsalmon?