



## Board of Fish Decides to Double Up on Meetings for Next Year

The Alaska Board of Fisheries held a Special Meeting Monday January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to discuss rescheduling of meetings for the 2020/2021 Board of Fish meeting cycle due to COVID-19 pandemic concerns. The Board decided to postpone the 2020/2021 meetings of the Board until 2021/2022. The Board also voted to keep the 2021/2022 meeting schedule as currently scheduled, essentially a plan to hold 2 meeting cycles during one year.

### Board actions:

- Postpone 2020/2021 meetings until during 2021/2022, dates to be announced
- Keep the current schedule of meetings for the 2021/2022 cycle
- Move forward with a board-generated proposal to extend several expiring sunset dates
- Extend the current call for proposals for April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 until May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- Use agenda change request criteria to vet any new proposals for the 2020/2021 cycle

In a [memo](#) prepared by Executive Director Glenn Haight, the Department of Fish & Game had recommended the Board to move all future cycles forward one year, but the Board decided to double up on meetings next year to get back on schedule. In order to accomplish the ambitious scheduling of 2 cycle years in one year, the Department will need increased funding from the Legislature.

The Board of Fish will meet March 8<sup>th</sup> via web conference to address several expiring sunset dates of fishery management plans through a board-generated proposal. At the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board will attempt to reschedule this year's meetings for next year:

- Statewide Shellfish ~~March 5-10, 2021~~ TBD
- Prince William Sound Finfish and Shellfish ~~March 30-April 5, 2021~~ TBD
- Southeast and Yakutat Finfish & Shellfish ~~April 17-29, 2021~~ TBD

The Prince William Sound and the Southeast/Yakutat meetings had been rescheduled once already, now postponed until sometime during the next cycle. The 2020/2021 call for proposals will not be reopened but agenda change requests may be considered for the 2020/2021 cycle if they meet the ACR criteria.

According to the Board of Fish actions Monday, these meetings of the 2021/2022 meeting cycle will keep the currently scheduled dates:

- Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Island, Bering Sea & Chignik Pacific Cod  
October 22-23, 2021
- Bristol Bay Finfish November 28-December 4, 2021
- Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Finfish January 8-12, 2022
- Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Island/Chignik Finfish February 18-23, 2022
- Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues March 11-14, 2022

The Joint Boards of Fish and Game Committee had met on January 19 to review options for meeting during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board of Game decided last week to move all cycles forward one year. Both Boards agree that in-person meetings are the real strength of the Board process, but in-person meetings are currently extremely problematic due to COVID-19.

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