



Marathon Board of Fish March 2022 (March Madness)

Playing this month at the Anchorage Egan Center:

Now: Board of Fisheries SE/Yakutat meeting
Next: Hatchery Committee March 23rd
Coming Soon: Board of Fish Statewide Shellfish meeting March 26 – April 2.



Board of Fisheries, Egan Center – March 14, 2022.

Online & In-person

The Board of Fisheries is meeting for most of the month of March and into April, in-person at the Egan center and streaming live on the [Board Website](#). Use of a computer or smart phone device is of course essential for virtual attendance but also strongly encouraged for in-person attendees. All the important meeting documents, including the Agenda, the Roadmap, Proposals and RCs (record copies) are found on each meeting

webpage. Few if any Proposals Books are published as hard copies anymore and meeting materials are increasingly accessed online through the internet. As the Board of Fisheries moves towards paperless, you no longer need to submit multiple paper copies to get an RC on the table. Comments and RCs are now submitted by email to dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov. Limited paper copies of essential documents are still available at the back of the meeting room.

This year, online registration is said to be required for attendees of Board of Fisheries meetings. Registration helps to inform attendees of the inherent risks associated with Covid at the in-person meeting. It is also used to give attendees a chance to sign-up to give testimony at the meeting. The form to register and meeting documents are found on the meeting webpage for each particular meeting through the [Meetings List page](#). Attendees that register online will receive an identification badge for that meeting. Attendees can also sign up to testify in-person at the meeting on the first day until 2PM.



Badge Table at Southeast/Yakutat Board of Fish meeting, 4th day.

Public Testimony

For the Statewide Shellfish meeting that many AEB residents are interested in, in-person public testimony will begin the afternoon of the first day, Saturday March 26th and run until everyone signed up has had a chance to speak. If you register online you can mark your preference for the block of time in the first days of the meeting when you would like to testify. Each member of the public is afforded 3 minutes to speak on the record to the Board. Advisory Committees (ACs) are given 10 minutes to report to the Board.

Public testimony at the ongoing Southeast/Yakutat Finfish meeting is being run different than regular meetings.

- The Board has been allowing remote testimony from select ADFG sites in Southeast Alaska.
- Public testimony has been taken at different times during the SE/Yakutat meeting.

These changes for the SE/Yakutat meeting only are to accommodate conflicts for SE fishers due to the change in venue and meeting dates.

The Board of Fisheries uses a Committee of the Whole process to review groups of proposals before Board deliberation, allowing for additional in-person public input. At the Statewide Shellfish meeting, many AEB attendees will want to participate in Committee of the Whole Group 3 for commercial crab proposals and most AEB in-person attendees will want to participate in the Group 4 Salmon proposals Committee of the Whole.

Meeting Documents Found Online

RCs are numbered and are part of the official record of all Board meetings. RC2 is always the ADF&G Staff Comments on proposals to be considered at the meeting. RC3 is comprised of the written reports and oral presentations on pertinent subjects for the meeting. Written comments submitted during the meeting are assigned an RC number and posted on the website. Public comments and AC comments submitted by the on-time comment deadline are also filed to the meeting webpage. The Roadmap for the meeting lists the groups of proposals and the order to be taken up by each Committee of the Whole and for Board Deliberations. The Agenda provides an estimated timeline for reports and group of proposals. All meeting documents and an audio recording for each meeting is archived and available to the public, from the current meeting and going back to the 2003 October Work Session - available through the [Meeting List page](#).

Proposals of Interest to AEB Residents

Salmon [Proposal 282](#) would cut fishing time in the Dolgoi Area and the Shumagin Islands Section of the South Alaska Peninsula area by around 50% beginning June 15th, unless the Chignik early run is expected to meet minimum escapement. Proposal 282 is an out-of-cycle proposal developed from an agenda change request (ACR 7) submitted by a Chignik resident and accepted by the Board by a vote of 4-2 at the October Work Session.

Commercial crab proposals:

- [Proposal 261](#), use of a ropeless system with submerged buoy in the Dungeness crab fishery
- Proposals [264](#) & [265](#) operating Dungeness crab pots once every 14 days
- Proposal [267](#) establishing a South Pen Dungeness pot limit, and
- Proposals [268](#) & [269](#) Tanner crab harvest strategy for Kodiak, Chignik and South Peninsula

Proposals are due April 11th for the 2022/2023 Board of Fish meeting cycle, including for Bristol Bay; Arctic, Yukon, Kuskokwim; and Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, Bering Sea and Chignik finfish.

The AEB has rented Egan Center Conference Room 4 during the Statewide Shellfish meeting right next to Board meeting room, beginning March 26th for use by all AEB fishermen and fishing groups. The room will have live meeting audio, internet access, a small printer/scanner and morning coffee. AEB Anchorage Staff will be there in person to help our fishermen at the meeting as needed. The purpose of the conference room is to facilitate communication between AEB fishermen, the Board and other groups during the meeting.

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