

Board of Fisheries and Board of Game History

In 1949, the Territorial Legislature created the Alaska Territorial Fishery Service in an attempt to influence federal management practices that had decimated salmon populations in Alaska. The Territorial Fishery Service had no authority, but they commented on federal regulations, conducted research, and tried to influence the federal managers.

In 1957, in anticipation of statehood, the Territorial legislature expanded and renamed the Alaska Fishery Service to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The first state legislature (January 1959 - March 1960) created the Board of Fish and Game and the fish and game advisory committee system. The Board of Fish and Game consisted of *nine* citizens appointed by the Governor and confirmed by a majority vote of the legislature. In spring 1975, the legislature separated the Board of Fish and Game into separate Boards, which continues today.

Source: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=about.history>

About the Boards

The boards have a three-year meeting cycle, the meetings generally occur from October through March. The boards meet four to six times per year in communities around the state to consider proposed changes to regulations around the state. The boards use the biological and socioeconomic information provided by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, public comment received from people inside and outside of the state, and guidance from the Alaska Department of Public Safety and Alaska Department of Law when creating regulations that are sound and enforceable.

Source: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.main>

Board Process

Board of Fisheries:

The Board of Fisheries is the state's regulatory authority that passes regulations to conserve and develop Alaska's fisheries resources. The Board of Fisheries is charged with making allocative and regulatory decisions. The board has seven members, each appointed by the governor for a three-year term. Each member must be confirmed by a joint session of the state legislature.

Board of Game:

The Board of Game is the state's regulatory authority that passes regulations to conserve and develop Alaska's wildlife resources. The Board of Game is charged with making allocative and regulatory decisions.

The board has seven members, each appointed by the governor for a three-year term. Each member must be confirmed by a joint session of the state legislature.

Commissioner:

The commissioner is the principal executive for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game; responsible for the protection, management, conservation, and restoration of Alaska's fish and game resources.

Joint Board:

The Joint Board of Fisheries and Game set the regulations for advisory committee guidelines. These include the establishment of advisory committees, setting the number of seats by community if more than one community is represented on the committee, and setting the guidelines for uniform rules of operation. The composition of advisory committees can be changed by the Joint Board after they receive a proposal and meet to act on the proposal.

Advisory Committees:

Advisory committees are the local groups authorized by state law to provide recommendations to the boards on fishing and wildlife issues. There are 84 committees throughout the state each with expertise in a particular local area. Meetings are always open to the public and are generally attended by department staff and members of the public who can offer background information on agenda topics. Advisory Committees are intended to provide a local forum on fish and wildlife issues, and are critical policy bodies to the boards.

Source: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.main>