

# Alaska State Legislature

**Leadership**  
Majority Whip

**Chair**  
Fisheries Committee  
Transportation Committee

**Member**  
Rules Committee  
Labor and Commerce Committee  
Legislative Council



**REPRESENTATIVE LOUISE STUTES**

**District 32**

**Kodiak-Cordova-Yakutat**

**E-Mail:** Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov

**Session:**  
Alaska State Capitol, #406  
Juneau, AK 99801

Phone: (907) 465-2487  
Fax: (907) 465-4956  
Free: (800) 865-2487

**Interim:**  
305 Center Avenue, Suite 1  
Kodiak, AK 99615  
Phone: (907) 486-8872  
Fax: (907) 486-5264

## DFG/BOF - Brief 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 committees 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 Board

The Alaska Board of Fisheries consists of seven members serving three-year terms. Members are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the legislature. Members are appointed on the basis of interest in public affairs, good judgment, knowledge, and ability in the field of action of the board, with a view to providing diversity of interest and points of view in the membership (see Alaska Statute 16.05.221).

The Board of Fisheries' main role is to conserve and develop the fishery resources of the state. This involves setting seasons, bag limits, methods and means for the state's subsistence, commercial, sport, guided sport, and personal use fisheries, and it also involves setting policy and direction for the management of the state's fishery resources. The board is charged with making allocative decisions, and the department is responsible for management based on those decisions.

The board has a three-year meeting cycle (PDF 32 kB). The meetings generally occur from October through March. The Board of Fisheries meets four to six times per year in communities around the state to consider proposed changes to fisheries regulations around the state. The board uses 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.

### **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>)