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## **Agenda #4 & 5: Committee Information**

1. Board of Fisheries Standing Committees worksheet
2. Joint Protocol Committee, November 5, 2020
3. Joint Boards of Game and Fisheries Subcommittee, January 19, 2021 Meeting Summary



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## Alaska Board of Fisheries Committee Assignments

**Board of Fisheries committee and task force assignments**  
*(Updated at the October 2021 Work Session)*

	Williams	Jensen	Wood	Carlson-Van Dort	Godfrey	Mitchell	Payton
<b>Committees</b>							
Committee on Committees		X		Chair			X
Bd. of Fisheries/Bd. of Game	X	X				Chair	
Federal/State Subsistence	Chair		X		X		
Habitat	X		Chair		X		
Joint BOF/NPFMC Protocol		Chair		X		X	
Legislation			X		Chair		X
Hatchery	X	X	X	Chair	X	X	X

Task Forces / Workgroups

Naknek River Sport Comm Services and Guide Fisheries				X		X	Chair
Committee on Board Process		X	X	X			X
Committee on Fisheries Management Research Needs	X		X			X	

**Board of Fisheries committee and task force assignments**  
*(For updated at the October 2022 Work Session)*

	Walton	Jensen	Wood	Carlson-Van Dort	Godfrey	Mitchell	Payton
<b>Committees</b>							
Committee on Committees							
Bd. of Fisheries/Bd. of Game							
Federal/State Subsistence							
Habitat							
Joint BOF/NPFMC Protocol							
Legislation							
Hatchery							

Task Forces / Workgroups

Naknek River Sport Comm Services and Guide Fisheries							
Committee on Board Process							
Committee on Fisheries Management Research Needs							



The Joint Protocol Committee of the  
**North Pacific Fisheries Management Council**  
 and the  
**Alaska Board of Fisheries**



### Draft Meeting Summary

The meeting was held by webconference on November 5, 2020. The meeting agenda, background materials, presentation, and written comment letters are posted on the meeting webpage at <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/1684>.

Joint Protocol Committee membership:

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Cora Campbell  
 Kenny Down  
 Andy Mezirow

Alaska Board of Fisheries

John Jensen (not present)  
 Märít Carlson-Van Dort  
 McKenzie Mitchell

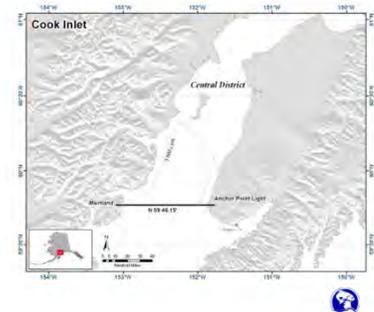
The meeting convened at approximately 1:05pm.

- 1. Introductions** – Mr. Mezirow served as meeting Chair and opened the meeting with introductions of the members and Executive Directors. Maria Davis (Council staff) provided an overview of how to use the webconference platform and public comment procedures.

- 2. Staff Reports** – Doug Duncan (National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Alaska Region) provided a presentation on the Analysis to amend the Federal Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP) with new management measures that comply with Magnuson-Stevens Act requirements for the Cook Inlet commercial drift gillnet salmon fishery in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ), such as status determination criteria, annual catch limits, and accountability measures. This action is being taken to comply with the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court ruling; Final action by the Council is required by December 31, 2020. Alternatives to the status quo (which is not legally tenable) include Federal management with or without delegation of management to the State of Alaska.

#### ALTERNATIVES

- **Alternative 1:** No Action.
- **Alternative 2:** Federal management of the EEZ with specific management measures delegated to the State.
- **Alternative 3:** Federal management of the EEZ without delegation.
- **Alternative 4:** Federal management of the EEZ, closed to commercial salmon fishing.



Mr. Duncan provided an overview of each alternative, and provided additional details on the similarities and differences between Alternatives 2 and 3. Common elements of both alternatives include establishment of a Council Salmon Plan Team to prepare an annual Stock Assessment and Fishery evaluation Report, an annual evaluation of stocks relative to status determination criteria (SDC) to determine if overfishing was occurring or the stock was in an

#### ALTERNATIVE COMPARISON

	Alternative 1 Status Quo	Alternative 2 Delegated Mgmt.	Alternative 3 NMFS Mgmt.	Alternative 4 EEZ Closure
Annual Council Process?	No	Yes	Yes	No
Inseason Managers	ADFG	ADFG	NMFS	n/a
State/EEZ catch apportionment	BoF	BoF within MSA & FMP criteria	Responsive to State management	n/a
CFEC Permit Req'd	Yes	Yes	Yes, if landing in SoA	n/a
Fishing across EEZ boundary?	Yes	Yes	No	No

overfished condition, setting annual catch limits (ACL) for the EEZ through the Council process, and reliance on State data, coordination, and cooperation.

Alternative 2 would result in Federal management of the commercial salmon fishery in the Cook Inlet EEZ with specific management measures delegated to the State of Alaska. Notably, inseason management in the EEZ would be delegated to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. SDC and ACLs would be pre-season through the Council process, but be evaluated post-season. Other measures delegated to the State: escapement goals, fishing seasons, closed waters, management areas, legal gear, recordkeeping and reporting. Alternative 2 would also require a Federal Fisheries Permit, a Federal logbook (catch by statistical area, EEZ groundfish), and Fish tickets/eLandings reporting used for catch accounting and data analysis by the Council and NMFS.

Alternative 3 would result in Federal management of the commercial salmon fishery in the Cook Inlet EEZ by the Council and NMFS. This would authorize inseason management by NMFS, an Annual EEZ harvest limit (TAC) set pre-season and for which the EEZ would be closed when the TAC is reached, SDC and ACLs evaluated post-season, reduced harvest allowed in the EEZ if State waters harvests increase. The State would continue to set escapement goals in State waters. Alternative 3 would also require a Federal Fisheries Permit, a Federal logbook, a Vessel Monitoring System for compliance monitoring, and eLandings reporting. Alternative 3 requires pre-season agreement and coordination with the State. Doug noted that the EEZ could be closed in a given year if: there is a conservation concern, data are not available from the State, there is no harvestable surplus for the EEZ after projected State removals, or TAC(s) are too small to support directed fishing. The EEZ would not be open at the same time as adjacent State drift gillnet fishery. Doug noted that the forecast-based TACs would likely be set conservatively to account for increased uncertainty, and that lower than average harvest levels for the EEZ Upper Cook Inlet drift gillnet fleet were likely.

Alternative 4 would include the Cook Inlet EEZ in the adjacent “West Area” of the FMP’s fishery management unit and apply the West Area prohibition on commercial salmon fishing in the Cook Inlet EEZ. This approach would require few FMP or regulatory amendments, however, the effects of Alternative 4 were not available in time for the JPC meeting. This alternative was added by the Council in October.

Doug answered questions from BOF representatives on how TACs would be set by species pre-season; what is the response to an overfishing or overfished determination by the State or Council/NMFS depending on the alternative, and what the level of State involvement would be required under Alternative 2.

3. **Oral Public Testimony.** A total of six people provided oral public comments: John McCombs, Steve Vanek, Dyer VanDevere, Roland Maw, Erik Huebsch, and Matt Haakenson. All expressed concerns with the fishery as currently managed. Written comment letters were also submitted and posted online at <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/1684>.
4. **Committee discussion** – Committee members thanked Mr. Duncan for his excellent and informative presentation, as well as the public for providing additional information and perspectives in their testimony. Chairman Mezirow noted that the Council will take final action on this issue at its December 2020 meeting, and if the Board members wished to provide additional comments they could do so at that time.
5. **Other Business** – No other business was addressed.
6. **Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:45 pm.



**Joint Board of Fisheries and Game Committee Meeting**

Discussion of Scheduling Meetings in Light of COVID-19

January 19, 2021, Webconference

**MEETING SUMMARY**

Committee members: McKenzie Mitchell, Abe Williams, John Jensen, Stosh Hoffman, Larry Van Daele, and Al Barrette

The Joint Board Committee (committee) met by webconference on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. to review the current COVID-19 environment in Alaska, conditions for in-person meetings, and the ability to conduct board meetings over webconferencing. The committee also considered options for postponing meetings and linkages between the two boards. The meeting was chaired by Board of Game member Stosh Hoffman.

The webconference platform utilized for the meeting was Zoom. Other board members, non-participating staff, and the public were able to view the meeting on the Internet. The committee did not take oral testimony from the public, but written public comments were solicited. All meeting material and the complete audio recording are available on the Joint Board Committee meeting website at: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.jbmeetinginfo&date=01-19-2021&meeting=teleconference>.

Chair Hoffman opened the meeting, called for introductions of committee members and agency staff and provided a review of the purpose of the meeting and the agenda. Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang provided opening comments to the committee about prospects for holding board meetings this cycle and the value of providing an inclusive, public process for developing fish and game regulations. Following the commissioner's comments, ADF&G Boards Support Executive Director Glenn Haight detailed information from the department's Situational Analysis for 2020/2021 Meeting Planning memo as follows:

**Update on conditions for in-person meetings** (*Audio log: 01:34:34*)

The committee also received information from two members of the State's COVID-19 Task Force, Tessa Linderman Walker, co-lead on vaccinations and Karol Fink, lead for gatherings and meetings.

**Review of board meetings over webconferencing** (*Audio log: 01:49:51*)

**Options for postponing meetings** (*Audio log: 02:01:44*)

**Linkages between the two boards** (*Audio log: 02:23:03*)

Following these presentations, committee members discussed the information and shared their perspectives. The Board of Game will meet January 21, 2021 for their work session and make decisions about their meetings for 2021 at that time. The Board of Fisheries will meet January 25, 2021 and similarly make decisions about their 2020/2021 meeting schedule.

The committee adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:31 p.m.