



# Understanding the Advisory Committee Process

It comes as a surprise to many Alaskans to learn that the state's hunting, trapping, and fishing regulations are NOT made by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G).

This job falls to the Board of Game and the Board of Fisheries. Each board is a group of seven people appointed by the governor and approved by the legislature.

Advisory committees play a key role in the regulatory process. While the Boards of Game and Fisheries make the final decisions on proposed regulations, they rely on advisory committees to offer their local perspective on fish and wildlife issues that are of interest to the committee by submitting proposals and providing comments on proposals.

## What are Advisory Committees?

Advisory committees are local groups authorized by Alaska Statute 16.05.260. This statute gives the Joint Board of Fisheries and Game direction to establish advisory committees for the purpose of providing a local forum for the collection and expression of opinions and recommendations on matters related to the management of fish and wildlife resources. Currently there are 84 advisory committees that represent communities across the state. Each advisory committee is comprised of up to 15 locally elected members with expertise in local fish and game issues.

## Advisory Committee Meetings & Roles

Advisory committee meetings are open to the public and provide a local forum for the public, advisory committee members, ADF&G and other agency staff to discuss fish and wildlife issues. Meetings focus on developing and evaluating regulatory proposals and consulting with individuals, organizations, and agencies on fish, wildlife, and habitat issues. Advisory committee membership, uniform rules and responsibilities are defined in regulation in 5 AAC Chapter 96, and their functions are supported by ADF&G Boards Support Section through local regional coordinators.

## How to Get Involved

For more information about advisory committee meetings and membership, please visit [www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us](http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us) or contact an ADF&G regional coordinator (see list at left).

## The Value of Working Together

Advisory committees serve as a forum to bring individuals, agencies, and interested organizations together to review important fish and game resource matters. These forums not only provide an opportunity for collaboration and communication, keystones to forging regulatory change with the boards, but serve to strengthen relationships among each of these parties in their work to improve Alaska's fish and game resource.



### Want to know more?

To find out more about advisory committees, contact your regional coordinator.

**Arctic Region**  
442-1717

**Interior Region**  
459-7263

**Southwest Region**  
842-5142

**Southcentral Region**  
267-2354

**Southeast Region**  
465-4110

**Western Region**  
543-2433

# How Regulations are Made

## The Public



**People** bring concerns to their local advisory committee, submit their own proposals directly to the boards, and provide written comments and oral testimony to the boards.

## Local Advisory Committees



**Advisory committees** discuss local wildlife observations and issues, seek information from ADF&G, submit proposals to the boards, review submitted proposals, and provide written comments and oral testimony to the boards.

## ADF&G



**ADF&G** submits proposals to the boards and provides biological information to the boards and advisory committees.

## Board of Game



## Board of Fisheries



**The Boards consider advisory committee and public comments, and information from ADF&G regarding proposals. Decisions on proposals are reached by a majority vote of the Board and written as regulations.**

**The regulations are given legal review and made official by the Lt. Governor.**

## Want to know more?

[www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us](http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us)



After regulations are approved, the **Hunting, Trapping, and Fishing Regulations** books are produced by ADF&G. Regulations are enforced by the Alaska Wildlife Troopers.

