



ADF&G Boards Support Section

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Regulatory Changes for the Advisory Committee Program

Effective this cycle are the regulatory changes to the advisory committee program adopted by the Joint Board of Fisheries and Game in March 2024. The primary changes to the program concern alternates, terms, vacancies, and the make up for the East Prince of Wales Island AC. The Joint Board also adopted regulations specifying responsibilities for the chair and emphasizing the important responsibility of the secretary or recorder to accurately record the actions of the AC. The following is a summary of the regulatory changes.

Alternates:

The new regulation gives ACs with “community-designated” seats under 5 AAC 96.021(c) the ability to appoint an alternate for each community represented. The alternates for community-designated seats will be appointed by a majority of the elected members representing that community, or by the AC chair when the elected members for that community are not able to do so.

A community-designated alternate may act as a member of the AC when an elected member representing that community is absent from the meeting. A community-designated alternate may also serve on the AC throughout the year to fill a vacancy if they have been appointed by the majority of seated members from the community they are to represent. A community-designated alternate may not serve on the AC throughout the year if appointed by the chair.

Additionally, the new regulation sets the term for all alternates to end on June 30, or not to exceed a 12-month period.

Terms of members:

Under the new regulation, a “community-designated” member with an expired term can continue to serve no more than one year after the seat has expired. After the one-year period, the chair (or Boards Support when the chair is unable) shall declare the seat vacant, and an election will have to take place to reinstate or replace the member.

Vacancy:

The new regulation clarifies at least 14 days’ notice is required for all AC membership elections including those conducted by the local community for designated seats.

The new regulation also requires an AC chair (or Board Support when the chair is unable) to declare a vacancy when a member’s term has expired or is set to expire. Community-designated seats will have up to 12 months to conduct an election following the expiration of the term.

Officers:

The new regulation codifies the responsibilities of the chair for setting meeting dates, establishing agendas, and ensuring AC recommendations and actions are recorded in writing and submitted to Boards Support. It also emphasizes the importance of the secretary (or “recorder”) for ensuring the actions by the AC are accurately recorded in writing.

East Prince of Wales AC Membership

At the request of the East Prince of Wales AC, the Joint Board modified the community-designated seats so that the community of Hollis has two seats, the communities of Coffman Cove, Whale Pass, and Kasaan will each have two seats; and the number of undesignated seats is five.