

11 AAC 64.450. Protest.

(a) A person may protest an application for or the location of a shore fishery lease site by mailing a statement of protest to the applicant and to the director. The protest may be filed from the time a site has been staked until the last date for filing a protest, as determined and published in writing by the department. The postmark date of the statement of protest constitutes the date of protest. If a protest is filed, the director will not issue a lease until resolution of the protest.

(b) A statement of protest must be in writing, must be signed by the protester, and must contain

(1) the protester's name and mailing address;

(2) the protester's limited entry permit number or interim-use salmon setnet permit, if any;

(3) the applicant's name and address as shown on the staking sign;

(4) a brief statement of reasons why the protester believes that the lease site location is invalid or that the protester is more qualified to fish at the lease site; affidavits may be included to support the reasons set out in the statement; and

(5) a brief statement of the relief requested, which may be either denial of the lease site location, or a determination that the protester is more qualified to fish from the lease site and more entitled to lease the site than is the applicant.

(c) The applicant shall prepare a brief written response rebutting the protester's statement. The applicant shall mail the response to the protester and to the director within 30 days after receiving the statement of protest. Affidavits may be included to support the facts set out in the response.

(d) The director will base a decision resolving a protest on the criteria contained in AS 38.05.082 and on the protest, response, supporting affidavits, and hearing, if one is conducted. The decision constitutes the final departmental action unless it is appealed.