

Petersburg Advisory Committee
Date: Wednesday February 11th, 2026 at 6pm
Location: Petersburg Borough Assembly Chambers and Zoom

- I. Call to Order:
- II. Roll Call:

Name	Seat	Present	Excused or Unexcused
Heather Bauscher	Chair	Present	
Don Spigelmyre	Vice Chair	Present	
Megan O’Neil			Excused
Joel Randrup		Present	
Bob Martin		Present	
Nyle Thomas		Present	
Jacob Rasmussen		Present	
Ted Sandhofer	Archery	Present	
Paul Menish	Crab/Conservation	Present	
Anthony Taiber	Gillnet		Excused
David Benitz	Hunting/Trapping	Present	
Jerry Dahl	Seine		Excused
Brandon Ware	Sport/Charter	Present	
Ben Case	Sport/Personal Use	Present	
Kaleb Baird	Troll	Present	
Eric Castro	Alternate	Present	
Seth McCallum	Alternate	Present	

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: **8**

List of User Groups Present: 14

- III. Fish and Game Staff Present: 1
- IV. Guests Present: Jeff Rice ADF&G

- V. Approval of Agenda

- VI. Approval of last meeting minutes: Jan 14th. During that meeting, proposals 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 176, and 177
- VII. Reports
 - a. Chair’s report
 - b. ADF&G
 - c. Discussion of Board of Fisheries Proposal will occur
 - i. Statewide Proposal

- 1. Comment deadline is March 2nd
- d. Overview of RAC meeting
- e. Other fishery and wildlife business as needed

Alaska Board of Fisheries Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues Meeting Proposals March 17 – 21, 2026 Anchorage, AK Deadline March 2 nd , 2026			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
162	Prohibit commercial transport services in subsistence fisheries		
Support	10	4	Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brandon Ware (AC): Believes there is already regulations to prohibit these activities. It gets confusing when charters are involved. There are too many different regulations between the two and will be hard to enforce. • Ted (AC): Covering the costs if you don't have a boat for someone to take you out is already allowed. Oppose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Benitz (AC): Residents without boat access should be able to pay someone to take them out to collect their subsistence allotment. • Provides opportunity for people that may not have boat access to exercise their subsistence opportunities.
11	Close state waters to commercial groundfish fishing with trawl gear west of 170° W. longitude		
163	Define all trawl gear operated inside state waters as non-pelagic and develop new performance and monitoring standards to allow state-waters pelagic trawling to occur on a case-by-case basis		
Support	14	0	Unanimously supported <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common sense gear use regulations for responsible fisheries management. If boats are claiming to be Pelagic trawlers, then they need to follow the regulations that come with that.

Alaska Board of Fisheries Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues Meeting Proposals

March 17 – 21, 2026 | Anchorage, AK

Deadline March 2nd, 2026

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
164	Establish bottom contact monitoring requirements for pelagic trawl gear operated inside state waters		
Support	14	0	Unanimously supported <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Benitz (AC): Trawlers seem to be impacting the SE area and should be monitored to ensure they are following the regulations. • Don Spigelmyre (AC): Monitoring data is important for this fishery. Fisherman would incur a small cost. • Eric Castro (AC): The state may have a problem supporting the cost of implementing this but would ensure regulations are being followed.
165	Establish salmon excluder requirements for all pelagic trawl gear operated inside state waters		
Support	14	0	Unanimously supported <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don Spigelmyre (AC): Proven regulation that works in many different fisheries. It will protect salmon especially King salmon.
173	Provide emergency order authority to define fishing boundaries when regulatory markers are lost, destroyed or otherwise absent		
Support	14	0	Unanimously supported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don Spigelmyre (AC): The state is trying to make clear fishing markers. • Brandon Ware: (AC): The State already does this in sport fisheries.
174	Allow the engine of a purse seine vessel or skiff to be shut off when the purse seine is deployed		
175	Modify dipnet mesh-size and configuration		
178	Modify the definition of bag limit		
Opposed	0	14	Unanimously opposed

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (AC): This regulation goes against the precedence for chase in sport fishing. The current regulations ensure that no one is getting an unfair opportunity to harvest more fish over others. Brandon Ware (AC): Sport fishing is a resource to have fun catching fish and not for subsistence. This proposal would increase harvest of a already highly pressured SE region. Kaleb Baird (AC): This is similar to party hunting and should not be allowed.
179	Establish a statewide annual limit for king salmon of 10 fish		
Oppose	0	14	Unanimously opposed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (AC): There is no scientific backing to support this broad statewide proposal. These fisheries should be managed on a regional level. This unnecessarily limits resident fishing opportunities. Don Spigelmyre (AC): This is too broad. The state has a good handle on specific areas. Jeff Rice (ADF&G): The State manages king salmon runs on a specific population and regional limits.
180	Establish a statewide annual limit for king salmon of five fish		
Oppose	0	14	Unanimously opposed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (AC): There is no scientific backing to support this broad statewide proposal. These fisheries should be managed on a regional level. This unnecessarily limits resident fishing opportunities. Don Spigelmyre (AC): This is too broad. The state has a good handle on specific areas. Jeff Rice (ADF&G): The State manages king salmon runs on a specific population and regional limits.
181	Align regulatory and statutory language for sport fishing gear		
Support	14	0	Unanimously supported:

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (AC): Supports, adds to fair chase.
182	Establish bow fishing as lawful sport fishing gear for species without a bag or possession limit		
Support	14	0	Unanimously supported <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (AC): Would open up a fun new fishing method for residents. There would be no impact on salmon or trout species in freshwaters. Don Spigelmyre (AC): Supports, won't have impacts on desirable fish species. Native fish, especially salmon, are exempt and still protected with this proposal.
183	Amend regulations requiring conditions of fish available to inspection while in possession		
Support	12	2	Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State proposal that shores up regulations that are currently in effect in many areas across Alaska. The standardization of this regulation will help ensure creel data. Oppose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joel Randup and Nyle Thomas (AC): SE already has this regulation and is too broad. If other areas have an issue with this the State can utilize it on a specific area basis.
184	Align the sport fish definition of rockfish with the statewide definition		
186	Reduce commercial salmon fishing opportunity with drift gillnet gear in the Central District of the Cook Inlet Area		
187	Close the Tsiu River and all waters within one quarter mile of the Tsiu River and Kaliakh River confluence to commercial fishing for salmon		

VIII. Public Comment:

- David Beebe: Why are abstentions allowed? Why did the Board approve Proposal 67?
- Emily Scott Alaska Healthy Habitat Alliance, (Proposals 163-165): Pelagic trawl gear use needs to be monitored, and regulations need to be enforced. These proposals are common sense gear and regulations that will promote sustainable fisheries and habitat protections.

IX. Old Business:

- Joel Randup (AC): wants to repeal Board of Game Proposal 67. Believes it will have negative impacts on the community and deer populations. Feels that important information was left out in the Board of Game hearing.

X. New Business:

XI. Set next meeting date:

XII. Other:

Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: _____

Minutes Approved By: _____

Date: _____

Petersburg Advisory Committee

2/11/26 6:00-8:30pm

Meetings Minutes

Public Comments:

David Beebe: Why are abstentions allowed? Why did the Board approve Proposal 67?

Emily Scott Alaska Healthy Habitat Alliance, (Proposals 163-165): Pelagic trawl gear use needs to be monitored, and regulations need to be enforced. These proposals are common sense gear and regulations that will promote sustainable fisheries and habitat protections.

Board of Fish Proposals

Proposal 162 Support

- Brandon Ware (AC): Believes there is already regulations to prohibit these activities. It gets confusing when charters are involved. Too many different regulations between the two and will be hard to enforce.
- David Benitz (AC): Residents without boat access should be able to pay someone to take them out to collect their subsistence allotment.
- Ted (AC): Covering the costs if you don't have a boat for someone to take you out is already allowed.
- Supported vote: 10
- Opposed vote: 4

Proposal 163 Support unanimously

- Common sense gear use regulations for responsible fisheries management.
- Eric Castro (AC): If boats are claiming to be Pelagic trawlers, then they need to follow the regulations that come with that.
- Supported vote: 14
- Opposed vote: 0

Proposal 164 Support unanimously

- David Benitz (AC): Trawlers seem to be impacting the SE area and should be monitored to ensure they are following the regulations.
- Don Spigelmyre (AC): Monitoring data is important for this fishery. Fisherman would incur a small cost.
- Eric Castro (AC): The state may have a problem supporting the cost of implementing this.
- Supported: 14
- Opposed: 0

Proposal 165 Support unanimously

- Don Spigelmyre (AC): Proven regulation that works in many different fisheries. It will protect salmon especially King salmon.
- Supported: 14
- Opposed: 0

Proposal 173 Support unanimously

- Don Spigelmyre (AC): The state is trying to make clear fishing markers.
- Brandon Ware: (AC): The State already does this in sport fisheries.
- Supported: 14
- Opposed: 0

Proposal 178 Opposed unanimously

- Brandon Ware (AC): Sport fishing is a resource to have fun catching fish and not for subsistence. This proposal would increase harvest of a already highly pressured SE region.
- Kaleb Baird (AC): This is similar to party hunting and should not be allowed. Goes against fair chase.
- Supported: 0
- Opposed: 14

Proposal 179 & 180 Opposed unanimously

- Don Spigelmyre (AC): This is too broad. The state has a good handle on specific areas.
- King salmon fisheries should be managed on a regional level.
- Jeff Rice (ADF&G): The State manages king salmon runs on a specific population and regional limits.
- Supported: 0
- Opposed: 14

Proposal 181 Supported unanimously

- Brandon Ware (AC): Supports, adds to fair chase.
- Support: 14
- Opposed: 0

Proposal 182 Supported unanimously

- Don Spigelmyre (AC): Supports, won't have impacts on desirable fish species. Native fish, especially salmon, are exempt and still protected with this proposal.
- Support: 14
- Oppose: 0

Proposal 183 Supported

- Joel Randup and Nyle Thomas (AC): SE already has this regulation and is too broad. If other areas have an issue with this the State can utilize it on a specific area basis.

- State proposal that shores up regulations that are currently in effect in many areas across Alaska. The standardization of this regulation will help ensure creel data.
- Support: 12
- Opposed: 2

Other Business:

Joel Randup (AC): wants to repeal Board of game Proposal 67. Believes it will have negative impacts on the community and deer populations. Feels that important information was left out in the Board of Game hearing.