

**Fairbanks
Fish and Game
Advisory Committee**

*Interior Region
Fish and Game Advisory Committees*

Virgil Umphenour
Chairman
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- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Central | Middle Nenana River |
| Delta Junction | Middle Yukon River |
| Eagle | Minto-Nenana |
| Fairbanks | Ruby |
| GASH | Tanana-Rampart-Manley |
| Koyukuk River | Upper Tanana/Fortymile |
| McGrath | Yukon Flats |

TO: Senate President Pete Kelly and Speaker of the House Bryce Edgmon

FROM: The Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee

RE: Board of Fisheries Compliance with AS 16.05.300

AS 16.05.300 Board meetings clearly states that the BOF shall hold at least one meeting or hearing a year in each of the following general areas:

- 1) Upper Yukon-Kuskokwim-Arctic
- 2) Western Alaska (including Kodiak)
- 3) Southcentral
- 4) Prince William Sound (including Yakutat)

The Board of Fisheries (BOF) has failed to comply with this statute in that it arbitrarily alters where it holds their meetings such that the legislative intent to conduct business in the above-noted locations equally is violated.

Though the BOF has done so on several occasions, the most recent example of the Board of Fisheries' failure to comply with said statute happened again this year when the BOF scheduled the meeting in Anchorage (January 20019) instead of in the Upper Yukon-Kuskokwim-Arctic Region as the statute directs.

Failing to comply with the statute, the BOF decision to arbitrarily move a meeting out of a Region not only violates legislative intent, but it also clearly disadvantages and discriminates against the interested persons and entities in that "orphaned" Region by removing their opportunity to participate without traveling at great expense outside their Region.

The Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee believes the BOF should comply with the laws and regulations by which they are governed as fairly and equitably as they expect users to comply with the laws and regulations the BOF imposes on the public. Since the BOF has a history of holding meetings in locations not in compliance with the statute, the Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee respectfully requests that the Legislature review and investigate the BOF for compliance with AS 16.05.300 and take appropriate action with the findings.

Respectfully,
Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee
Virgil Umperhenour, Chairman