

**From:** [Robert Venables](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOF Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Amy Daugherty](#); [Dennis Watson](#); [Senator Jesse Kiehl](#); [Sen. Bert Stedman](#); [Rep. Daniel Ortiz](#)  
**Subject:** SE Board of Fisheries meeting concerns  
**Date:** Thursday, January 27, 2022 9:00:23 AM

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To whom it may concern:

Southeast Conference, the State of Alaska's Regional Development Organization, supports the Southeast in-cycle Board of Fisheries meeting returning to Southeast. We understand that the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) will meet January 27, 2022, at 1:45pm to determine the meeting location for the Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish meeting.

Holding a Southeast and Yakutat Board of Fisheries meeting in Anchorage, rather than at a location within the region, disenfranchises the commercial fishing industry in Southeast Alaska. While we appreciate the schedule adjustments that were made in order to accommodate active SE fisheries, requiring travel outside of the Southeast Region will have a significant impact on the ability of stakeholders to participate in the Board of Fisheries process at a level that they would otherwise have been able to, had the meeting been held in the region.

Our commercial fisheries stakeholders are also disenfranchised if a meeting is held in Southeast during a time that it is known that they cannot participate. We firmly believe that public participation throughout the process is vital to a successful meeting. January is the best time for a Southeast meeting as there are many different fisheries active throughout the year, except in January. It would seem best to postpone the Southeast meeting and related agenda items until next January and have the board only take care of any technical or emergent items that cannot be postponed (and whenever the meeting is held, virtual opportunities should be made available during the entire committee process).

Thank you for the consideration of the critical timing and venue for discussion of the issues of importance to Southeast fisheries and the region as a whole.

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