

Miscellaneous Topics

PROPOSAL 19 - 5 AAC 92.XXX. Board generated proposals. Establish a regulation for board-generated proposals as follows:

Add a new section: 92.XXX Board generated proposal.

The Board of Game, when considering a board-generated proposal, shall meet all the elements as outlined in this chapter.

1. A request to consider a board-generated proposal must be brought forward by at least two Board of Game members.
2. It shall be in the public's best interest.
3. There shall be an urgency in the issue.
4. The current processes to bring the issue before the Board of Game are insufficient.
5. There shall be adequate opportunity for advisory committee and public comment.
 - i. Adequate opportunity means a minimum of 65 days.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Board-generated proposals are not codified. Thus are not in the normal cycle of statewide calls. Currently board-generated proposals are a policy of the Joint Boards (2013-34-JB) and the policy is interpreted independently by each board. To preserve the integrity of the Board of Game and the transparency of the public process, we ask the Board of Game to codify board generated proposals as are agenda change requests, emergency petitions, and normal call proposals.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C15-055)

PROPOSAL 20 - 5 AAC 92.XXX. Specific locations of wildlife. Clarify the meaning of "specific location" of wildlife as follows:

The Department of Fish and Game requests implementing regulations for a statute that prohibits the release of "specific location of fish and wildlife species" (AS 16.05.815(d)). The department needs guidance to interpret the statute in a consistent and meaningful way. Criteria to determine whether a location is a "specific location" could include time since collection as well as a determination that release of the locations will not cause harm to wildlife, the public, or the ability of the department to carry out its management or research duties and that the release of locations will not increase the likelihood of specific animals being taken by legal methods and means.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Alaska Statute 16.05.815 prohibits release of the "specific location of fish and wildlife species." The department has struggled to consistently interpret what "specific" location means. All would agree that up-to-the-minute location data of animals currently collared would be "specific" location. Would those same locations be considered "specific" if they were collected two weeks or two months or two years ago? Does it vary by species?

The department requests that the board adopt regulations that implement the statute in a manner that clarifies what is meant by “specific location of fish and wildlife species” and allows the release of location data when it is no longer deemed “specific.”

The department, many other fish and wildlife agencies, and others now radio-tag wildlife with sophisticated instruments that use GPS and other technologies using satellites for both near real time and highly accurate location information. Many organizations post wildlife location information on the web and allow the public to essentially zoom in to the specific location of the animal. Examples include whales, turtles and birds of prey that migrate thousands of miles. This public dissemination of wildlife movement information is useful for conservation and education efforts. The department places instruments on a variety of wildlife for management, research, and education efforts. Examples include many species of marine mammals, big game, birds of prey, and even small birds. In some cases, the location data presented to the Board of Game to aid in decision making could be considered specific and illegal under the statute. In addition, the department frequently gets requests to share location data with other researchers and industry but it is not clear which data can be released.

There is a realistic problem with the release of certain wildlife location data, particularly for some big game such as caribou or Dall sheep. In-season requests for location data could result in take of specific animals. Numerous in-season requests for location data could deter managers from other duties and responsibilities and disrupt hunts. In such cases, it would not be in the interest of the state to release location data.

The department is seeking regulation clarifying what is meant by “specific location of fish and wildlife species.”

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-C15-166)
