

From: [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: FW: HB 137 and HB 41
Date: Monday, April 11, 2016 6:09:11 PM

From: Ricky Gease [mailto:Ricky@krsa.com]
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2016 6:01 PM
To: Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 137 and HB 41

Dear Senator MacKinnon and members of the Senate Finance committee;

Kenai River Sportfishing Association (KRSA) would like to provide comment on two bills in Senate Finance, HB 137 and HB 41.

With respect to HB 137, the KRSA board of directors voted to not support the fisheries license and fee increases at this time, based on the following three points.

1. ADFG sport fish division appears to be able to be fully funded with the existing license and fee schedule, so it does not make sense at this junction to increase fees without a corresponding need to do so.
2. ADFG commissioned a recent study by Southwick and Associates that examined the license and fee schedule paid by anglers and their willingness to pay for increased rates. The angler survey indicated that at the low end of the license and fee scale there is room for modest increases, but at the higher end of the scale (for example the annual non-resident king stamp @ \$100) the price point may already be too high, meaning a net loss in revenue as anglers economize with less expensive options (3 or 7 day licenses). The problem will be compounded by raising those upper end fees (going from \$100 to \$150 for a non-resident king stamp), meaning potentially less revenues, not more.
3. The monies raised by the proposed sockeye salmon stamp, although targeting the Kenai and Kasilof River anglers, does not have a designated subaccount within the Fish and Game Fund and hence there is no guarantee that monies collected will benefit anglers in the watershed from which the money is collected.

At this time KRSA does not support moving forward with the fisheries license and fee increases in HB 137 until there is more accountability and transparency in where the monies would be utilized and how the benefits would accrue to anglers who are paying these new rates, especially if a sockeye salmon stamp on anglers is implemented for the Kenai and Kasilof rivers.

Regarding HB 41, KRSA supports minimum standards for the professional fishing guide industry, but has strong reservation again with the fiscal impacts of the bill in its current configuration. The bill appears to double the fees on guides and guide businesses, which then generates an excess of monies above the projected expenses. Additionally, there is no accounting for cost savings based on the implementation of the electronic guide logbook program, which is scheduled to soon replace the less efficient and costlier paper-based guide

log book program.

Thus at this time KRSA does not support moving forward with HB 41 until there is more accountability and transparency in how the monies will be utilized, since the program receipts appear to generate more revenues than expenses, especially in light of the upcoming cost savings from the implementation of an electronic guide logbook program.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Ricky Gease

Executive Director

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