



Alaska State Legislature

Senator Con Bunde

Senate District P

Member: Senate Labor & Commerce Committee

Sponsor Statement Senate Bill 137

I introduce this bill in response to the many concerns verbalized to me from those in the fishing community and from the Department of Fish and Game questioning whether the time intervals between the Board of Fish meetings should be expanded. (Currently, the time span is three years between meetings.)

One hurdle seems to be the fact that it often can take department biologists up to a year to gather and prepare data to make recommendations to the BOF; and then once the policies are put in place, some feel that there is not enough time between Board meetings for empirical data to be collected and reviewed that can prove or disprove the efficacy of the policy. Perhaps citizens would be better served by lengthening the time between Board of Fish meetings so that the implemented policies have sufficient time to play themselves out and allow for more accurate evaluation.

Another concern expressed to me is the amount of staff time consumed in responding to and revisiting repetitive proposals. It is my hope that the Board can come up with a plan that does not disenfranchise the public process, but can also assist department staff in handling repetitive proposals in a more efficient manner.

I ask for your support of this bill and look forward to the findings resulting from this evaluation.