



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF MINING, LAND & WATER
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May 6, 2022

The Honorable Senate Bishop, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Rm 532
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: SB 230 Trapping Cabins: Fee for Construction

Chair Bishop,

Please see the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land & Water (DMLW) response to questions posed on SB 230, heard in committee on May 3, 2022.

1. Please provide a map of the existing trapping cabin permits from across the state and depict which ones are accessible in the summer.

First, DMLW needs to correct the record that there are 89 active trapping cabins not 97. Attached are maps depicting the general location of the cabins around the state. The maps are broken down by regional area. The first map is of the Northern Region, the red dots depict 24 cabins that appear to be accessible in the summer, and the green are those that are not. The next two maps are of the Southcentral Region, with the first map depicting 33 cabins that are summer accessible and the second map shows the location of the remaining cabins. The final two maps are of the Southeast Region, where there are two cabins, and both are summer accessible. The cabins that appear to be accessible are mainly by navigable water bodies since trapping cabins are required to be at least 10 miles from a road per 11 AAC 94.020. As stated during the hearing trapping activities occur between November – April and most trappers use snowmachines to access their trapline and cabins.

2. The committee asked if there is a history of these permit holders being delinquent on payments.

Trapping cabin permit holders do not have a history of financial default and there are no known cases of financial default currently.

3. How many cabins are pre-statehood?

To provide this information an audit of the files was conducted. Since permits issued under AS 38.95.075 are required to have been used prior to August 1, 1984, we reviewed those files and found that out of the 33 issued under that statute, 12 were in existence pre-statehood.

4. How many cabins have been removed over the years?

DMLW does not have any records of trapping cabins being removed by DMLW over the years. Many of these cabins are so remote that it would be very costly for the division to travel and remove them from state land. Typically, cabins are passed down or sold to individuals who may be taking over trapping activities in the area. Permits are not transferable but if the new applicant can demonstrate their trapping activities in the area and meet the other requirements a trapping cabin permit could be issued if SB 230 were to pass as currently written. The issue DMLW currently faces is that most existing cabins do not qualify to be authorized due to the restriction in AS 38.95.075, that the applicant used the cabin on a regular basis for trapping before August 1, 1984.

Sincerely,



Christy Colles
Chief of Operations
Division of Mining, Land & Water

cc: Kris Hess, Acting DMLW Director
Laura Boomershine, Legislative Liaison

Attachments: Map of Trapping Cabin Locations