

Representative Les Gara  
Alaska House of Representatives  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 500  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Representative Gara,

I am writing to support HB 144 - An Act requiring DNR to report on fishing stream access.

The Alaska Outdoor Council is a statewide organization of hunters, fishers, trappers and outdoor enthusiasts. Our membership of 50 member clubs and 10,000 individual members relies on access to public land to pursue their interests.

At statehood it would have been difficult for the average Alaskan to envision that the taking of fish would be limited to streams on less than 25% of the land in Alaska, yet, 50 years later, that's exactly what we're facing. As ANCSA transfers to private ownership are being completed, and restrictions on federal land are increasing, access to state land and waters is becoming critically important. The report to the public, through the legislature, that you are proposing in HB 144 would be beneficial to establish where Alaskans have access to waterways, and, just as importantly, where access is restricted.

We look forward to working with you and DNR to identify which waterbodies Alaskans can access to harvest wild food, and to preserve and enhance that access.

Thank you for introducing HB 144.

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