

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY
BY ART C. IVANOFF,
CHAIR SOUTHERN NORTON SOUND FISH AND GAME
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

FOR THE

**ALASKA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES**

My name is Art C. Ivanoff. I am the chair of Southern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee (SNSAC). SNSAC represents the villages of Koyuk, Shaktoolik, Stebbins, Saint Michael, and Unalakleet.

Due to budget constraints, I was unable to attend the House of Representative's Special Committee on Fisheries, however, SNSAC needed to share with you concerns regarding; 1. The need to review and assess the Fish and Game Advisory Committee process and budget (AC) 2. Inadequate funding of the DF&G. 3. 2013 MSA.

1. SNSAC believes a healthy and productive process of assessing the overall function and operation of the AC's is necessary. Since inception of the AC's, has there been a process to evaluate the AC's? SNSAC believes there is a need to examine the process, to determine what works and what does not work to improve the overall performance of the AC's. This can be accomplished by the Alaska Legislature developing legislation that would require decadal review of the AC's and funding to bring members of the AC's to evaluate the role and effectiveness of the AC's.
2. SNSAC believes that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Norton Sound is underfunded and understaffed to address the constitutional and statutory obligation to *manage* salmon stocks. SNSAC bases this observation on Table 1. Table reveals that NSEDC spends a significant amount of resources the management of salmon in the Norton Sound. SNSAC believes the DF&G is too dependent on NSEDC financial resources for "basic" management tools to manage the salmon stocks. We ask that the governor and the Alaska State Legislature provide **full funding** to the DF&G to ensure they have the capacity and resources to carry out their constitutional and statutory obligations.
3. Recently, a letter (see attached) was submitted by former members of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, crabbers and fishermen entitled and to; An appeal Washington and Oregon Congressional Delegation, Governor's and State Legislators regarding, the Level of Fisheries Playing Field in Alaska, a fifteen (15) page paper outlining concerns with Alaska gaining ground and developing their capacity to keep vessels and jobs in Alaska. The letter also called for increased representation on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council for Washington and Oregon. Alaska is unique in many ways and one real distinction between Alaska and the continental United States as it relates to fisheries management is that there is no sea ward states, Alaska

stands alone with no bordering states. Our fisheries, except for some mixed stock of salmon in the Gulf of Alaska, are Alaskan. An effort is underway to gain greater control of fisheries of Alaska. The Magnuson-Stevens Conservation and Management Act will come up for re-authorization in 2013; however, the battle over management has begun.

SNSAC hope is that the state legislature, governor, NGO's and Alaska's federally recognized tribes will work across the board to seek amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act that will ensure; Healthy ecosystems, economic opportunities and jobs. Without a full court press from the collective body of Alaska, I am afraid Alaska will remain a colony of Washington and Oregon. Local concerns of salmon stocks and marine resources that are harvested in the Bering Sea Aleutian Islands must not be sacrificed for national interests, a balance or equilibrium is necessary to ensure salmon stocks in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim are sustained.

Thank you for the opportunity.

**Table 1.
Projects funded by
Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation**

North Tower	\$ 95,000	
Shaktoolik Sonar	\$134,000	
Inglutalik Tower	\$100,000	
Eldorado River	\$ 21,000	
Snake River	\$ 21,000	
Pilgrim Weir	\$ 49,000	
Additional interns	\$ 65,000	Equals about one project for the year
Over site staff	\$105,000	
Pikmiktalik*	\$95,000	
Total	\$685,000	

*Pikmiktalik, near Saint Michael, is added to ensure DF&G manages salmon stocks based effectively.

