

Commissioner Cora Campbell  
1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> St.  
PO Box 25526  
Juneau, AK 99802-5526

November 9, 2013

We, Haines Fish and Game Advisory Committee, request that the Yukon/Alaska resident reciprocal fishing license regulation be discontinued for the following reasons:

1. the economics of the Yukon were different in 2004 when the bill was passed compared to today
2. estimated lost revenues to ADFG are between \$200,000 and \$350,000 per year

The statute reads, "If the commissioner determines that residents of the state are entitled to obtain licenses for sport fishing, including sport fishing for anadromous king salmon, in Yukon, Canada, for the same fees that are charged to residents of Yukon for comparable sport fishing licenses, the commissioner may adopt regulations authorizing residents of Yukon to receive:

- (1) nonresident annual sport fishing licenses for the fees charged to residents under (a) and (j) of this section for a resident sport fishing license; and
- (2) nonresident anadromous king salmon annual tags for the fee charged to residents under (a) of this section for a resident anadromous king salmon tag.

In 2004 when Senator Fred Dyson introduced the reciprocal license he argued that, "The people and government of Yukon Territory are going through challenging times with a decreasing population of approximately 30,000 people and a stifled economy." In 2013 the Yukon is not experiencing a stifled economy, the population is increasing, and the Canadian dollar is roughly equivalent to the US dollar while in 2004 the Canadian dollar was only worth 72 cents.

Sincerely,



Tim McDonough  
Chairperson Upper Lynn Canal Fish and Game Advisory Committee

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DEPT. OF FISH & GAME  
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

**Department of Fish and Game**

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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December 12, 2013

Mr. Tim McDonough, Chairman  
Upper Lynn Canal Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
Box 951  
Haines, AK 99827

Re: Letter requesting rescinding the Yukon Territories reduced fee license #130196

Dear Mr. McDonough:

I received your letter dated November 9, 2013, sent as chairman of the Upper Lynn Canal Fish and Game Advisory Committee, asking that the Yukon/Alaska resident reciprocal fishing license regulation be discontinued. I understand you to be referring to 5 AAC 75.007 (reciprocal sport fishing license program for residents of Yukon Territory), and understand your request to be a petition that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) repeal this regulation, as provided for in the Administrative Procedure Act at AS 44.62.220. I have considered your petition in accordance with the APA procedures, bearing in mind its effects to the department, local fisheries, and local economies.

As you are aware, this arrangement has been in place since 2005. The measure, SB 56 sponsored by Senator Dyson, was introduced as part of a larger cooperative effort to work together with the Yukon on railroad, gas line, and tourism initiatives. Based on meeting minutes from the Senate and House Resource Committees, the Yukon parliament had recently passed legislation to allow Alaska residents to purchase a fishing license at a resident rate. The bill was supported not only by the Yukon, but also by Alaska State Chamber of Commerce.

Your letter cited estimated lost revenues to ADF&G from anglers receiving a license as a primary reason for discontinuing this opportunity. Our current assessment suggests that the foregone annual revenue from license and king salmon tags to ADF&G is approximately \$50,000 dollars per year, rather than the estimate provided in your letter of \$200,000 to \$350,000 per year.

During the 2003 legislative hearings, ADF&G made the committee aware of public policy and fiscal concerns the bill presented. The loss in revenue to ADF&G due to the reduced license

charge to residents of the Yukon was then estimated at \$55,800. The committees acknowledged this concern, but members also spoke to economic benefits to the communities and the state outweighing those concerns. Our current cost assessment (approximately \$50,000) is in line with the estimate discussed and deemed acceptable by the legislature in 2004.

During the 2003 committee hearings, ADF&G presented information that showed 2,700 residents of the Yukon had purchased Alaska non-resident sport fishing licenses. From 2005 to 2012, approximately 2,200 licenses were sold to Yukon residents annually. Number of licenses sold does not directly correlate to the number of individual Yukon residents that participate in Alaskan fisheries because multiple types of non-resident licenses - 1-day, 3-day, annual, etc. - are available and may be purchased by individuals. However, the number of licenses sold since 2005 does not indicate a substantive increase in Yukon resident participation in Southeast Alaska, including upper Lynn Canal.

Additionally, I understand that there is support for the reciprocal license among the communities of Haines and Skagway for economic reasons, and that repeal of the licensing regulation may hurt, as opposed to help, tourism in the Upper Lynn Canal area.

In summary, I've found that the lost revenue to ADF&G for this regulation meets legislative intent, this agreement has not lead to a substantive increase in Yukon resident participation in Southeast Alaska fisheries, and repealing this regulation may have a negative economic impact on local communities. Therefore, your petition to rescind the resident fee license agreement is denied. If you wish to pursue this matter further, you have the option of contacting your local legislators to discuss whether there is interest in modifying the statute.

If there is assistance that ADF&G may be able to provide as suggested by the committee or members of the community, please consider this an invitation to contact regional fisheries staff in our Douglas office at 465-4270.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cora Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cora Campbell  
Commissioner