

2015 Alaska Fish and Game License Increase Coalition

Legislative Outdoor Caucus Advisory Council

Alaska Outdoor Council

Territorial Sportsmen, Inc.

Alaska Professional Hunters Association

March 30, 2015

Representative Mark Neuman

Co-chair House Finance Committee

And

Representative Steve Thompson

Co-chair House Finance Committee

State Capitol

Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representatives Neuman and Thompson:

This correspondence concerns the concepts of sport fish and wildlife license increases embodied in HB 137. Because of the developing fiscal crisis in our state, our coalition of outdoor groups supports the legislature passing general hunting, fishing and trapping license increases this year to supplant general funds that are and will be disappearing from the budgets of both the Wildlife Conservation and Sport Fish Divisions. Extremely critical programs that have been established by state law, the annual budgeting process and the growing demand for detailed state responses to federal over-reach actions are at risk.

We began the process of developing a license increase proposal early in the legislative process. Initially, there were two basic proposals which were substantially different. However, after discussing these with legislators, it was concluded that we needed to come to a compromise position which could be supported by the bulk of the hunting, fishing, trapping and outdoor community. We have done that.

Although we certainly applaud Representative Talerico for his effort to get this issue on the table and we support the concepts embodied in HB 137 as amended, we feel that additional amendments need to be considered. Our proposals will elevate the fees for some users and

establish some new concepts which will help fill the budget gap anticipated with the loss of general funds in the two Divisions. It will also provide some assurances that adequate Fish and Game Funds are available to match the rapidly increasing Pittman Robertson Wildlife Restoration funds available to the state on a 3 to 1 basis.

Attached is a table we have developed which outlines the fees which we are proposing. Most of these fees are slightly higher than those proposed in HB 137. In addition, we have included a list of new proposals we wish to be considered. This includes new resident sheep tags for two areas, a new coastal brown bear resident tag fee coupled with the elimination of the statewide resident brown/grizzly tag fee, and a new trial intensive management surcharge of \$10 which is added to all hunting season fees.

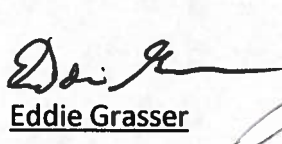
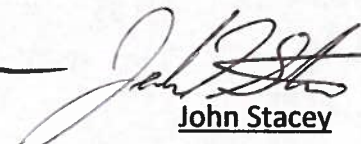


The new voluntary Fish and Wildlife Conservation Decal we proposed was included as an amendment to HB 137 in the Resources Committee.

These proposals are the results of detailed collaboration between the eight Alaskan organizations represented by the Legislative Outdoor Caucus Advisory Council (LOCAC), the twenty one Alaskan outdoor organizations that attended the annual Alaska Outdoor Council (AOC) annual meeting this year, the Territorial Sportsmen, Inc. (TSI) in Juneau and the Alaska Professional Hunter Association (APHA).

We stand ready to assist in any way we can to get license increases through this year because of the delay before additional revenues will be received into the Fish and Game Fund.

We truly appreciate your support and assistance.

Sincerely,

			
<u>Eddie Grasser</u>	<u>John Stacey</u>	<u>Rod Arno</u>	<u>Ron Somerville</u>
LOCAC	APHA	AOC	TSI

Cc: Representative Talerico

Hunting/Sport Fishing License Increase Compromise Proposal

Updated: 3/27/15

	A	B	C
1	Category	Now	Compromise Proposal
2	Resident Sport Fishing	\$ 15.00	\$ 25.00
3	Resident Hunting	\$ 25.00	\$ 40.00
4	Resident Hunting & Trapping	\$ 39.00	\$ 60.00
5	Resident Trapping License	\$ 15.00	\$ 25.00
6	Res. Hunting & Sport Fishing	\$ 39.00	\$ 60.00
7	Res. Hunt. & Trap. & Sp. Fishing	\$ 53.00	\$ 80.00
8	Res. Welfare H,T & Sp.Fish	\$ 5.00	
9	Res. Low Income H,T & Sp. F.	\$5 (\$8,200)	\$5 (\$29,820)
10	Non Res. Sp. Fishing 14 day	\$ 50.00	\$ 75.00
11	Non Res. Sp. Fish. 7 day	\$ 30.00	\$ 45.00
12	Non. Res. Sp. F. 3 day	\$ 20.00	\$ 30.00
13	Non. Res. Sp. F. 1 day	\$ 10.00	\$ 15.00
14	Non. Res. Ann. Sp. F.	\$ 100.00	\$ 150.00
15	Non. Res. Hunting	\$ 85.00	\$ 130.00
16	Non. Res. Hunting & Trapping	\$ 250.00	\$ 375.00
17	N.R. Black Bear Tag	\$ 225.00	\$ 450.00
18	N.R. Brown Bear Tag	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00
19	N.R. Bison Tag	\$ 450.00	\$ 900.00
20	N.R. Caribou Tag	\$ 325.00	\$ 650.00
21	N.R. Deer Tag	\$ 150.00	\$ 300.00
22	N.R. Elk Tag	\$ 300.00	\$ 600.00
23	N.R. Goat Tag	\$ 300.00	\$ 600.00
24	N.R. Moose Tag	\$ 400.00	\$ 800.00
25	N.R. Sheep Tag	\$ 425.00	\$ 850.00
26	N.R. Wolf Tag	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
27	N.R, Wolverine Tag	\$ 175.00	\$ 350.00
28	N.R, Musk Oxen Tag	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 2,200.00
29	Res. Brown Bear Tag	\$ 25.00	See new Proposal
30	Res. Musk Oxen Tag	\$ 500.00	\$ 750.00
31	Res. Sheep Tag	\$ -	See new Proposal
32	Res. Waterfowl Cons. Tag	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00
33	Non. Res. Small G. Hunting	\$ 20.00	\$ 30.00
34	N.R. Alien Black Bear Tag	\$ 300.00	\$ 600.00
35	N.R. Alien Brown Bear Tag	\$ 650.00	\$ 1,300.00
36	N. R. Alien Bison Tag	\$ 650.00	\$ 1,300.00
37	N.R. Alien Caribou Tag	\$ 425.00	\$ 850.00
38	N.R. Alien Deer Tag	\$ 200.00	\$ 400.00
39	N.R. Alien Elk Tag	\$ 400.00	\$ 800.00
40	N.R. Alien Goat Tag	\$ 400.00	\$ 800.00
41	N.R. Alien Moose Tag	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00
42	N.R. Alien Musk Oxen Tag	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 3,000.00
43	N.R. Alien Sheep Tag	\$ 550.00	\$ 1,100.00
44	N.R. Alien Wolf Tag	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
45	N.R. Alien Wolverine Tag	\$ 250.00	\$ 500.00
46	Res. King Salmon Tag	\$ 10.00	\$ 15.00

Hunting/Sport Fishing License Increase Compromise Proposal

Updated: 3/27/15

	A	B	C
47	Res. Free PID Card	60 years of age	65 years of age
48	N.R. King Salmon tag - 1 day	\$ 10.00	\$ 15.00
49	N.R. King Salmon tag - 3 day	\$ 20.00	\$ 30.00
50	N.R. King Salmon tag - 7 day	\$ 30.00	\$ 45.00
51	N.R. King Salmon tag - 14 day	\$ 50.00	\$ 75.00
52	N.R. King Salmon tag - Annual	\$ 100.00	\$ 150.00
53			
54	New Fish & Wildlife Cons. Decal	Voluntary	\$ 20.00

**Sport Fish and Wildlife License Increase
Compromise Proposal
Updated: 3/18/15**

Drop all new resident tag fees except for:

- **New resident Sheep tag in specific trophy hunting areas - \$50**
 1. **Applies in the Tok Management Area**
 2. **Applies in Unit 14C (Chugach State Park)**
- **A revised resident tag fee for Coastal brown bear (G.M.Units 1,4,6,8,9 and 10) - \$50**
- **Drop the existing resident brown bear statewide tag requirement of \$25**
- **Keep the Board of Game's authority to modify the tag fee where necessary**

Keep the Non-resident tag fee increases at 100%

Develop a new Intensive Management Surcharge of \$10:

1. **Applies to all resident and non-resident hunting season fees**
2. **Applies to low income license as well**
3. **Sunset clause of 3 years**
4. **Mandatory deposit into Fish and Game Fund**

Create a new annual Voluntary Fish and Wildlife Conservation Decal - \$20

Note: Mandatory deposit into Fish and Game Fund