



SCI Alaska Chapter
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May 11, 2022

Rep. Geran Tarr, Chair, House Fisheries Committee
32nd Alaska Legislature

Re: SCI-AK Support for SB 227 STATE OWNERSHIP OF SUBMERGED LAND

Chair Tarr and Honorable Members of the House Fisheries Committee,

The Safari Club International Alaska Chapter (SCI-AK) fully supports Senate Bill 227 STATE OWNERSHIP OF SUBMERGED LAND

SB 227 asserts that by operation of law, submerged lands under navigable waters in areas managed by federal agencies were conveyed to the state from the United States pursuant to the Equal Footing Doctrine of the U.S. Constitution, the federal Submerged Lands Act, and the Alaska Statehood Act. Since statehood, navigability determinations have been made through administrative processes and litigation brought by the state pursuant to the federal Quiet Title Act. This bill is intended to bring clarity to state ownership of submerged lands in federal areas and to claim, occupy, and possess all such submerged lands as state sovereign property.

Having navigable waters under State management is critical to the people of Alaska. Under State management Alaskans will actually be able to use them. Under Federal management that will always be in question. We will never be able to predict what regulations ever-changing administrations will implement. After 13 years, \$1.6 million, and 2 unanimous US Supreme Court decisions it should be clear to the Federal Government that Alaska has the right to manage all navigable waters. Unfortunately the feds are ignoring 2 US Supreme Court decisions and not acknowledging the right of the State to manage its navigable waters.

Founded in 1971, Safari Club International is the country's leading hunter rights advocate and additionally promotes worldwide wildlife conservation. SCI-AK, founded in 1977, is nationally and internationally recognized for its contributions in support of SCI's four major mission areas: Advocacy, Conservation, Education, and Humanitarian Services. SCI's motto is "First for Hunters".

We fully support the administration's efforts to bring submerged lands, and therefore navigability, under state control where it belongs. Thank you for your consideration.

John Sturgeon

SCI Alaska Chapter President

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Safari Club International Alaska Chapter
First for Hunters - First for Wildlife