

HOUSE BILL NO. 60

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES MASEK, Foster

Introduced: 1/22/99

Referred: Resources, Judiciary

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to use of traditional means of access to assist in taking game
2 or fish and to traditional means of access for traditional outdoor activities on
3 land and water set aside for fish and game purposes."

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 * **Section 1.** AS 16.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

6 **Sec. 16.05.794. Regulation of means of access.** (a) The Board of Game may
7 not adopt a regulation prohibiting the use of a traditional means of access to assist in
8 taking game unless the prohibition is

9 (1) temporary in nature and effective cumulatively less than eight
10 months in a three-year period;

11 (2) applicable to an area of 640 acres or less of land, water, or land and
12 water;

13 (3) biologically essential for the protection of a game resource or of
14 fish or game habitat;

1 (4) expressly authorized under this title; or

2 (5) authorized by act of the legislature.

3 (b) The Board of Fisheries may not adopt a regulation prohibiting the use of
4 a traditional means of access to assist in taking fish for sport, subsistence, or personal
5 use unless the prohibition is

6 (1) temporary in nature and effective cumulatively less than eight
7 months in a three-year period;

8 (2) applicable to an area of 640 acres or less of land, water, or land and
9 water;

10 (3) biologically essential for the protection of a fishery resource or of
11 fish or game habitat;

12 (4) expressly authorized under this title; or

13 (5) authorized by act of the legislature.

14 (c) A regulation adopted by the Board of Game or Board of Fisheries that
15 prohibits the use of a traditional means of access to assist in the taking of game or fish
16 and that is in effect on the effective date of this Act remains in effect for the period
17 prescribed by the appropriate board or until the regulation is repealed or is amended
18 to eliminate the prohibition.

19 (d) In this section,

20 (1) "biologically essential" means necessary to maintain the historical
21 sustained yield harvest level of a fish stock or game population if traditional
22 management measures, including regulation of time, area, methods, means, bag limits,
23 and similar measures, are not successful in achieving management objectives for the
24 stock or population;

25 (2) "traditional means of access" means those types of transportation
26 in an area for which a popular pattern of use has developed; in this paragraph, "types
27 of transportation" includes flying fixed-wing aircraft, boating, using snow vehicles,
28 operation of all-terrain vehicles, horseback riding, mushing, skiing, snowshoeing, and
29 walking.

30 * **Sec. 2.** AS 16.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:

31 **Article 6. General Provisions.**

1 **Sec. 16.20.980. Access for traditional uses.** (a) The Department of Fish and
2 Game, Board of Game, and Board of Fisheries may not restrict traditional means of
3 access for the purpose of hunting, fishing for sport, subsistence, or personal use, or
4 trapping within a state game refuge, state game or wildlife sanctuary, threatened
5 species habitat preservation area, state range area, or fish and game critical habitat area
6 unless the restriction is

7 (1) temporary in nature and effective cumulatively less than eight
8 months in a three-year period;

9 (2) applicable to an area of 640 acres or less of state land, water, or
10 land and water;

11 (3) biologically essential for the protection of a fish or game resource
12 and a reasonable alternative for the traditional means of access across the land, water,
13 or land and water for traditional outdoor activities on other land, water, or land and
14 water is available;

15 (4) expressly authorized under this chapter; or

16 (5) authorized by act of the legislature.

17 (b) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, a regulation of the Board of Fisheries
18 or the Board of Game that restricts the use of a traditional means of access to assist
19 in the taking of fish or game and that is in effect on the effective date of this Act may
20 remain in effect for the period prescribed by the board or until the regulation is
21 repealed or is amended to eliminate the restriction.

22 (c) In this section,

23 (1) "biologically essential" means necessary to maintain the historical
24 sustained yield harvest level of a fish stock or game population if traditional
25 management measures, including regulation of time, area, methods, means, bag limits,
26 and similar measures, are not successful in achieving management objectives for the
27 stock or population;

28 (2) "traditional means of access" means those types of transportation
29 on, to, or in the state land, water, or land and water for which a popular pattern of use
30 has developed; in this paragraph, "types of transportation" includes flying, fixed-wing
31 aircraft, boating, using snow vehicles, operation of all-terrain vehicles, horseback

1 riding, mushing, skiing, snowshoeing, and walking.