

HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
January 18, 2002
1:39 PM

TAPE HFC 02 - 5, Side A
TAPE HFC 02 - 5, Side B
TAPE HFC 02 - 6, Side A

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Mulder called the House Finance Committee meeting to order at 1:39 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Eldon Mulder, Co-Chair
Representative Con Bunde, Vice-Chair
Representative Eric Croft
Representative Richard Foster
Representative John Harris
Representative Bill Hudson
Representative Ken Lancaster
Representative Carl Moses

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Bill Williams, Co-Chair
Representative John Davies
Representative Jim Whitaker

ALSO PRESENT

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

Representative Gary Stevens; Representative Hugh Fate; Representative Sharon Cissna; Colonel Glenn Godfrey, Director, Alaska State Troopers, Department of Public Safety; Del Smith, Deputy Director, Department of Public Safety; Colonel Joel Hard, Director, Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection; Gary Powell, Director, State Fire Marshall, Department of Public Safety; Randy Crawford, Col. Director, Division of Alaska State Troopers, Department of Public Safety; Susan Scudder, Director, Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Department of Public Safety; Frank Rue, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game; Kevin Brooks, Director, Division of Administrative Services, Department of Fish and Game.

GENERAL SUBJECT(S):

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Mission and measure reports:
Department of Public Safety

Department of Fish and Game
 Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
 (postponed)

The following overview was taken in log note format. Tapes and handouts will be on file with the House Finance Committee through the 22nd Legislative Session, contact 465-2156. After the 22nd Legislative Session they will be available through the Legislative Library at 465-3808.

LOG	SPEAKER	DISCUSSION
	TAPE HFC 02 - 5 SIDE A	DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
000	COLONEL GLENN GODFREY, DIRECTOR, ALASKA STATE TROOPERS, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	Introduced his staff.
207	Commission Godfrey	Discussed the measures for the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection. He noted that the department acted on 2,729 angler violations in FY01. There were 16,772 hunter contacts. There was a slight drop in the second quarter, which may have been influenced by a reduction in visits after 9/11/01.
427	Vice-Chair Bunde	Questioned the benefit of the contacts to Alaskans.
452	COLONEL JOEL HARD, DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION	Pointed out that measures provide baseline statistics. They need to be measured against other activities and outcomes.
570	Col. Hard	Agreed with Vice-Chair Bunde that other measures may be beneficial. He explained that they try to establish priorities and concentrate on programs that need their presence. Educational programs have also been undertaken. He reiterated that activities need to be measured against something. Changes in enforcement priorities make the measures difficult to assess.
697	Representative Croft	Suggested that the measures need additional work. He was unsure if the intent is for the contacts to go up or down.
746	Representative Hudson	Agree with Representative Croft. He noted that the intent is to prevent violations.
815	Representative Lancaster	Questioned if there are regional statistics.
827	Col. Hard	Affirmed that there are regional statistics, but observed that the

		department's presence is not distributed evenly throughout the state.
854	Co-Chair Mulder	Noted that it is an activity and not a performance.
870	Representative Gary Stevens	Noted the high number of hunter contacts as compared to angler violations.
897	Co-Chair Mulder	Pointed out that there were actual angler violations as opposed to hunter contacts.
932	Representative Foster	Questioned if any aircraft were seized.
945	Col. Hard	Thought that one aircraft and one boat were seized in the last year. Seizures are relatively rare. The state does not auction seized weapons
1013	DEL SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	Noted that serviceable weapons are sold to licensed firearms operators. They are not destroyed unless dangerous.
1056	Commissioner Godfrey	Discussed measures for fire protection. He noted that 4.54 percent of 1,144 buildings inspected were in compliance. The target is 30 percent. The low level of compliance is partly due to the lack of prior inspections, which were due to a lack of staff.
1171	GARY POWELL, DIRECTOR, STATE FIRE MARSHALL, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	Observed that the state has not seen the results of a new policy to send information regarding inspection expectations to facilities prior to their visit. He observed that there are a number of non-profits working on fire protection services. He could not recall any buildings which needing to be closed.
1385	Commissioner Godfrey	Observed that the Division made 15,000 contacts for fire prevention education in FY01. Contacts in the first quarter of FY02 were 21,337.
1448	Commissioner Godfrey	Noted that the average time required to conduct initial building plan reviews was reduced from 78 percent to 75 percent from FY01 to FY02.
1509	Mr. Powell	Felt that the goal of 80 percent is obtainable and noted that there were large reviews, which increased the time needed. The program is self-supporting.
1541	Commissioner Godfrey	Noted that there were 242 inspections of priority occupancies in FY02 compared to 158 in FY01. This is 90 percent of their goal.
1590	Co-Chair Mulder	Noted that the measure is an activity and the intent is to measure the number of fires prevented. He questioned how the measure could be achieved. He observed

		that risk is a big component. He questioned if it is possible to get closer to the performance.
1647	Representative Hudson	Questioned if the state is assuming additional liability in review of building plans.
169	Mr. Powell	Did not know if risk management covers the department. He pointed out that the state does not design the buildings being inspected. The state only notes if they met state code.
1701	Mr. Smith	Observed that anyone could file a lawsuit, but emphasized that the state's role is to prevent offenses.
1726	Commissioner Godfrey	Reviewed the Division of Alaska State Troopers. He noted that the greater portion of their resources is focused on homicide cases. He noted that 14 homicides (100 percent) were solved in FY02. There were 9 solved in FY01 (100 percent). One case was not solved in 1999 (although they believe they know the offender.) The national rate is 69 percent.
1830	Commissioner Godfrey	Noted that in FY02, 47 percent of reported rapes were solved. In FY01, 53 percent of rape cases were solved. They are above the national average.
1869	Vice-Chair Bunde	Questioned if the crime rate affects the solve rate. He wondered if the remaining crimes were harder to solve.
1900	RANDY CRAWFORD, COL. DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF ALASKA STATE TROOPERS, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	Pointed out that they have a suspect, who is implicated, in 5 of the remaining cases. This would bring the rate up to 51 percent.
1958	Representative Hudson	Questioned what constitutes solving a case.
1969	Commissioner Godfrey	Observed that a case is solved once it has been turned over to prosecution. Deaths of a suspect or incarceration in another state are considered as exceptions.
2015	Vice-Chair Bunde	Suggested that it may be interesting to have a measure comparing the solve rate to the conviction rate.
2031	Commissioner Godfrey	Noted that there were 1,272 burglaries with a solve rate of 19 percent. The FY01 solve rate was 20 percent. The national solve rate is 14 percent.
2083	Commissioner Godfrey	Discussed the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. There is a

		49 percent rate in continuing domestic violence clients. There is a continuing rate of 23.3 percent for sexual assault clients.
2132	Co-Chair Mulder	Questioned if there is a national average.
2155	Commissioner Godfrey	Did not have the national average.
2161	Representative Croft	Observed that the goal is to reduce the number of potential clients. He stressed that the underlying message is that the intent is to change the victim's conduct not the perpetrator's.
2209	Vice-Chair Bunde	Questioned the high repeat rate in sexual assault.
2201	Mr. Smith	Pointed out that the statistics refer to victims requiring continuing contact and are not necessarily victims of a second assault.
2327	Mr. Smith	Noted that funding to address batterers was provided over the past two years. There are no measures for the successful treatment of batterers.
2383	Representative Croft	Noted that it is difficult to assess the affect of programs treating batterers.
		TAPE HFC 02 - 5, Side B
010	Vice-Chair Bunde	Questioned if persons seeking services are placed in multiple categories in the statistics.
050	SUSAN SCUDDER, DIRECTOR, COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	Stated that they are placed in the predominant category relating to the services that are being sought.
174	Representative Croft	Felt that the measure should be how many of the batterers in the program come back with repeat offenses. He stressed that the current measure focuses on the victims seeking repeat services.
271	Commissioner Godfrey	Noted that 38 percent of the Council's budget was spent on prevention efforts in FY02, compared to 45 percent in FY01. The cost of shelter increased from \$68 to \$69.83 dollars per night.
338	Commissioner Godfrey	Compared the amount spent on and the percentage of reduction in domestic violence and sexual assault cases from FY00 to FY01. The department anticipates that \$3,769 million dollars would be spent in FY02, compared to \$4,411 million dollars in FY01.
412	Ms. Scudder	Noted that there was a reduction in state

		spending due to an increase in federal funding.
430	Commissioner Godfrey	Reviewed the percentage change in domestic violence and sexual cases. He noted that sexual assault cases have been reduced but that domestic violence cases have increased. Combined domestic violence and sexual assault cases have grown by 5 percent.
507	Mr. Smith	Noted that the numbers are based on cases responded to by the Department of Public Safety.
546	Commissioner Godfrey	Reviewed the incidence of reported domestic violence and sexual assault cases. Cases of domestic violence have increased while cases of sexual assault and sexual assault of a minor have decreased.
638	Representative Hudson	Asked how many of the FY01 reports were repeated from FY00.
716	Mr. Smith	Did not know how many of the FY01 cases were repeats from FY00.
781	Commissioner Godfrey	Noted that there was a -23.5 percent change in the number of homicides from domestic violence or sexual assault.
844	Representative Croft	Pointed out that the Council has a prevention and protection mission, which makes the measures difficult to assess. He noted that the Council is being criticized for not doing enough for the perpetrator.
974	Co-Chair Mulder	Did not think it was an unhealthy tension.
1001	Representative Croft	Pointed out that victims are competing with perpetrators for funding.
136	Co-Chair Mulder	Suggested that per capita expenditures for victims averaged by state for treatment programs could be a measure.
1088	Vice-Chair Bunde	Stressed that he would prefer to see funding to prevent victimization as opposed to services for recovery.
1192	Commissioner Godfrey	Noted that there are approximately 85 village public safety officers (VPSO), which are all paid with state funds. Federal funding appropriated to the Alaska Federation of Alaska (AFN) has not resulted in an increase in the number of officers.
1266	Co-Chair Mulder	Observed that \$15 million dollars in federal funds were appropriated to AFN last year and for the current year. He pointed out that part of the funding was

		directed for VPSO's in dry communities in rural Alaska.
1275	Representative Stevens	Noted that the AFN is about to receive the federal funds for the current fiscal year.
		DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
1331	FRANK RUE, COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME	He reviewed the department's mission to protect and maintain the fish, game aquatic plant resources of the state, and manage their use and development in the best interest of the economy and well being of the people of the state, consistent with sustained yield principles.
1603	Representative Hudson	Referred to subsistence and questioned if it would make sense to add equal protection under the Constitution.
1637	Commissioner Rue	Noted that if one provision was included that they would all need to be included.
1664	Commissioner Rue	Reviewed the number of escapement objectives met. He noted that 86 percent of the 166 streams and rivers actively monitored were in or above their escapement objective.
1724	Vice-Chair Bunde	Questioned the impact of over escapement.
1736	Commissioner Rue	Noted that over escapement represents a lost opportunity. These are fish that could have been harvested without lost to the stock. If there are too many fish in the system productivity can be reduced.
1810	Representative Croft	How sure is the state that accounting systems are accurate?
1829	Commissioner Rue	Responded that it depends on the system. Multiple methods are used. A number of indicators are also used. The state is looking at a new sonar system, which would be more accurate. He felt that the count was pretty accurate.
1968	Representative Hugh Fate	Questioned if the numbers are measured against historic levels, especially in the river systems.
1988	Commissioner Rue	Affirmed that historic performance and escapement is observed.
2005	Commissioner Rue	Discussed the number of allocation objectives met. He observed that of the 15 fisheries with a regulated requirement to actively manage the fishery to achieve allocation goals, 60 percent fell within 10 percent of their goal.
2029	Commissioner Rue	Discussed measures for the Division of Sport Fish. He observed that the state wants to establish river systems

		allocations for the harvest of king salmon and the number of escapements. The goal is to have an escapement goal for 100 percent of the major king salmon harvesting systems.
2054	Co-Chair Mulder	Observed that if escarpment is not met it could indicate that the river system is crashing.
2079	Commissioner Rue	Agreed and emphasized that the first step is to set the goals. Progress is being made in setting goals. The goal was not reached in South central Alaska. He noted that the state did well in achieving their escapement goals.
	Commissioner Rue	Reviewed the number of fish licenses sold and the total revenue generated. The number of licenses has increased. Stated that there was a dip in 1999.
2136	Vice-Chair Bunde	Observed that licensing changes occurred in 1999.
2242	Representative Lancaster	Asked if licenses are tracked by region.
2250	Commissioner Rue	They are tracked by location of the sale and address of the holder lives.
2261	Commissioner Rue	Noted that there were a number of factors affecting the reduction in 1999.
2272	Commissioner Rue	Reviewed the percentage of Alaska residents between the ages of 16 and 59 who purchase fishing licenses; 44 percent of all residents purchased a sport fishing license in 2000.
2291	Commissioner Rue	Discussed measures for the Wildlife Conservation Budget Request Unit. Reviewed the number of big game surveys completed for populations identified by the Board of Game as important for providing high levels of human consumptive uses. Big game surveys were done for 56 populations identified by the Board of Game.
2323	Commissioner Rue	Reviewed the number of hunting and trapping licenses sold and the total revenue generated. There was Dip in 1999.
2333	KEVIN BROOKS, DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME	Explained that combination licenses are listed under statistics for both sport and wildlife.
2350	Commissioner Rue	Stressed that hunter satisfaction is important.
2369	Vice-Chair Bunde	Observed that another source of information could be valuable.

2378	Co-Chair Mulder	Referred to the amount of revenue generated from resident versus non-residents. He noted that non-residents provide the majority of funds that support the activities of sport fish and hunting.
		TAPE HFC 02 - 6, Side A
012	Commissioner Rue	Noted that 28 percent of all residents purchase hunting and trapping licenses. He noted that the licenses could be broken down by purchase location and the licensee's address.
042	Commissioner Rue	Observed that there were 104,000 applications for hunts and 25,000 permits were issued. Over 500 thousand dollars were generated for the Fish and Game Fund.
113	Vice-Chair Bunde	The number does not represent the number of residents applying for Tier II hunts.
169	Representative Hudson	Observed that there are concerns regarding the drawn hunts near Anchorage. There are hunters in Southeast that have not been able to get permits for northern hunts. He asked if they were limited to people in that specific area.
189	Commissioner Rue	Explained that the place of residence is no longer considered in Tier II licenses. Dependency and alternate resources are reviewed. The Board of Game is currently reviewing the Tier II criteria. Applicants with historical use of the population are given preference.
220	Commissioner Rue	Reviewed measures for the Division of Subsistence. He noted that their mission is to gather information. The department collects subsistence data on fisheries and wildlife harvest.
229	Commissioner Rue	Discussed measures for the Division of Habitat. He noted that the goal is that 95 percent of the Title 16 applications are approved or modified to protect, minimize or mitigate habitat within an average of 20 days. The average time was 17 days.
240	Vice-Chair Bunde	Stated that it would be helpful to note have the range of days needed.
250	Commissioner Rue	Observed that 80 percent of the land use plans reviewed resulted in consensus on habitat related issues.
245	Commissioner Rue	Observed that 92 percent of the project reviews for industrial development, road construction and timber harvest involving

		other agencies permits were developed within the targeted deadline of 25 days. The average time was 17 days.
252	Representative Lancaster	Asked if there was a difference in the process time with the one-stop shopping in the Kenai.
259	Commissioner Rue	Observed that more of the project applications are ready to go. The process is better because all the agencies are there.
270	Commissioner Rue	The Division did not meet the goal of 100 percent for completion of third party contracted restoration projects. He noted that of 28 approved projects, 21 (75%) were completed by the end of the federal completion date. The remaining projects should be finished in the fiscal year.
282	Commissioner Rue	Discussed measures for the Limited Entry Commission. He noted that they are doing a good job in meeting deadlines. Measures judge the movement of permits.
269	Vice-Chair Bunde	Asked the department to work with the Subcommittee to identify other measures that should be included and questioned if there have been changes in the behavior of the public based on review of measures.
311	Commissioner Rue	Stated that he would like to adjust allocation targets, by separating drift nets and set nets in Bristol Bay and sport fish versus commercial in the Southeast King Salmon.
314	Representative Fate	Asked for additional information on pages 14 and 15. He asked for identification of statistics relating to Tier II licenses and drawings for permits.
	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>	The meeting was adjourned at 3:26 PM

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