

**LASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**SENATE RESOURCES STANDING COMMITTEE**

April 5, 2014

9:00 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Senator Cathy Giessel, Chair  
Senator Fred Dyson, Vice Chair  
Senator Peter Micciche  
Senator Click Bishop  
Senator Anna Fairclough  
Senator Hollis French

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Senator Lesil McGuire

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

**CONFIRMATION HEARINGS:**

BOARD OF FISHERIES

- CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

BOARD OF GAME

- CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

BILL: HB 268

SHORT TITLE: BIG BULL MOOSE DERBIES; SNOW TOWN ICE CL.

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) T.WILSON

01/21/14	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/21/14	(H)	RES, FIN
02/03/14	(H)	RES AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124
02/03/14	(H)	Heard & Held
02/03/14	(H)	MINUTE(RES)
02/07/14	(H)	RES AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124
02/07/14	(H)	Moved CSHB 268(RES) Out of Committee
02/07/14	(H)	MINUTE(RES)
02/10/14	(H)	RES RPT CS(RES) NT 6DP 1AM
02/10/14	(H)	DP: JOHNSON, HAWKER, SEATON, P.WILSON, OLSON, SADDLER

02/10/14 (H) AM: KAWASAKI  
02/26/14 (H) FIN AT 1:30 PM HOUSE FINANCE 519  
02/26/14 (H) Moved CSHB 268(FIN) Out of Committee  
02/26/14 (H) MINUTE(FIN)  
02/28/14 (H) FIN RPT CS(FIN) NT 3DP 6NR  
02/28/14 (H) DP: NEUMAN, THOMPSON, T.WILSON  
02/28/14 (H) NR: GUTTENBERG, HOLMES, GARA, MUNOZ,  
COSTELLO, STOLTZE  
03/26/14 (H) TRANSMITTED TO (S)  
03/26/14 (H) VERSION: CSHB 268(FIN)  
03/26/14 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
03/26/14 (S) JUD  
03/26/14 (S) JUD REFERRAL REMOVED  
03/26/14 (S) RES, FIN REFERRALS ADDED  
03/26/14 (S) RES WAIVED PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE, RULE  
23  
03/29/14 (S) RES AT 10:00 AM BUTROVICH 205  
03/29/14 (S) -- MEETING CANCELED --  
04/02/14 (S) RES AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205  
04/02/14 (S) Heard & Held  
04/02/14 (S) MINUTE(RES)  
04/04/14 (S) RES WAIVED PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE, RULE  
23  
04/05/14 (S) RES AT 9:00 AM BUTROVICH 205

**WITNESS REGISTER**

REED MORISKY

Fairbanks, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Appointee to the Board of Fisheries (BOF).

SUSAN JEFFREY

Kodiak, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Appointee to the Board of Fisheries (BOF).

JOHN JENSEN,

Petersburg, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Appointee to the Board of Fisheries (BOF).

KARL JOHNSTONE, Chairman

Board of Fisheries

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Supported Ms. Jeffery, Mr. Morisky, and Mr. Jensen's appointments to the Board of Fisheries. Supported Ted Spraker's appointment to the Board of Game.

MIKE TINKER, representing himself

Fairbanks, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Supported Mr. Morisky's appointment to the Board of Fisheries.

VIRGIL UMPHENOUR, Chairman  
Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
Fairbanks, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Supported Mr. Morisky's appointment to the Board of Fisheries. "Whole heartedly" supported Mr. Spraker's and Mr. Hoffman's reappointments to the Board of Game. Supported HB 268.

AL BARRETTE, member  
Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
Fairbanks, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Supported Mr. Morisky's appointment to the Board of Fisheries. Supported Stosh Hoffman's and Ted Spraker's reappointments to the Board of Game. Supported HB 268.

RICKY GEASE, Executive Director  
Kenai River Sportfishing Association (KRSA)  
Kenai, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Supported all three appointees to the Board of Fisheries.

RUEBEN HANKE, representing himself  
Kenai, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Supported all three appointees to the Board of Fisheries. Supported Ted Spraker's reappointment to the Board of Game.

ANDY SZEZESNY, representing himself  
Kenai, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Supported all three appointees to the Board of Fisheries and thanked them for their service.

STANLEY "STOSH" HOFFMAN, JR.  
Bethel, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Appointee to the Board of Game.

TED SPRAKER  
Kenai, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Appointee to the Board of Game.

DAVE BROWN  
Wrangell, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Appointee to the Board of Game.

RICKY GEASE, representing himself  
Kenai, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Supported Mr. Spraker's reappointment to the BOG.

GEORGE PIERCE, representing himself  
Kasilof, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Supported Ted Spraker's reappointment to the BOG. Opposed HB 268.

REPRESENTATIVE T. WILSON  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Sponsor of HB 268.

ROWENA APLOMAR  
Advocates for Victims of Violence (AVV)  
Valdez, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Supported HB 268.

DAN JORDAN, Head Rifle Team Coach  
University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF)  
Fairbanks, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Supported HB 268.

MIKE TINKER  
Tanana Valley Sportsman Association (TVSA)  
Ester, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Supported HB 268.

GRANT LEWIS, President  
Tanana Valley Sportsman Association (TVSA)  
Fairbanks, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Supported HB 268.

DARRYL VERFAILLIE, Director  
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services  
Valdez, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** No position stated on HB 268.

#### **ACTION NARRATIVE**

9:00:47 AM

**CHAIR CATHY GIESSEL** called the Senate Resources Standing Committee meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Bishop, Dyson, Micciche, and Chair Giessel.

[9:01:26 AM](#)

SENATOR FAIRCLOUGH joined the committee.

**CONFIRMATION HEARINGS**  
**Board of Fisheries**

[9:02:13 AM](#)

CHAIR GIESSEL announced confirmation hearings for the Board of Fisheries as the first order of business. She said the three nominees would speak first and then she would take public testimony.

[9:02:22 AM](#)

REED MORISKY, appointee to the Board of Fisheries (BOF), Fairbanks, Alaska, stated that he and his wife had been in Alaska since 1981. He had been a sport fishing guide since 1984 and his initial interest in Alaska fisheries issues was in the late 80s when the legislature considered licensing sport fishing guides. Since then, he had been a member of the Sport Fishing Guide Services Task Force and had advocated for a responsible sport fishing guide industry to achieve sustainable fisheries. He holds a U.S. Coast Guard's Captain's license and has volunteered as Steese area volunteer Fire Department Board of Directors, Fairbanks Youth Soccer Association coach, Road Service Area Commissioner for the North Star Borough; he is a member of the Tanana Valley State Forest Citizens Advisory Committee. He is a permit holder in the past for Interior Subsistence and his memberships include Trout, Unlimited, Alaska Outdoor Council, and a life-member of the National Rifle Association (NRA).

He and his wife have raised two children here and enjoy all that Alaska has to offer.

[9:04:14 AM](#)

SENATOR MICCICHE said some significant fishery decisions were made this year, and the economies of the Kenai Peninsula including all of the surrounding Cook Inlet are dependent on all of the various fisheries. Now some people fear that Mr. Morisky is just a sportfish guy, he said, and asked him to speak about the importance of the commercial and the personal use fisheries.

MR. MORISKY said he has a family member who has been a commercial fisherman for decades. He has also traveled around the state extensively and realizes the economic value that commercial fishing brings to the state. He also realizes there

are other sectors of the fishery, like personal use, and realizes its importance, as well.

SENATOR MICCICHE said he thought Mr. Morisky was a good member, but his votes were fairly consistently in one direction, and in the future he would like to see board members who have a background in one area but that could "come out for the fish."

MR. MORISKY said there are hundreds of divisive issues in Cook Inlet; the board made the best decision with the information they had. Many people make a living off of this resource and some tough decisions had to be made.

[9:07:52 AM](#)

SENATOR FRENCH joined the committee.

CHAIR GIESSEL invited Susan Jeffrey to tell them her reasons for and interest in serving on the Board of Fisheries.

[9:09:13 AM](#)

SUSAN JEFFREY, appointee to the Board of Fisheries (BOF), Kodiak, Alaska, said she had lived in Kodiak since 1972 and had been involved in fisheries throughout those 40-some years. She was a fisheries editor for the Kodiak Daily Mirror during the heydays of many of the fisheries there, and has written about fisheries for other publications. She and her husband currently are salmon setnet fishermen on Kodiak Island; she has a deep and abiding interest in Alaska's fisheries and understands the importance of them to the state as a whole and to the coastal communities. She was honored that the governor reappointed her and looked forward to using her experience to carry out the board's dual mission of conservation and development of Alaska's fisheries.

SENATOR FRENCH asked what had been the most contentious issue she dealt with.

MS. JEFFREY answered that the in-river AYK issues were challenging for her personally, because she didn't know the area well. The users are familiar with the differences with in-river fisheries and she enjoyed learning more about them. But probably the most contentious area was the recent Upper Cook Inlet meeting (14 days), because so many user groups are involved in a concentrated area. It was extremely challenging, she said.

SENATOR FRENCH agreed that was a "thorny knot of problems" and asked how she would make an allocation decision with evidence evenly balanced on both sides of an issue.

MS. JEFFREY said she has a commercial fishing background, but she also realized that she represents the state as a whole, and the board does have allocation criteria to guide it. First of all, they have to consider conservation and sustainability of fisheries no matter which fishery they are talking about in Alaska. Then comes development of the fisheries and allocation, which has criteria, also. Members often look to it to guide their decisions.

[9:15:30 AM](#)

SENATOR MICCICHE remarked that her decisions had been balanced, but he had a philosophical question. This year some of the results were moving the drift fleet pretty far east mid-way through the run and the only studies he had seen in the past are more or less related to seining that showed that mixed stocks occurred throughout the Inlet; but you couldn't really say this is where they go and this is the route they take. So, some of the commercial guys got restricted. What if the conventional thought is that those fish move close to east side of Kodiak or they are being intercepted elsewhere? There is no documentation that those fish are intercepted, but the political push is to restrict all of the fisheries. How would she respond to that, because he felt like there was enough pressure in this meeting cycle that they were moving outside of really reliable data?

[9:17:37 AM](#)

MS. JEFFREY asked if he was talking about mixed stock fishing and how she would feel about conserving or managing fisheries to allow some fish passage through to other areas.

SENATOR MICCICHE answered yes, but put another way, the groups that are insisting that there is interception in the Inlet, what if they decide there's interception from Kodiak fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet or area M fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet and there is still no documentation that that is occurring. How would she respond?

MS. JEFFREY answered that in the past the board has looked at all available data to understand fish movement and base their decisions on the board's allocation criteria.

SENATOR MICCICHE said that sort of answered his question, but he hoped in the future to have the department more involved in those decisions, because they do have the data.

SENATOR DYSON asked how she thought the board should prioritize allocation during times of shortage between the guided fisheries, sport and personal use.

[9:20:42 AM](#)

MS. JEFFREY answered that the board first considers conservation, then subsistence, and doesn't differentiate between guided and sport uses.

SENATOR BISHOP commented that her personal statement was very good, and he was fully confident she could make the right decisions especially after reading that she would make allocative decisions within fisheries that "requires careful, thoughtful analysis of the science, social, economic studies presented to the board."

[9:22:27 AM](#)

CHAIR GIESSEL said she was aware of the massive volume of information board members get before and during board meetings and wanted to know how she manages that.

MS. JEFFREY answered that she had to cut back on other obligations. That information is so important and where the public can continue to provide insight and information as the meeting progresses. She goes to bed really early and gets up really early to prepare for the next meeting.

[9:23:55 AM](#)

SENATOR MICCICHE said he very, very, much appreciated her service and wanted to extend that to Mr. Morisky. He also wanted the board to push for the department being free to provide information, which hadn't been happening as well as it had in the past.

CHAIR GIESSEL thanked Ms. Jeffrey and welcomed Mr. Jensen to tell them about his experience and interest in serving on the Board of Fisheries.

[9:24:45 AM](#)

JOHN JENSEN, appointee to the Board of Fisheries (BOF), Petersburg, Alaska, related that he was born and raised in Petersburg and had been a third-generation commercial fisherman in Alaska for 45 years. He currently participates in the

halibut, king and tanner crab fisheries in Southeast Alaska. In 2009, he started a small boat rental business in Petersburg that he is still operating. He has two boys who are involved in the commercial fisheries at this time. He had fished pretty much everywhere in the state of Alaska and hadn't participated only in the trawl fisheries. The Board of Fisheries takes all of his time, now.

SENATOR MICCICHE thanked him for serving, and remarked that as a commercial guy, his decisions show balance on supporting sport fisheries. This year's decisions were probably hard for him and probably were not as well based in scientific support as he had seen in the past, and asked how that works for him. How do you look at a tough decision?

[9:27:33 AM](#)

MR. JENSEN responded that his main goal in being on the BOF is to provide for sustainable fisheries for Alaskans for now and into the future. The hardest thing the board has to do is the allocation among different user groups, but the main impetus in the Upper Cook Inlet meeting was the king salmon, which is a statewide issue. It came to a head at that meeting and they had to make the decision to conserve them; he thought the board's decisions were balanced, because all the users groups would suffer a bit. Guided sport fishing, setnetters and drift netters are small businesses and are sharing in the burden at this time to try to get those king salmon, the early run especially, but the late run that is more affected by commercial fisheries in the Inlet. He hoped the plan would protect the king salmon and also allow the harvest of the red salmon, which is supposed to be a big run this year.

SENATOR MICCICHE said Mr. Jensen had been there awhile, and asked if he had noticed a weakening of departmental input. Could he manage helping them feel a little freer to input?

MR. JENSEN said the department is in kind of a hard spot where they don't want to make direct recommendations for fear of looking too biased. Every meeting they have an opinion on each proposal and they try to be very non-biased. The board is still provided with good scientific information without politics.

[9:31:08 AM](#)

SENATOR DYSON thanked him for serving. Most citizens would say the first priority is protecting the fish runs, then subsistence, then sport fishing and guided fisheries. What should be the priority between those?

MR. JENSEN answered that right now everyone is treated the same. The only annual bag limits are for king salmon; the out-of-state and resident bag limits are a little bit different.

SENATOR DYSON asked in times of shortage when someone has to be reined in, which restriction would be best to protect the fish stock.

MR. JENSEN replied that the main thing is to have a sustainable fishery, and the next thing if there is a surplus of fish is the subsistence folks, after that allocation becomes difficult, which is why they have the eight criteria that break it down into the benefit of the state, benefit of the local areas, etc. He believed that the personal use is a resident-only type fishery and they do get a little more priority than the regular sport fishermen.

CHAIR GIESSEL opened up public comment on the BOF appointments.

[9:34:15 AM](#)

KARL JOHNSTONE, Chairman, Board of Fisheries, supported Ms. Jeffery, Mr. Morisky, and Mr. Jensen's appointments to the board of Fisheries. Ms. Jeffery, because she is objective after getting the best available information. She is a commercial fisherman, but makes fair decisions, is accessible to the public, and she will be much more aware of issues in a second term. He added that gender diversity is important on the board, as women are participating more in all the fisheries.

He knew Reed Morisky was bright, thoughtful, and makes fair decisions. Fish come first for him. He is wonderful to work with, has a great demeanor and a good sense of humor, and works well with the public.

Next he supported John Jensen; he is the most senior member on the board and the most experienced, as he had participated in most of the fisheries. He has walked the walk and asks insightful questions and provides information about fishing they might otherwise not be aware of. The board members are greatly benefited by his insights.

[9:40:15 AM](#)

MIKE TINKER, representing himself, Fairbanks, Alaska, supported Reed Morisky's appointment to the BOF. Fish board members need the ability to navigate through these processes, and Mr. Morisky came into this process as one who was willing to learn and

jumped into the information part of it. His performance on the board for this last year has been exceptional with regard to doing the extra things it took to really understand issues before they were actually debated in front of the board.

[9:42:26 AM](#)

VIRGIL UMPHENOUR, Chairman, Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Fairbanks, Alaska, supported Reed Morisky's appointment to the BOF. He said the Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee voted unanimously to support Mr. Morisky. He impressed him as being a scientific-type person who uses the Internet to obtain various scientific studies and really digs into trying to understand and be able to solve the very complex issues before the board. Work ethic is super-important on the board.

[9:44:50 AM](#)

AL BARRETTE, member, Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Fairbanks, Alaska, supported Mr. Morisky's appointment to the BOF. He always attends their Advisory Committee meetings even prior to his appointment to the board. He is always available to the public and is willing to discuss fish topics. He seeks out information and talks to knowledgeable people in the community who are well versed on a salmon or sport fishery; he listens and likes to get their total viewpoints.

[9:46:28 AM](#)

RICKY GEASE, Executive Director, Kenai River Sportfishing Association (KRSA), Kenai, Alaska, supported all three appointees to the BOF. John Jensen understands fisheries very well and his experience is invaluable. Sue Jeffrey is very approachable and asks a lot of questions; she will do an even better job in her second term. Reed Morisky does put fish first and brings a scientific approach to the process.

RUEBEN HANKE, representing himself, Kenai, Alaska, supported all three appointees. John Jensen has historical knowledge of the fisheries and works well with the public. Sue Jeffrey did a good job of bringing herself up to speed and is approachable; she will become a fantastic board member in her second term. Reed Morisky puts fish first, period, and he also will become a fantastic board member.

[9:50:24 AM](#)

ANDY SZEZESNY, representing himself, Kenai, Alaska, supported all three appointees to the BOF and thanked them for their

service. They make difficult decisions and are all approachable and very professional.

[9:51:19 AM](#)

CHAIR GIESSEL closed public testimony and went on to the Board of Game appointees.

### Board of Game

[9:51:42 AM](#)

CHAIR GIESSEL invited Mr. Hoffman to tell the committee about his experience and interest in the Board of Game.

STANLEY "STOSH" HOFFMAN, JR., appointee to the Board of Game (BOG), Bethel, Alaska, related that he was born in Bethel, raised in McGrath, and then lived in Bethel for 20 years. He is a commercial fisherman and subsistence user, and has two sons. He is also an assistant guide and works for the local health corporation as his day job. He had been on the BOG since 2008; fishing and hunting is his life and that of everyone else in Western Alaska.

CHAIR GIESSEL asked why he wanted to be reappointed to the BOG.

MR. HOFFMAN said he saw a need for representation from Western Alaska, because it is a large user group. Now that he is familiar with the system and been part of it for a while, he enjoys serving.

SENATOR DYSON thanked him for serving and asked what game management issues are in Southwest Alaska.

MR. HOFFMAN answered that in Bethel some of the major ones were redoing its status from subsistence to non-subsistence, which didn't pass. A few others were modifying some border lines for some game units, which took several years to iron out. Also, the salmon issue is very large.

SENATOR FRENCH thanked him for serving on the BOG and asked what the most difficult issues were while he had been serving.

MR. HOFFMAN said in 2008 when he first got on the board, he didn't know what he got himself into, because there were 244 proposals. Testimony lasted for almost a week. The hot topic then was Valley Park area and the buffer. Another one is getting the Unit 13 community subsistence hunt program going. Predator control programs around the state are always a hot topic and

more recently the brown bear issue, especially from Kotzebue down to the Unit 9 Naknek area.

SENATOR FRENCH asked what role non-consumptive wildlife appreciators in Alaska should play in the board's decisions.

MR. HOFFMAN responded that he understands their point of view, which is needed. He factors it into his votes, but even though they vote for predator control programs, it's not to eliminate the wolves. They are not trying to do that. But if you remove X amount of moose and caribou you have to remove some wolves as well; otherwise everything is off-balance.

[9:58:52 AM](#)

TED SPRAKER, appointee to the Board of Game (BOG), Kenai, Alaska, related that he was raised in Wyoming and after high school attended a small community college in Casper before moving on to the University of Wyoming. He graduated in 1971 with a Bachelor's degree in wildlife management. Following that, he entered into a post-graduate program at the University and graduated in 1973 with a Master's degree in range science. His goal in college and even before that was to move to Alaska and work in the wildlife management field and was fortunate enough to be offered a three-month job with the Fish and Wildlife Service out of Juneau. He became convinced that this is where he wanted to spend the rest of his life.

He was offered another three-month position through the Denver Wildlife Research Center located in Soldotna at the Kenai Moose Research Center. This job was more related to his background and training as he was tasked with assessing quality habitat for moose and conditions of animals. He spent a lot of time just looking at habitat and trying to understand the relationship between quality habitat and moose on the Kenai Peninsula.

He finally got what he wanted, a position as wildlife biologist in 1974 for the ADF&G, when that job ended and he did that for 28 years and 4 months. He spent 9 months in Anchorage and 4 years in Glennallen, where he bought property and built a home. As soon as the house was finished, he was offered a promotion and was transferred to Kenai where he spent the rest of his career working there, and he retired in 2002.

MR. SPRAKER said he was first appointed to the BOG by Governor Murkowski, then was reappointed by Governor Palin and three times by Governor Parnell. This will be his fifth consecutive term on the board. During that time he served as the vice

chairman for two terms and as chairman for the last couple years.

He is married to a wonderful wife, who is very supportive of the commitment necessary to be a good board member. They have three children. He does not look at this as a job; it has been an honor to be on the board and to have spent 40 years working the wildlife management field. This is his way of giving something back for conservation of wildlife.

MR. SPRAKER said he really enjoys working with the public and tries to listen to all sides of an issue with equal respect to all individual users. It is his duty to first to understand the conservation and sustainability concerns of wildlife, but they also need to really listen to the users, because this resource belongs to them and they are just servants to the public. He enjoys working with the process and has the time in his retirement to do it.

[10:06:21 AM](#)

SENATOR MICCICHE said Mr. Spraker was the model for the vision he has for the future. He likes the mix of those are professional, lifelong, wildlife biologists and concerned individuals on the BOG now and wished the BOF had the same mix.

SENATOR FRENCH remarked that Mr. Spraker's credentials are incredible, and asked what weight, if any, he gives to non-consumptive users when he makes decisions as a member of the BOG.

MR. SPRAKER replied that the board does a good job of looking at that very carefully, but they are part of a much larger question that relates back to active management of wildlife and providing for healthy populations of game. Photographers want to see a large bull moose, too. He has the utmost respect for all users.

[10:10:49 AM](#)

SENATOR BISHOP said he had a great resume', and asked his opinion on relocating moose from one state to another.

MR. SPRAKER answered that Alaska has good history of reintroducing moose into different areas - Kalgan Island moose started with seven moose back in 1959 and Anchorage and Kenai moose were transplanted to the Copper River Delta to give rise to the population there - but there have been a couple failures. One is when Kenai moose were transplanted to a small island about 25 years ago and that failed. Introducing moose to other

areas where moose numbers are low has promise, but first a careful evaluation of the quality of habitat has to be done. And the density of predators has to be evaluated along with the quality of moose browse. If it seemed like a viable project, he would support it.

CHAIR GIESSEL thanked him for serving and invited Mr. Brown to tell the committee about his experience and interest in serving on the Board of Game.

10:13:41 AM

DAVE BROWN, appointee to the Board of Game (BOG), Wrangell, Alaska, related that he grew up in Montana, came up to Alaska right out of college and taught industrial arts for 30 years, had been in Wrangell for 32 years. He has a wife and three children. He is an avid hunter and trapper and commercial crab fisherman. He is retired now and has time to do public service now. He is a member of the NRA, Pope and Young, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. He had been a hunter ed. instructor for archery and volunteered to do many things through the high school industrial arts shop. He had worked with the Forest Service on volunteer projects for cabins and boardwalks. He had been the Wrangell Teachers Association (WTA) president and also served on the WTA Negotiations Committee.

MR. BROWN said he wants to serve, because he wants to see Alaska's wildlife be used in a sustainable manner with maximum hunting opportunity. He wants to do some public service and he has the time to serve. He advocates for fair-chase hunting and sportsmanship.

SENATOR FRENCH asked what weight he gives to non-consumptive users in making BOG decisions.

MR. BROWN answered that he respects their point of view. He lives on the Stikine River where a lot of people come to watch migrating shorebirds and marine mammals; tourists support the economy and they should have their say, as well.

10:17:44 AM

SENATOR BISHOP said he was pleased to see his application and felt confident that he would dive into various technical issues and weigh everybody's opinion.

10:18:26 AM

CHAIR GIESSEL found no further questions and opened public testimony.

[10:18:40 AM](#)

RICKY GEASE, representing himself, Kenai, Alaska, supported Ted Spraker's reappointment to the BOG, because he allows all sides to express their views and he is good at talking to people. He does a fantastic job of promoting science-based management of game populations in Alaska.

RUEBEN HANKE, representing himself, Kenai, Alaska, supported Ted Spraker's reappointment to the BOG. He was area management biologist on the Kenai Peninsula and did a very good job of leading them through some very controversial times there on several different issues. He has become a fantastic leader on the BOG.

[10:20:21 AM](#)

VIRGIL UMPHENOUR, representing himself, Fairbanks, Alaska, said he "whole heartedly" supported Ted Spraker's and Mr. Hoffman's reappointments to the BOG.

[10:21:27 AM](#)

AL BARRETTE, representing himself, Fairbanks, Alaska, supported Stosh Hoffman's and Ted Spraker's reappointments to the BOG. He has seen Mr. Hoffman "really grow" over the years into a better board member who participates and is available to the public. He didn't always agree with Mr. Spraker, but as chair, he does a good job. He has witnessed non-consumptive users come to the board get "a little testy with their opinions," and Mr. Spraker handled them very professionally and well.

GEORGE PIERCE, representing himself, Kasilof, Alaska, supported Ted Spraker's reappointment to the BOG. He's a biologist and always listens to all sides. The biggest reason he should be reappointed is that he is a biologist, and more of them are needed on both of the boards. The boards are now "stacked" with special interest groups, but scientists and biologists are needed.

[10:25:27 AM](#)

KARL JOHNSTONE, representing himself, supported Ted Spraker for his leadership qualities. He served on a joint Board of Fisheries and Game meeting last fall when Mr. Spraker served as chairman; he was very impressed as serving as chair over both boards is a significant challenge. He provided excellent leadership in dealing with very complex issues. He has a great demeanor that encourages the public to participate. His informal

approach tends to moderate contentious issues and there were quite a few at that meeting.

CHAIR GIESSEL, finding no further comments on the appointees, closed public testimony. She announced that in accordance with AS 16.05.221 the Resources Committee reviewed the following and recommended the appointments be forwarded to a joint session for consideration: Board of Fisheries: Reed Morisky, Susan Jeffrey, and John Jensen; Board of Game: Stanley Hoffman, Jr., Ted Spraker, and David Brown. This does not reflect an intent by any of the members to vote for or against the confirmation of the individuals during any further sessions. There were no objections and it was so ordered.

10:27:37 AM

At ease from 10:27 to 10:28 a.m.

10:28:39 AM

**HB 268-BIG BULL MOOSE DERBIES; SNOW TOWN ICE CL.**

CHAIR GIESSEL announced HB 268 to be up for consideration [CSHB 268(FIN), version 28-LS0851\P was before the committee].

REPRESENTATIVE T. WILSON, sponsor of HB 268, explained that this bill is a big bull moose derby that started with the Tanana Valley Sportsmen's Association and the UAF Rifle Team to be able to earn funds to a competition based on what is already in statute for hunting. You would still have to get all the same permits and follow the regulations in the area you are hunting, and this would allow them to have a derby.

As most bills go, it picked up a "little sister" and that is the Snow Town Ice Classic in Valdez that would help those who advocate for victims of violence. The City of Valdez has offered to help them do this ice classic that would be very much like the one in Nenana.

The reason this is in front of them is that all derbies and classics by statute must go through this process. Resources are decreasing and so they are asking the state's non-profits to find other ways of getting funding. The Tanana Valley Sportsmen's Association (TVSA) had a fire several years ago and has been rebuilding since then. They provide shooting for not just the UAF Rife Team, but most of the high schoolers, and have clinics for the youngsters. This would be another way for them to be able to finish their facility without coming to the legislature for funds.

CHAIR GIESSEL opened public testimony.

10:31:18 AM

ROWENA APLOMAR, Advocates for Victims of Violence (AVV), Valdez, Alaska, supported HB 268. She related how they need \$25,000 more to meet their needs. She said AVV is one of the 20 programs that provide services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. They serve 18 communities from Glennallen to Valdez; their shelter and main office is also located in Valdez. For FY13/14 their basic operating costs have risen over \$20,000 with increased transportation for victims from villages, shelter utility, energy, and insurance costs. At the current state funding level, they would need an additional \$25,000 to continue to meet victims' basic needs. Unfortunately, the current proposed increment in the state's funding of about \$285,000 will be divided among 20 programs throughout Alaska. AVV will need to make up for the difference or be forced to cut services. They hope that being eligible to receive funding from this classic would make up the projected shortfall.

10:33:03 AM

DAN JORDAN, Head Rifle Team Coach, University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), Fairbanks, Alaska, supported HB 268. He explained that UAF has had a very successful rifle team and shooting programs going all the way back to 1925; they have won 10 national championships and have had multiple all-Americans and Olympians come out of the program. Being a university program, they are subject to state funding and are already planning on a 3 percent decrease in their budget next year, if not more, and as a result, are looking for other funding options. This big bull derby is one way they think could take them a long way to being self-sufficient.

MIKE TINKER, Tanana Valley Sportsman Association (TVSA), Ester, Alaska, supported HB 268. He said his family including his grandchildren are members and he has looked for funding support for that organization and the UAF Rifle Team for a long time.

He said they talked about the big bull moose derby with the UAF and the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED) about how they might expand their raffle permit into the derby concept. Representative T. Wilson looked into it and found two avenues to choose from: one was to try to fit under the concept of animal classics, but the DCCED said that would require an amendment and recommended adding specific language and they picked up the Valdez Snow Derby along the way.

MR. TINKER said questions had been raised about whether this would create a demand for new hunters in the state, because people would run out and try to make a lot of money off the biggest moose. In their discussion with hunters and with the ADF&G, no one forecasts that would be a problem. He explained that the prizes would be set up so that there would a prize for the biggest moose antler of the year and a drawing where everyone would have a chances to win something.

SENATOR DYSON asked the sponsor if she knew of any opposition.

REPRESENTATIVE T. WILSON responded that one person believed that someone would go out and shoot a moose and it wouldn't be large enough and go shoot another one, but she said these hunters must go through the same permitting process and are subject to the same regulations as other hunters. Some areas even require a certain size of antlers.

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SENATOR BISHOP asked Mr. Tinker if the TVSA will provide a measuring station and officials who perform actual measurements and if they will use Boone and Crockett measuring standards, because there are different ways of measuring moose antlers.

MR. TINKER replied that they hadn't come up with a formula for measuring antlers, but it will be simple and one that everyone will understand, within the derby rules.

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AL BARRETTE, representing himself, Fairbanks, Alaska, supported HB 268. He was glad both organizations got together to brainstorm for ways of solving budget issues for both organizations. He assured them that no more moose tags will be issued; this is just a raffle. However, he stated that already in two-thirds of all the moose units you can hunt moose in you have to shoot a 50-inch or larger moose.

GRANT LEWIS, President, Tanana Valley Sportsmen's Association (TVSA), Fairbanks, Alaska, supported HB 268. Their emphasis has been on safe fire arms education. All of the local high schools are using their facility, but they had a fire in 2007. They are still working on their new building on a week-to-week basis with volunteers. With the money they get from this classic they hope to finish their facility and continue hunter education programs.

CHAIR GIESSEL thanked him saying that she had seen the facility that is lovely and a wonderful asset to Fairbanks.

VIRGIL UMPHENOUR, representing himself, said he had been a member of TVSA since 1971 and supported HB 268. His whole family were competitive rifle shooters and learned hunter safety and hunter education at TVSA. UAF has one of the best rifle teams in the country. It will raise money for things that are truly unique to Alaska.

10:46:16 AM

GEORGE PIERCE, representing himself, Kasilof, Alaska, opposed HB 268. He said the moose belong to Alaska and not the non-profits to make money on or for non-residents, 85 percent of whom take only the horns and donate the meat. Stop using our game to make money especially in areas with low game numbers, he urged.

10:48:44 AM

DARRYL VERFAILLIE, Director, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, Valdez, Alaska, informed them of the city's participation in the ice classic. He explained the City of Valdez would not receive any revenues from the ice classic; they would simply coordinate the event on behalf of AVV, assist with the advertising and provide monitoring of the event. In short, they would act as a force multiplier for AVV moving towards self-sustainability of the programing.

CHAIR GIESSEL found no further testimony and closed public testimony.

REPRESENTATIVE T. WILSON closed in saying this is going with what ADF&G does currently. What happens if one of the gaming areas is closed? It will be closed. This will not give any more permits and not manage anything. It will use the rules that already exist.

SENATOR FRENCH asked if this is any different in concept than the silver salmon derbies where you get a prize for catching the biggest fish.

REPRESENTATIVE T. WILSON replied that it is exactly like halibut and salmon derbies and should be approximately the same way.

SENATOR DYSON moved to report CSHB 268(FIN), 28-LS0851\P, from committee with attached zero fiscal note and individual recommendations. There were no objections and it was so ordered.

10:51:37 AM

CHAIR GIESSEL, finding no further business to come before the committee, adjourned the Senate Resources Committee meeting at 10:51 a.m.