

Introduced: 2/14/86
Referred: Resources and
Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY WALLIS

2

HOUSE BILL NO. 578

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing fish and game resource manage-
7 ment regions and regional fish and game advisory
8 councils."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 * Section 1. AS 16.05 is amended by adding new sections to read:

11 Sec. 16.05.261. REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL SYSTEM ESTABLISHED. A
12 system of regional fish and game councils is established to provide a
13 regional forum for the collection and expression of opinions and
14 recommendations on matters relating to fish and wildlife resources, to
15 assist the boards in deliberations concerning regulations, and to
16 provide for public participation in the regulatory process to help
17 adequately protect subsistence uses.

18 Sec. 16.05.262. FISH AND GAME RESOURCE MANAGEMENT REGIONS. (a)
19 For the purposes of conserving and managing the fish and wildlife
20 resources of the state, the following resource management regions are
21 created:

- 22 (1) Southeast Alaska;
23 (2) Southcentral Alaska;
24 (3) Southwest Alaska;
25 (4) Western Alaska;
26 (5) Arctic Alaska; and
27 (6) Interior Alaska.

28 (b) The Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game, acting joint-
29 ly, shall establish the boundaries of the resource management regions,

1 and may establish additional regions after consulting with existing
2 regional councils. Taken together, the regions must include all land
3 in the state.

4 Sec. 16.05.263. REGIONAL FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COUNCILS. The
5 Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game, acting jointly, shall estab-
6 lish an advisory council for each region established under AS 16.05.-
7 262. A council shall consist of the persons who chair the active
8 advisory committees established in the council's region under
9 AS 16.05.260, or the persons' designees. An advisory council member
10 who is also a member of an advisory committee must be a resident of
11 the council's region.

12 Sec. 16.05.264. POWERS AND DUTIES OF REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS.

13 (a) A regional fish and game advisory council shall

14 (1) hold public meetings on fish and wildlife matters;

15 (2) elect officers;

16 (3) in consultation with the local fish and game advisory
17 committees in its region and with the department, review, evaluate,
18 and make recommendations to a board on existing and proposed regula-
19 tions, policies, and management plans, and other matters relating to
20 the uses of fish and wildlife resources within its region;

21 (4) perform other duties specified by a board; and

22 (5) submit to the boards, the department, and the Secretary
23 of the Interior, by November 15 of each year, an annual report, con-
24 taining

25 (A) an identification of current and anticipated
26 subsistence uses of fish stocks and wildlife populations within
27 the region, and other fish and wildlife uses that the council
28 identifies;

29 (B) an evaluation of current and anticipated subsis-

1 tence needs for use of fish and wildlife populations within the
2 region, and of other fish and wildlife needs that the council
3 identifies;

4 (C) a recommended strategy for the management of fish
5 stocks and wildlife populations within the region to accommodate
6 the identified fish and wildlife uses and needs; and

7 (D) recommendations concerning policies, standards,
8 guidelines, and regulations to implement the strategy.

9 (b) A regional fish and game advisory council shall provide a
10 forum for, and assist its local fish and game advisory committees in,
11 obtaining the opinions and recommendations of people interested in
12 fish and wildlife matters to achieve local participation in the deci-
13 sion-making process. If differences of opinion exist among the com-
14 mittees, the council shall attempt to reach a compromise and regional
15 consensus on matters of controversy.

16 (c) A regional fish and game advisory council may present to the
17 appropriate board recommendations concerning the conservation, regu-
18 lation, management, and use of fish and wildlife resources within the
19 council's region, along with the evidence upon which the recommenda-
20 tions are based. The appropriate board shall consider the advice and
21 recommendations of a regional advisory council concerning the taking
22 of fish stocks and wildlife populations in the council's region for
23 subsistence uses.

24 (d) A regional fish and game advisory council may make recommen-
25 dations to the boards on the creation, consolidation, distribution, or
26 operation of the local committee system.

27 Sec. 16.05.265. REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL REGULATIONS. The
28 Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game, acting jointly, may adopt
29 regulations under the Administrative Procedure Act (AS 44.62) for the

- 1 operation of regional fish and game advisory councils and to implement
- 2 and further the purposes of AS 16.05.261 - 16.05.264.