

HUNTING

# COALITION of INTERIOR ALASKA OUTDOORSMEN

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## *Affiliated Clubs:*

Chena River Sports Club  
Chitina Dipnetter's Association  
Fairbanks Trailblazers, Inc.  
Interior Alaska Trappers Association  
Interior Wildlife Association  
Tanana Valley Sportsmen's Association

April 15, 1976

Dear Governor Hammond and Legislators,

Re: Senate Bill No. 335

The Coalition of Interior Alaska Outdoorsmen has previously stated their position on raising the cost of hunting and fishing licenses and big game tag fees. We now feel that it is time to better define and clarify this position.

Senate Bill 335 as passed by Senate drastically changes the license and tag fee structure. It is our understanding that over 85% of revenue generated by sales of licenses and tags comes from non-residents. Based on this information, we question how much will be gained by doubling the cost of resident sport fishing and hunting licenses. We believe fewer licenses will be sold, therefore decreasing any gain hoped to be achieved.

We believe that three other areas should be considered for additional revenue and to better distribute the cost burden to all those benefiting from fish and game management programs. These are as follows:

1. We do not believe that any valid reason exists today for a 25-cent license. If necessary, the welfare agency supporting the qualifying individual should pay the normal fee and thereby transfer these funds to the fish and game fund so federal matching monies could be received. In 1975, 5,000 25-cent licenses were sold. None of these funds went to the Dept. of Fish and Game. Since this 25-cent license allows the licensee to hunt, fish and trap it should be valued at \$15.00. Thus \$75,000.00 in possible revenues was not received by Fish and Game. When the 3 to 1 matching federal monies are added the total loss was actually \$300,000.00.
2. We believe that somewhere between one fifth and one third of the Dept. of Fish and Game's Sport Fishing and Game Division's activities are solely directed toward non hunting and fishing activities. This is estimated to consume in excess of \$2,000,000.00 of Fish and Game funds. At the present time the hunter and fisherman pays the bill for these activities. We believe a better method would be to fund these activities from general funds and thus more equitably share the costs of all activities. A general fund appropriation of approximately \$600,000.00 along with matching federal funds, would total approximately \$2,000,000.00.
3. At the present time all revenue derived from trapping licenses goes directly to the general fund account. Fish and Game does not receive any of these monies, but provides all the management efforts. Again, the hunter and fisherman is paying the bill. We believe that these trapping funds should be sent directly to the Fish and Game account. This could then be matched by federal monies. Approximately 8,000 trapping licenses were sold in 1975. This amounts to \$24,000.00. Due to loss of federal matching funds, this resulted in a loss of \$100,000.00 to Fish and Game. We would support an increase of the resident trapping license to \$10.00 providing these funds go directly to Fish and Game. This could generate \$320,000.00 in additional revenue.

We are opposed to all resident big game tag fees. The cost of administering may well offset any additional revenue derived. This will also discourage hunting by residents and may effect sales in related outdoor activities. We believe this new fee area should be approached with great caution.

Items 1 through 3 above would require a general fund appropriation of \$600,000.00 and could generate as much as \$2,620,000.00 for Fish and Game management. This would be done without changing the present resident hunting and fishing license structure.

We have not taken a position on non-resident fee increases. The legal and social ramifications are such that we think it best to concentrate our efforts on this license and fee issue as it affects us as resident Alaskans.

Again we would like to suggest that public hearings on this matter be held in several areas of the State.

Sincerely



Ivan Thorall, Chairman



# Alaska

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### Subject; Proposed non-resident tag fee increase.

Many thousands of dollars are spent by the the State promoting tourism in Alaska in magazines and in papers in the lower 48. It seems inconsistent to me that on the one hand we want tourism and on the other hand we reject it by making it too expensive for the lower income tourist that come to Alaska - and when I say tourist I also mean hunter.

There seems to be a misconception to what a tag fee is. Many people seem to think that a tag fee is the price of an animal. This is not true. A hunter must buy a tag for the privilege of hunting the animal. This tag does not mean that he is buying or getting the animal, but only the right to hunt it.

Many other expenses are involved besides the tag fee in a guided or non-guided hunt. Airlines, hotels, restaurants, sporting-goods stores, air taxi operators, etc. Everyone benefits when we have this type of tourist up here.

The hunting tourist leaves much more money in Alaska, than the person that comes up to look around and take a few pictures.

Another point that we might consider is that when we increase the tag fee as the proposed legislation would do, we are only restricting those people from the lower income brackets that can not afford this type of increase. It is not going to restrict or stop the very monied hunter that wants a

### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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PLEDGED FAIR CHASE

guided hunt, from coming up here. We will have less hunters, and it will not effect the majority of guides, but it will affect the hotels, resturants and all the other businesses that depend upon tourists.

If the purpose of this legislation is to reduce the number of hunters that come to Alaska, then we are accomplishing this, but I would like to make a suggestion. If what you really want is to reduce the number of hunters that come to our state, then the best way to do it is to require that all hunters must have the services of a guide, before they can hunt in Alaska. Because of the high price of the guided hunts this would materially reduce the number of people that come from the states and other countries to hunt Alaska. I do not say this to benefit the guides because that would have very little effect on them. The people that come for a guided hunt have the money to do so, but it would stop a number of hunters who are in the lower income bracket and can not afford the services of a guide.

Many thousand of hunters come to Alaska and hunt moose, caribou black bear and goat on their own, because a guide is not required. Their success is not that great, but they do spend much with the charter boat operators, air taxies, roadhouses, etc. Less hunters means less business and therefore less taxes for the state.

What I am saying is that the proposed increase is not going to drasticially effect the guided hunts in Alaska, but it will effect the other small businesses that depend on tourism to quite some extent.

If you recall in 1973 after the last price increase in tags the number of non-resident hunters purchasing tags dropped from 11000 approx. to 8000. I have no idea what the drop would be now after this proposed increase, but I am sure it would be substantial.

On a 16 or 18 day hunt, most guided hunters normally buy 5 tags which in the past has amounted to \$525.00. On a hunt of this type he expects to take three trophies and the other tags are just in case he has a chance at additional game.

If this increase goes into effect we may look forward to a hunter buying only three tags for \$600.00 instead of five tags for \$1000.00 The revenue to the state would be increased by \$75.00, but with a substantial decrease in the number of hunters it seems to me that in the long run the state will come out on the short end, when we consider reduced taxes from small businesses, reduced income from Airlines and the state ferry system.

We all should in the future think of the hunter as a tourist,

and every time a piece of legislation comes up pertaining to hunters, to try to think of them as tourists first and hunters second. The hunter is one of Alaska's greatest tourist. They have contributed much to the state and businesses, almost everyone benefits from these hunters that come up here. When the pipeline boom is over we are going to be left with an economy that is based on tourism and some commercial fishing operations. Alaska has no industries as such and our dependence on the tourist is very great for all businesses, not just the guiding business, BUT ALL BUSINESSES.

Thank you for taking the time to read this as I know you are all very busy people.

Stan Frost  
President A.P.H.A. Inc.

# Interior Wildlife Association of Alaska

Conservation - Wise USE of Resources

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Mary Hayes, Secretary

## S T A T E M E N T

February 6, 1975

to the

SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

regarding

PREDATOR CONTROL IN ALASKA

Our group wishes to go on record as strongly endorsing predator control in Game Management Unit 20A. Further, we wish to call to your attention that game herds are being seriously reduced in many areas of Alaska at this time, in some cases due to hunting, but mainly wolf predation as shown by the poor moose and caribou calf survival. We believe an expanded control effort on wolves beyond 20A is warranted as soon as possible. In particular, the Nelchina, Eagle-Circle, Tanana, Galena and Bettles areas.

Our group is well aware of the squabble with the anti-hunting groups that is sure to ensue and that this initial effort in 20A must be performed as cleanly and smoothly as possible. We also believe that the Game Department is underestimating the magnitude of the undertaking in Unit 20A. We first believe that they are underestimating the number of wolves in 20A (see attached article by a biologist-guide residing full time on Wood River in the middle of 20A). And, secondly, we believe they are overestimating the effectiveness of Super Cubs in taking wolves in 20A. It is our belief that something over 70 percent of 350 wolves must be taken to effect any control. We believe that Super Cubs, given enough time, might effect a 40 percent take. But beyond that we think the Department, Legislature, Governor and Game Board should be prepared to use a helicopter for the remainder of the job. In fact, it could be done much more effectively right from the start using a helicopter. We suggest, however, that up to 40 percent of the wolves could be removed at no cost to the state if shooting permits are issued to individuals of proven capabilities and integrity immediately; then be prepared to use a helicopter during March to complete the job.

However it is done, we want to reiterate that our group endorses this long overdue effort to manage a few acres of Alaska for the benefit of the hunting public rather than as a national park.

"Concerned Sportsmen"

Jay fees  
15.1

STATE OF ALASKA BOARD OF FISH AND GAME

TO: Members of the Board of  
Fish and Game

DATE: May 3, 1975

FROM: Ivan Thorall, Chairman *IT*

SUBJECT: Management and regulations  
governing the taking of  
game on state refuges.

The rule-making powers of the Board of Fish and Game as set forth in Sec. 16.05.250 and other sections of title 16 are often confusing to me (as well as others, I assume) because they overlap or are duplicated by the Commissioner's powers and duties.

As I understand the law, we are bound by the actions of the Legislature to promulgate regulations dealing with the management of our wildlife on the refuges as well as on other areas of the state. I am listing below the laws or portions of them which may explain, somewhat, my reasons for disagreeing with the other members of the board on the afternoon of April 12, 1975, when we approved a motion which attempted to hand over our regulatory authority to the "Feds" and/or the state administration.

I still maintain that no muskoxen may be legally "taken" from Nunivak Island or anyplace else in the state except under regulations promulgated by the Alaska Board of Fish and Game.

I will certainly welcome comments and explanations to the contrary from anyone.

16.05.050 Powers and duties of commissioner. The commissioner has, \_\_\_\_\_, the following powers and duties:

(6) capture, propagate, transport, buy, sell or exchange game for propagating, scientific or stocking purposes.

16.05.340 License and tag fees.

(17)

(b) The commissioner may issue without cost a permit to collect fish and game, subject to the limitations he considers appropriate, for scientific, propagative, or educational purposes. \_\_\_\_\_

16.05.930 Exempted activities.

(a) This chapter does not prevent the collection or exportation \_\_\_\_\_ for scientific \_\_\_\_\_ or for propagation \_\_\_\_\_ purposes under a permit which the department may issue and prescribe the terms thereof.

16.40.010 Disposition of surplus animals. \_\_\_\_\_ the department may, under regulations promulgated by it \*\*\*, grant the surplus \_\_\_\_\_ for breeding \_\_\_\_\_ or scientific \_\_\_\_\_ purposes.

\*\*\* This is the Taylor law. I think the legislature meant the board instead of the department because as far as I can determine the department has no authority to promulgate regulations.

MORE

May 3, 1975

Following are the laws dealing with the Boards authority regarding State Game Refuges.

- 16.20.010 Legislative recognition. The legislature recognizes that:
- (1) the state has jurisdiction over all fish and game in the state except in those areas where it has assented to federal control;
  - (2) \*the state has not assented to federal control of fish and game in those areas which were set apart as National Bird and Wildlife Refuges while the state was a U. S. territory;  
\*emphasis added.

16.20.020 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to protect and preserve the natural habitat and game population in certain designated areas of the state.\*\*\*

\*\*\*It should be evident to everyone by now that the "Feds" have not managed or allowed the state to manage the game on Nunivak Island in a manner to protect and preserve the natural habitat and game populations. They have accomplished this mismanagement by invoking their trespass rule against us. There is some evidence to indicate that they are up to no good in other areas. The bureaucrats of D.C. seem mainly interested in establishing themselves as the sovereign, not as good game managers.

16.20.030 Refuges established. (a) Those land areas now included in the National Wildlife Refuge System which are cited in this subsection are designated as state game refuges, and the board shall assign them appropriate refuge names:  
(10) Nunivak Island Refuge

16.20.040 Regulations. \*The board shall, under ch. 5 of this title establish regulations governing the taking of game on state game refuges it considers advisable for conservation and protection purposes. \*emphasis added.

I am still hung up on this matter. In my opinion, according to law, it requires board action to establish regulations to manage the muskoxen on Nunivak Island. And until the Legislature sees fit to knuckle under to the Feds I must continue to oppose federal control of our wildlife, especially when it will throw an otherwise viable program into a mess like they have made of the muskoxen mismanagement program of Nunivak Island!!!