

HCR

105



# STATE OF ALASKA

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

BOARD OF FISHERIES  
C/O DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
SUPPORT BUILDING, JUNEAU 99801

Box 1633  
Kodiak, Alaska 99615  
May 22, 1978

The Honorable Alvin Osterback  
Chairman, Committee on Resources  
Alaska House of Representatives  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Osterback:

This is in reply to your April 21 request for comments on  
CSHB 807 and HCR 105.

CSHB 807. I have no objection to appropriating additional money to the Sport Fish Division for managing Cook Inlet salmon. I assume this is an appropriation that is an addition to the budget and does not replace another program. Better management of the Cook Inlet fishery would ease some of the uncertainty that the Board faces when it makes its allocation decisions. It has become increasingly apparent during my time on the Board that fishing activity and the demands of Alaska's population on the resource are expanding at a faster rate than the appropriations necessary to meet these demands.

HCR 105. The Legislature has given the responsibility of regulating and protecting the fishery resources of Alaska to the Board of Fisheries. I've enclosed a copy of the upper Cook Inlet management policy that the Board adopted last December. Basically the policy designates the subsistence fishermen and the sport fishermen as the primary harvesters of king and silver salmon before June 30 and after August 15. Cook Inlet is one of the most complicated areas to manage in the state. There is a significant overlap of salmon species that are not of prime recreational interest but are of high commercial value during part of this time period. It is the Board's intent to attempt to utilize as fully as possible the commercial species while protecting the recreational species

The Honorable Alvin Osterback

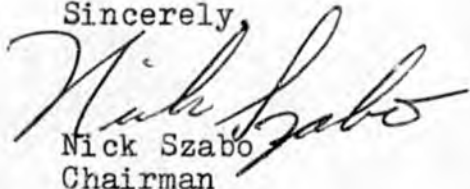
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May 22, 1978

as much as possible. HCR 105 does not have the flexibility to accomplish this goal. It is for this reason that I am opposed to it. It would result in significant amounts of those salmon which are of no interest to sport fishermen being left unharvested.

If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nick Szabo".

Nick Szabo  
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: Commissioner Skoog  
Board Members

*Correct copy*

Policy #77-27-FB

COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT POLICY  
FOR THE UPPER COOK INLET


The dramatically increasing population of the Cook Inlet area has resulted in increasing competition between recreational and commercial fishermen for the Cook Inlet salmon stocks. Concurrently, urbanization and associated road construction has increased recreational angler effort and may adversely affect fisheries habitat. As a result the Board of Fisheries has determined that a policy must now be determined for the long-term management of the Cook Inlet salmon stocks. This policy should rest upon the following considerations:

1. The ultimate management goal for the Cook Inlet stocks must be their protection and, where feasible, rehabilitation and enhancement. To achieve this biological goal, priorities must be set among beneficial uses of the resource.
2. The commercial fishing industry in Cook Inlet is a valuable long-term asset of this state and must be protected, while recognizing the legitimate claims of the non-commercial user.
3. Of the salmon stocks in Cook Inlet, the king and silver salmon are the target species for recreational anglers while the chum, pink, and red salmon are the predominant commercial fishery.
4. User groups should know what the management plan for salmon stocks will be in order that they can plan their use consistent with that plan. Thus, commercial fishermen must know if they are harvesting stocks which in the long-term will be managed primarily for recreational consumption so that they may plan appropriately. Conversely, as recreational demands increase the recreational user must be aware of what stocks will be managed primarily for commercial harvest in order that he not become overly dependent on these fish for recreational purposes.
5. Various agencies should be aware of the long-term management plan so that salmon management needs will be considered when making decisions in areas such as land use planning and highway construction.
6. It is imperative that the Department of Fish and Game receive long-range direction in management of these stocks rather than being called upon to respond to annually changing Board directives. Within the Department, divisions such as F.R.E.D., must receive such long-term direction.

EXHIBIT NO. 13  
*page 1 of 2*

Therefore, the Board establishes priorities on the following Cook Inlet stocks north of Anchor Point. In so doing it is not the Board's intent to establish exclusive uses of salmon stocks; rather its purpose is to define the primary beneficial use of the stock while permitting secondary uses of the stock to the extent it is consistent with the requirements of the primary user group.

1. Stocks which normally move in Cook Inlet to spawning areas prior to June 30, shall be managed primarily as a non-commercial resource.
2. Stocks which normally move in Cook Inlet after June 30, shall be managed primarily as a non-recreational resource until August 15; however existing recreational target fish shall only be harvested incidental to the non-recreational use; thereafter stocks moving to spawning areas on the Kenai Peninsula shall be managed primarily as a non-commercial resource. Other stocks shall continue to be managed primarily as a non-recreational resource.
3. The Susitna coho, the Kenai king, and the Kenai coho runs cannot be separated from other stocks which are being managed primarily as non-recreational resources; however, efforts shall be made, consistent with the primary management goal, to minimize the non-recreational catch of these stocks.

  
Nicholas G. Szabo, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Fisheries

ADOPTED: December 13, 1977

VOTED: 5-0

EXHIBIT NO. 13

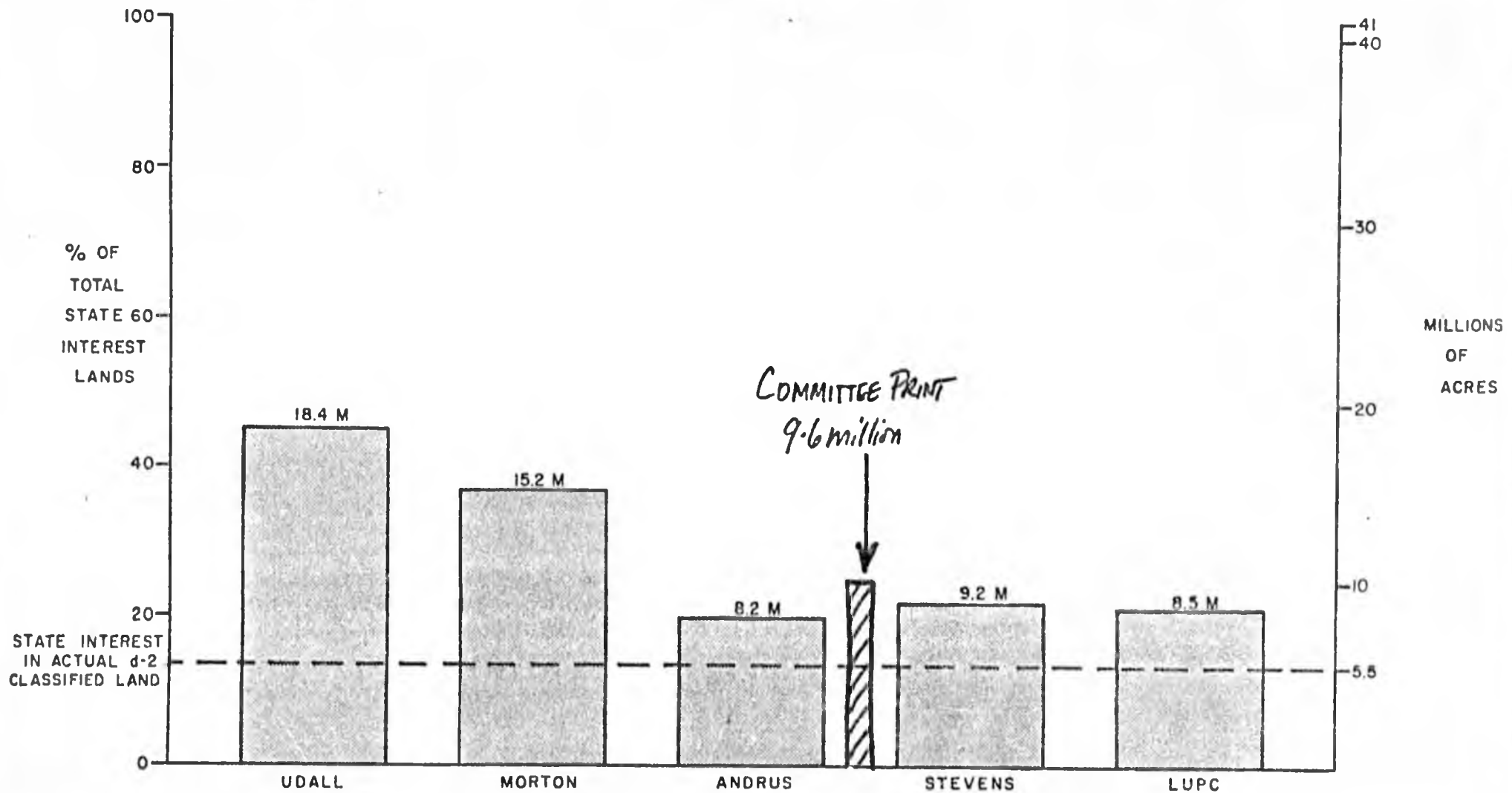
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(3) Section 6(g) of the Alaska Statehood Act is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new sentence: "As to all selections made by the State after January 1, 1979, pursuant to section 6(b) of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior, in his discretion, may waive the minimum tract selection size where he determines that such a reduced selection size would be in the national interest and would result in a better land ownership pattern.

(h) In furtherance of its entitlement to lands under section 6(b) of the Alaska Statehood Act, the United States hereby conveys to the State of Alaska all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to all vacant, unappropriated, and unreserved lands, including lands subject to subsection (m) of this section, which lie within those townships outside the boundaries of conservation system units established, designated, or expanded by this Act, which are specified in the list of State Selection Interest Lands submitted by the State of Alaska and on file in the office of the Secretary of the Interior, and as depicted on the map entitled " ", dated March 1978.

(i) (1) Lands identified in subsection (h) are conveyed to the State subject to valid existing rights and Native selection rights under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. All right, title and interest of the United States in and to such lands shall vest in the State of Alaska

## ANALYSIS OF STATE SELECTION INTEREST AREAS WITHIN D-2 PROPOSALS



PUBLIC INFORMATION PACKET  
Considerations For Alaska State Land Selections  
Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
February 1, 1978

Planning and Research Section  
Department of Natural Resources  
323 East 4th Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

## I. Why is the State of Alaska selecting land now?

### The Alaska Statehood Act

The Alaska Statehood Act grants the State of Alaska the right to choose and gain title to 104 million acres of federal land in Alaska. The majority of this entitlement, 102.5 million acres, is to provide for present and future settlement including residential, industrial, commercial and recreational land needs. To date the state has selected nearly 75 million acres of this general grant lands entitlement, leaving 25-30 million acres remaining to be selected.

### Section 17 (d)(2) of The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act

Section 17(d)(2) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act directed the Secretary of the Interior to classify up to 80 million acres of Federal land in Alaska for inclusion in the National Park, Wildlife Refuge, Forest and Wild and Scenic River Systems. Congress gave itself until December 31, 1978 to act on the Secretary's recommendations, and over the past six years a number of (d)(2) bills have been introduced. Congress is now considering final (d)(2) legislation.

The State of Alaska is urging Congress to address state land selection rights within the context of (d)(2) legislation. The ultimate goal is to gain Congressional assurance for land conveyance to the State of Alaska of the majority of our remaining land entitlement as part of any final (d)(2) bill.

## II. Why are General Grant Lands so important to Alaskans?

Most of Alaska's 367 million acres of land will continue to be owned and managed by the federal government even after completion of land selections. The federal government will retain ownership of approximately 218 million acres. As a result of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, a large portion of additional lands (44 million acres) will be owned by private native corporations. After all selections are completed, the state will own approximately 29% of the land area, the natives 12% and the federal government 59%. Although it is certain that both the native and federal lands will play a major role in fulfilling many of Alaska's land related needs, it is the state's land that can best be managed through our state and local governments in a way to assure that Alaskans' land needs are met.

## III. How does the state decide which lands to choose?

### Land and Resource Inventory and Evaluation

To insure the wisest selection of Alaska's remaining land entitlement Governor Hammond initiated a process to identify federal and native over-selected lands within Alaska suitable for state ownership. The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for this process. During the past two years the department has studied and evaluated Alaska's land and natural resources. Agricultural, mineral, forestry, fisheries, wildlife, recreation, land settlement potential, and other values were assessed based on the best information available to state government, including citizen and industry

input, Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission data, and the collective expertise of state land managers and resource experts.

Based on this assessment, the Department of Natural Resources chose 71 separate "state interest" areas to create a selection pool of 45 million acres including federal and native overselected lands. From this pool the state will choose much of its remaining general grant land entitlement.

#### Public Review

The 45 million acre land pool does not represent state land selections. Rather it is a first step which will alert Congress to our basic desires and provide the basis for public discussion. In an announcement last November, Governor Jay Hammond said, "It is our intention to press aggressively for conveyance of 25 to 30 million acres from this pool and other lands through the (d)(2) legislation. Our decision of which lands should ultimately be selected will only take place after an extensive process of public meetings, and review. Identification of these tentative state interest lands initiates this process of public review and input to our eventual selection action."

The Department of Natural Resources is now in the process of scheduling public meetings in some 19 communities throughout the state. The Department is interested in gathering more local knowledge about lands within the selection pool, as well as hearing people's thoughts concerning the types of lands and the location of lands which the state is considering. Since the tentative pool must be refined, public input gained from these meetings can play a significant role in shaping the eventual selection package.

#### IV. How can individual Alaskan citizens participate?

A large map of the State of Alaska should be on display in your city hall or community center. This map will show lands which the state has previously selected and the new interest areas which comprise the 45 million acre pool. Consider both the statewide picture as well as the lands in your specific area. Come and discuss your opinions of the state interest areas at the public meeting in your community. Your participation in this program is an important part of the state land selection process.

The following list briefly highlights the basic guidelines which the state is currently following in the consideration of additional lands for selection. (Please note that the listing does not reflect a priority ranking of the guidelines).

1. **SETTLEMENT LANDS:** The state should select land around regional centers such as Kotzebue, Nome, Bethel and Dillingham as well as additional potential settlement areas for the future in regions such as the Yukon and Kuskokwim River valleys, the uplands of the Yukon Flats and the Bristol Bay drainage.
2. **ROADS:** The state should continue to emphasize selections in the vicinity of existing transportation routes and potential transportation crossroads or key areas.

3. AGRICULTURE: The state should attempt to select all lands made available rated in the top half of Alaska's agricultural land. Any remaining agricultural lands should be selected if other valuable resource capabilities are specifically identified.
4. FORESTRY: Future selections should attempt to acquire forest lands from the best half of Alaska's forest potential areas.
5. COMMERCIAL FISHERIES: Selections should consist of key parcels of limited acreage and prime locations for purposes of fishery enhancement, hatchery sites, research facilities, and access sites.
6. TOURISM: Recreation lands identified in the White Mountain area, Tangle Lakes area, and near the Alaska Yukon border should be selected, if possible, as well as additions to the highway campground system and noted recreation sites along major waterways.
7. HARD ROCK MINERAL LANDS: The state should balance out existing mineral holdings with very selective acquisitions in mineral areas of known potential, and areas which may become mining activity centers, such as on the Seward Peninsula and the southwest portion of the Brooks Range, to facilitate provision of state services.
8. COAL LANDS: The state should acquire appropriate coal lands which rank in the best third of coal potential lands in the state.
9. OIL AND GAS LANDS: The state's goal should be to refine and augment existing oil and gas holdings or select new areas of extremely high resource potential including consideration of heretofore unavailable areas such as the National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska on the North Slope.
10. WILDLIFE HABITAT AND USE AREAS: The state should select strategic small parcels which will provide access for various wildlife user groups and also key areas to insure continuation of the state's resource management options for wildlife.
11. HIGH USE RECREATION AREAS AND PARKS: The state should select 750,000 acres of potential park lands which are needed to fulfill the state's recreational development plan as well as prime areas for recreation facilities along major roads and waterways.
12. LAND QUALITY: The state should select stable and useable lands of high quality and multiple use value throughout the state.
13. RIVERS AND COASTS: The state should select land for settlement, recreation use, and access values along the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers as well as appropriate locations along the coastline of Alaska.
14. PYK LINE: The state should continue past policies of generally not encouraging large residential establishments away from main regional centers north of the Porcupine-Yukon-Kuskokwim River line.
15. OWNERSHIP PATTERN: Selections should attempt to ensure adequate access to existing and future state land areas with particular emphasis on accessibility between state lands and major transportation corridors, rivers and coastlines.

BY LETHIN, AKERS, ANDERSON,  
BEIRNE, BENNETT, BRADLEY,  
CARPENTER, COTTEN, DANKWORTH,  
ELIASON, FREEMAN, GRUENING,  
GUY, HAYES, KELLY, MCKINNON,  
MEEKINS, MILES, PHILLIPS, RUDD,  
SWANSON AND URION

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 105

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to fishing in Cook Inlet.

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

7 WHEREAS certain extant and proposed regulations of the Department of Fish  
8 and Game concerning the Cook Inlet salmon fishery appear not to be in the  
9 best interests of all parties concerned; and

10 WHEREAS equitable treatment of commercial, subsistence and sport fisher-  
11 men is of necessity a prime consideration of the law; and

12 WHEREAS the rapidly expanding population of the Anchorage area is in  
13 serious need of enhanced recreational opportunities; and

14 WHEREAS the fishery resource of Cook Inlet must be judiciously managed  
15 to preserve and expand its production levels; and

16 WHEREAS the contribution of the Cook Inlet fishery to the tourism indus-  
17 try, Alaska's fourth largest industry, is substantial and increasing;

18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is  
19 respectfully requested to direct the Department of Fish and Game to promulgate  
20 regulations opening the commercial fishery in <sup>North + Central Lethin</sup> ~~all~~ districts of Cook Inlet  
21 from July 1 to August 15 of each year, subject to individual openings and  
22 closings within those dates by the Department of Fish and Game, and reserving  
23 the remainder of the season, before and after that period, for subsistence  
24 and sport fishing. This shall not preclude subsistence and sport fishing  
25 during the designated period for commercial fishing.

# TELEGRAM

RCA ALASKA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

PHONE: 586-6440

JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

02049 NL ANCHORAGE ALASKA 61 04-11 530P AST

PMS REP ALVIN OSTERBACK

JUN

PLEASE STOP ALL ACTION ON KCR105. A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT

OF THE COMMERCIAL CATCH OF KINGS OCCURS BEFORE JULY 1

A LARGE PORTION OF THE CHUM CATCH AFTER AUGUST 15 IN THE

COOK INLET AREA. LEGISLATURE SHOULD NOT BE INVOLVED IN

THE REGULATORY FUNCTIONS OF THE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

AND THE FISHERIES BOARD.

RANGER NELSON 1035 WEST NORTHERN LIGHTS BLVD

ANCHORAGE ALASKA 99503