

HB

136

COMMITTEE REPORT

HOUSE

FURTHER: FINANCES

July 6, 1979

Date: July 15, 1979

Speaker:

Committee on RESOURCES has had HB 136

"An Act making a special appropriation to the Department of Fish and Game for purchase of a sonar fish counter at Nushagak; eff. date."

under consideration and (a majority of the committee) (the committee) reports it back with the following recommendations:

- do pass do not pass
- do pass with attached amendments(s)
- replace with CS for _____ same title
 new title
- and recommends _____
- AND attaches a "Letter of Intent" New Fiscal Note
- reports it back without recommendation
- referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

[Signature]

[Signature]

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Signature]
CHAIRMAN

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

1200 515-72
JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

SUPPORT BUILDING - JUNEAU 99801

May 17, 1978

*3 years
vetted*

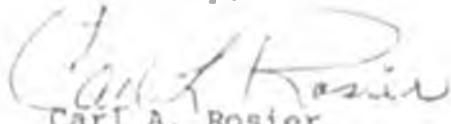
The Honorable Nels A. Anderson
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Anderson:

In response to your telephone conversation with Commissioner Skoog this morning, I am enclosing a copy of the Proposal for Nushagak River Counters per your request.

Should you need further information, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Sincerely,



Carl A. Rosier
Acting Deputy Commissioner

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 178
DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576
PHONE (907) 842-3322

December 1, 1978

The Honorable Jay Hammond
Governor of Alaska
Pouch A
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Governor Hammond:

As you well know, the salmon fishery is practically the only source of income for Bristol Bay residents. We are highly dependent on the effective and accurate management of this resource for our livelihood. For this reason our local management offices must have adequate funding.

We are requesting that \$110,000 be put into capital budget for sonar equipment for the Nushagak fishery. This is not the first request that has been budgeted but other requests have been cut. Sonar equipment is something we desperately need in order to have an idea of the status of our fishery.

Herring is a growing fishery in the Bay and sure needs to be managed adequately. During the past season, it was managed by our salmon managers without any additional funds. This can not continue as it will result in poor management for both the salmon and herring.

It is imperative that the administration of the State of Alaska secure adequate funding for accurate and effective management of these two natural resources.

Sincerely yours,

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

Kay E. Larson
(Mrs.) Kay E. Larson
Deputy Director

KEL/mc

cc: Representative Nels Anderson, Jr.

Enclosure

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 179
Dillingham, Alaska 99576
By Executive Committee

SALMON COUNTING
RESOLUTION NO. 79-01

- WHEREAS, Most of the residents of Bristol Bay depend on the salmon industry as their only source of income; and
- WHEREAS, The Nushagak River is one of the main tributories of Bristol Bay and is highly valuable as a salmon spawning ground; and
- WHEREAS, There has been a cut back of Japanese commercial fishing activities which will affect the return of salmon to Bristol Bay and, thereby will greatly increase the need for the return to be accurately and speedily monitored and recorded; and
- WHEREAS, An overescapement is possible and could adversely affect the salmon; and
- WHEREAS, The Alaska Department of Fish and Game regulates activity in this commercial fishery and makes on-site and immediate decisions pertaining to allowable fishing times which affect local economy for an entire year and propagation the species. and
- WHEREAS, The use of sonar equipment in the murky water of the lower Nushagak River will give faster and more accurate information as a basis for making these decisions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Executive Committee of Bristol Bay Native Association that the Alaska State Legislature appropriate special funding for the needed sonar system to be installed on the lower end of the Nushagak River; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Executive Committee that Alaska Department of Fish and Game receive regular funding to operate their counting towers with reliable personnel and for the needed length of time.

SIGNED

Wayne F. Schroeder

CERTIFICATION:

I, the undersigned secretary of said Association, do hereby certify that the Executive Committee's composed of five (5) members, of whom 4 were present at a meeting this 10th day of October, 1978, and that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the affirmative vote of 4 members.

Wayne F. Schroeder
Secretary

#B136

PROPOSAL FOR NUSHAGAK RIVER COUNTERS
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

INTRODUCTION

Sockeye salmon passing through the Nushagak Fishing district enter several trunk spawning streams where they are enumerated by Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologists through aerial surveys and/or counting towers. The accurate and prompt enumeration of salmon escaping the commercial fisheries is essential for efficient management of the various stocks contributing to the Nushagak district salmon runs. At present the Department operates visual counting stations in all of the major salmon producing river systems in the Nushagak district except in the main Nushagak river. Accurate enumeration of the escapement into the main Nushagak River has posed a special problem in past years with muddy water frequently interfering with visual counting operations. In some years, poor counting conditions have prevented biologists from obtaining any reasonable estimate of escapement at the tower sites. Due to the problems encountered, the Department closed the main Nushagak River counting tower camp in 1977 and initiated a post season aerial survey project to assess the escapement. Obviously this escapement information does not provide the prompt in-season data that is required to effectively manage the stocks returning to that system.

Sockeye salmon returning to the Nuyakuk River, a tributary of the main Nushagak River, are counted visually at the tower site down stream of the outlet of the Tikchik lakes where water clarity is acceptable. Unfortunately due to the length of the migration route, up the main Nushagak River and Nuyakuk Rivers the sockeye salmon usually take up to 14 days to move from the fishing district up to the counting tower. This delay in escapement enumeration presents a problem in effective management of the stocks.

This situation could be greatly improved if early enumeration of all salmon entering the lower portion of the main Nushagak River could be accomplished. As stated earlier, visual counting techniques are not suitable.

Side scanning sonar now presents another option to visual enumeration of migrating salmon. The equipment recently developed by the Bendix Corporation while under contract to the Department of Fish and Game consists of a single acoustic transducer positioned in the river in a manner to allow a narrow sonar beam to scan across the channel. The acoustic echoes received by the transducer are processed by a shore based electronic control unit with salmon counts registered and printed at regular intervals. Side scanning sonar units are now in use in the Cook Inlet and Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Rivers with good success where water conditions prevent visual counting.

OBJECTIVES

This proposal requests two side scanning sonar units and one year project operational costs to initiate a sonar escapement enumeration project on the lower portion of the main Nushagak River. The primary objective of this project would be to obtain an accurate in-season estimate of the daily passage of salmon migrating up the main Nushagak River. Second, our objectives would be to obtain samples from the migrating salmon to assess the age class composition and stock identity through scale pattern analysis techniques.

PROJECT NARRATIVE

The Nushagak River sonar project will be the responsibility of the Bristol Bay research project leader, Division of Commercial Fisheries. One temporary fishery biologist I will act as crew leader over three temporary fishery technicians. Field supervision of the project will be shared by the research project leader and his assistant.

The funding requested in this proposal will allow the field operations to begin June 10 and continue through to late August. This time schedule should allow sufficient time for site location, camp set up and gear installation prior to any significant passage of migrating salmon. The August termination date should similarly provide enough time to enumerate the Nushagak River pink salmon stocks which follow the king and sockeye salmon runs.

Beach seining will be conducted concurrently with the sonar enumeration to provide scale samples for species composition, age class composition and stock separation. Seasonal total escapement data obtained from the sonar project will be compared to aerial survey escapement estimates flown after the season and visual counts recorded at the Nuyakuk River tower station. Depending on the site selected for the sonar enumeration, it may be possible on some occasions to directly compare sonar counts to visual counts when water conditions are suitable.

In addition to in-season applications, escapement data obtained from the project will be incorporated into the Bristol Bay catch and escapement data files and used with other data to evaluate optimum escapement levels for the salmon stock involved and to forecast future salmon runs.

Cost Analysis:

Line 100

1 FB I Temp. 6/10 - 8/20	3.9
3 FT III Temp. 6/10 - 8/20 with O.T.	<u>16.1</u>
	20.0

Line 200

Travel 4 round trips-Anch. - Dillingham	.5
Subsistence 16 days in Dillingham	<u>.3</u>
	.8

Line 300

Air charter 10 hours at \$110/hr.	1.1
Air freight	.5
Bendix contract for 2 side scanners	<u>64.7</u>
	66.3

Line 400

Food, clothing	1.8
Camp gear, sampling equipment	1.3
Outboard gas, fuel, propane	<u>.7</u>
	3.8

Line 500

18' heavy guage metal river boat	2.9
70 hp. outboard motor	1.3
12' metal riverboat	1.8
25 hp. outboard motor	.6
Radio	1.2
Oscilloscope, single trace, AC/DC	<u>1.2</u>
	9.0

TOTAL	99.9
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BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 178
DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576
PHONE (907) 842-3322

December 1, 1978

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Governor of Alaska
Pouch A
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Governor Hammond:

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We are requesting that \$110,000 be put into capital budget for sonar equipment for the Nushagak fishery. This is not the first request that has been budgeted but other requests have been cut. Sonar equipment is something we desperately need in order to have an idea of the status of our fishery.

Herring is a growing fishery in the Bay and sure needs to be managed adequately. During the past season, it was managed by our salmon managers without any additional funds. This can not continue as it will result in poor management for both the salmon and herring.

It is imperative that the administration of the State of Alaska secure adequate funding for accurate and effective management of these two natural resources.

Sincerely yours,

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

Ray E. Larson
(Mrs.) Ray E. Larson
Deputy Director

KEL/mc

cc: Representative Nels Anderson, Jr.

Enclosure

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P.O. Box 179
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Executive Committee that Alaska Department of Fish and Game receive regular funding to operate their counting towers with reliable personnel and for the needed length of time.

SIGNED

Wayne F. Schneider

CERTIFICATION:

I, the undersigned secretary of said Association, do hereby certify that the Executive Committee's composed of five (5) members, of whom 4 were present at a meeting this 14th day of October, 1978, and that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the affirmative vote of 4 members.

Wayne F. Schneider
Secretary

HB136

PROPOSAL FOR NUSHAGAK RIVER COUNTERS
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

INTRODUCTION

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BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 1 B
DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576
PHONE (907) 842-2222

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Governor of Alaska
Pouch A
Juneau, Alaska 99811

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BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.



(Mrs.) Jay E. Larson
Deputy Director

REL/mc

cc: Representative Nels Anderson, Jr.

Enclosure

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P.O. Box 179
Dillingham, Alaska 99576
By Executive Committee

SALMON COUNTING
RESOLUTION NO. 79-01

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SIGNED Wayne F. Shouder

CERTIFICATION:

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Wayne F. Shouder
Secretary

** EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN:

3 Man-months @ \$1500 ea.	\$ 4,500
Helicopter to bring men, boat & supplies to area & return.	3,000
Food & Subsistence for men	450
Small riverboat & motor	2,000
TOTAL	<u>\$ 9,950</u>

** SCOPE OF OPERATIONS

The side-scanner sonar fish counter (valued at approx. \$36,000) is already available at ADF&G offices at Soldotna. If these funds are approved, the counter would be installed on the Crescent River (also known as the Grecian River) near Tuxedni Bay on the Lower West Side of Cook Inlet.

Installation would be about June 1, 1979, with operations continuing through August 15.

** JUSTIFICATION

According to Gary Sanders and Tom Namvedt, ADF&G management biologists for Cook Inlet, it is estimated that five species of salmon run up the Crescent River, the most commercially valuable probably being an estimated run of some 30,000 sockeye escapement. This Crescent River broodstock "is the last sockeye run in Cook Inlet which has yet to be properly identified and properly managed," according to the biologists. "We want to know exactly what kinds of run are going up this river, and their timing."

Sanders and Namvedt stressed that the Crescent River run has been seeing increasingly heavy pressure from setnetters the past two seasons, but that ADF&G has insufficient data to properly manage openings and/or closings in the area.

They both give the Crescent River project a high priority for the summer of 1979 management program.

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. HB 136

Title An Act making a special appropriation to the Department of Fish & Game

Requested by House Resources Committee

Date 2/14/79

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Department of Fish and Game

Agency Affected _____

Program Category Affected Natural Resources

Budget Request Unit(s) Affected Commercial Fisheries

EXPENDITURES (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 79	FY 80	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 COMMODITIES						
500 EQUIPMENT	100.0					
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC						
TOTAL	100.0	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 79	FY 80	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84
GENERAL FUND	100.0	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Specify)						

POSITIONS

	FY 79	FY 80	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84
FULL TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART TIME						
TEMPORARY						

III. ANALYSIS (See Fiscal Note Preparation Instructions, Section III)

Assume the cost of Muzhappak sonar fish counter estimated at \$100,000 based on source of Bendix Corp. This is a one time cost.

IV. DATE 2/15/79

PREPARED BY *Russell Clark*

Russell H. Clark

AGENCY Department of Fish and Game

PHONE 465-4170

Original Legislative Finance

cc: Budget and Management

Fiscal Sponsor (First Legislator Named)

Keith Sporking

33 001 (Rev. 10/70)

P11c