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# Senator Vic Fischer

Alaska State Legislature  
Pouch V • Juneau, Alaska 99811 • (907) 465-4954



February 7, 1986

To: All Senators  
From: Senator Vic Fischer  
Re: SB 390 - Alaska Marine Park System

SB 390 adds 30 new units in Prince William Sound to the Alaska Marine Park System.

These areas were originally selected by the state in the early 1970's as recreation sites. They were included in the first draft of the 1984 legislation that created the Alaska Marine Park System. However, the U.S. Forest objected to the state selections, and it was decided to drop units disapproved by the Forest Service until the title question was cleared up.

Last April, U.S. District Judge James von der Heydt ruled in support of state selections of National Forest lands, specifically approving these sites. Now the path is clear to satisfy the intent behind the original selections: to increase public access and use of state owned land high in recreation and scenic value.

The exercise of fishing or hunting rights permitted under state law or under regulations of the Boards of Fish and Game are protected in marine park units. Development of aquaculture facilities is allowed and basic services in the park units will be provided by the private sector.

Inclusion of state selections in Prince William Sound in the marine park system is overwhelmingly supported by private residents, local governments, recreation users, commercial fishermen, environmentalists and hundreds of other Alaskans who want to see public use and access enhanced.

Please contact me or my staff if you have any questions or need additional information.

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

### DIVISION OF LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT

January 28, 1986

The Honorable Arliss Sturgulewski  
Alaska State Legislature  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

FEB 13 1986

FRANK  
BILL SHEFFIELD, GOVERNOR

555 CORDOVA STREET  
POUCH 7-005  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510-7005  
PHONE: (907) 276-2653

Dear Senator Sturgulewski:

In November and December 1985, the Department of Natural Resources held a series of meetings in the communities of Prince William Sound and in Anchorage. The meetings focused on the use of state land in the Sound. Because of your interest in state land management and because of your constituents' use of the Sound, I thought you would be interested in the enclosed summary of the public comments, and in the brochure prepared to introduce the public to the plan.

The meetings marked the beginning of the planning process. They were designed to help the Department learn the issues and problems affecting the management of state land in the area and to inform the public about the area plan. The communities and meeting dates are listed below:

Seward	November 18
Chenega	November 19
Anchorage	December 2
Tatitlek	December 3
Valdez	December 4
Cordova	December 5
Whittier	December 11

Approximately 150 people came to the seven meetings and we heard over 1000 comments concerning state land management in the area. I believe the enclosed summary does a good job of conveying people's opinions about different possible uses of state land. In addition, it conveys the reasons people gave for holding those opinions - what they like and don't like about prospective uses of state land.

I hope this information is useful. If you or your staff have any questions, please call myself or Bob Loeffler, the plan's project manager, at 561-2020. Thank you for your interest.

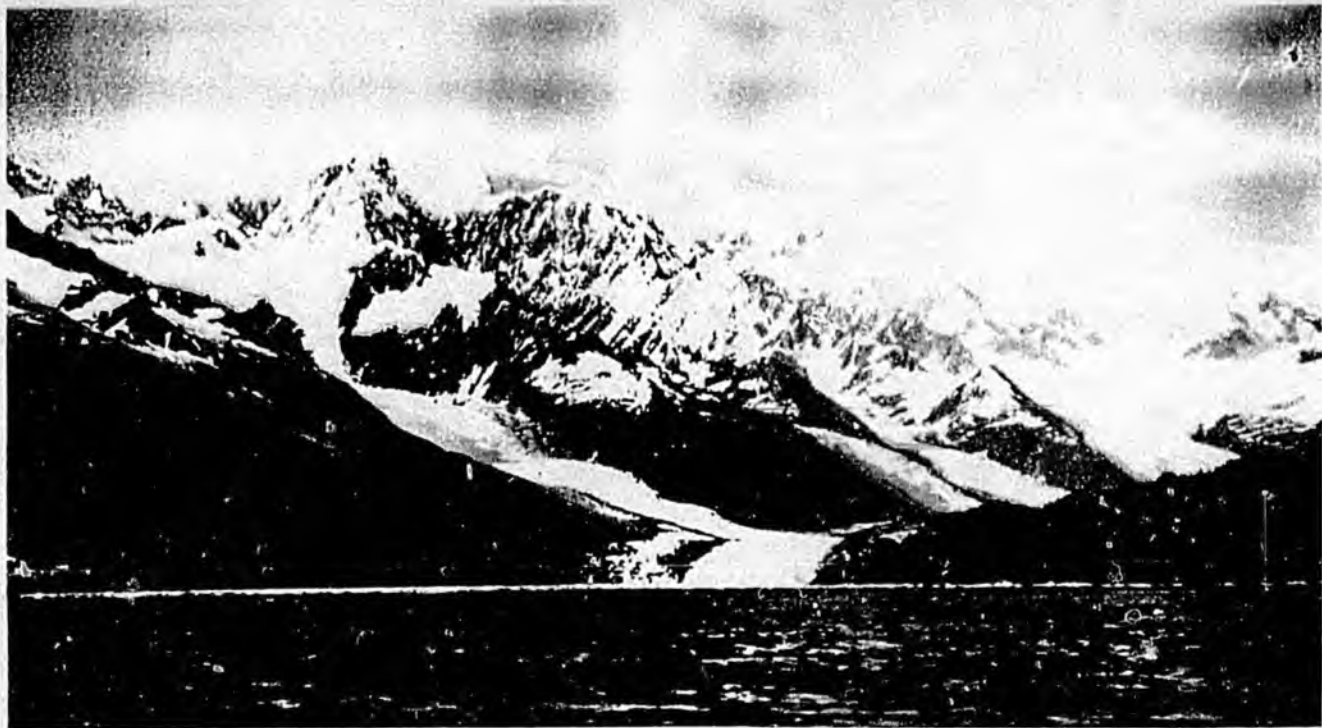
Sincerely,

*Tom Hawkins*

Tom Hawkins  
Director

Enclosure

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT HAS  
NOT BEEN FILMED BUT IS  
AVAILABLE IN THE ORIGINAL  
FILE



*Harvard Glacier, College Fiord*

# PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA PLAN



## How will the plan affect you?

Through the Prince William Sound Area Plan, you can help decide how state land is used. These are just a few of the more important issues the plan must answer.

**Land for Sale.** Should the state sell land in Prince William Sound? If so, where?

**Land Selections.** The statehood act gave the state the right to select land in Chugach National Forest which includes most of the land in the planning area. The state has a few thousand acres more land to select. What land should the state choose?

**Recreation.** Should state land be available for commercial lodges? Other services? Public Use

## Why a plan?

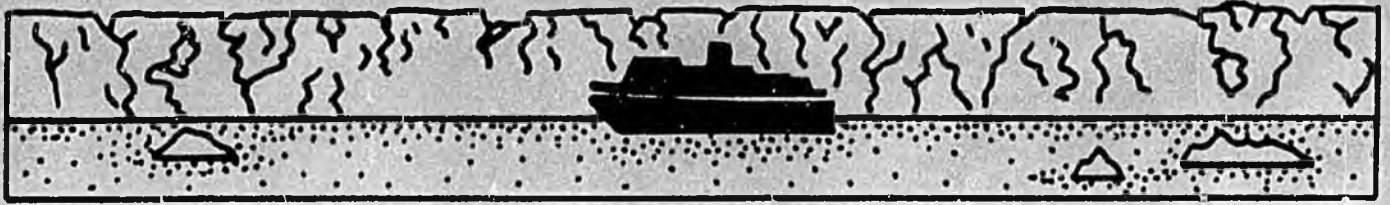
To see the need for a plan, imagine this: There are bays in Prince William Sound where some people want to own land. Some people, though, want to see those bays left alone, and others want commercial lodges. These and similar conflicting demands for state land occur throughout Prince William Sound. Not all uses can occur in all places. Choices must be made.

The plan will make these choices for state lands and tidelands in Prince William Sound. Through the planning process, people who use the lands can help decide how to manage them. Below are some of the purposes for preparing the plan.

**Efficient use of the Sound's resources.** With a

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# Prince William Sound Area Plan



## *Summary of Public Comments from Issue Meetings*



Alaska Department of  
**NATURAL  
RESOURCES**  
Resource Allocation Section  
Division of Land and Water  
Management

**JANUARY 1986**

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PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA PLAN

Summary of Public Comments on Issues  
January 1986

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# Chapter 1. Introduction

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## ■ What is this document?

In November and December 1985, the Department of Natural Resources held a series of meetings in the communities of Prince William Sound and in Anchorage. They were held as a part of the initial stages of the Prince William Sound Area Plan. The plan will determine uses and guidelines for state land in Prince William Sound. The meetings were designed to help the Department learn the issues and problems affecting the management of state land in the area and to inform the public about the area plan. The communities and meeting dates are listed below:

Seward	November 18
Chenega	November 19
Anchorage	December 2
Tatitlek	December 3
Valdez	December 4
Cordova	December 5
Whittier	December 11

The meetings were publicized by newspaper advertisements and radio announcements, and public notice posters in each of the communities. In addition, a 600-person mailing was sent out notifying interested people. The mailing was based on a two-year old Forest Service mailing list.

At those meetings, there was a discussion of the different possible uses for state land in the Sound: settlement, undeveloped recreation (leaving the land as it is) developed recreation, tourism, forestry, mining, and fish and wildlife uses. In addition, participants answered a questionnaire concerning their support for those uses both throughout the region and for different areas of the Sound.

This report summarizes the results of both the discussion of the possible land uses and the questionnaire.

## ■ How will the Department use these comments?

Public meetings are an important part of the public participation process for the area plan. Other parts of the process included meetings with community groups, interest and user groups, local governments, and other state agencies.

The Prince William Sound Area plan will include three rounds of public meetings. This report summarizes the first round: issues. At the issue stage in the plan, all comments are used to help define what questions the plan will answer and to help guide alternative solutions to those questions.

The second round of meetings will focus on specific alternatives the planning team has proposed for use of state land. The third set will be held on a draft plan. Following that final set changes are made, the final plan is signed, and the plan becomes policy for the Department of Natural Resources's management of state lands.

■ Where to go for more information.

There is more information available: the full list of 1,000 comments gathered from all seven meetings, individual volumes listing comments from individual meetings, and a brochure explaining purpose and process of the Prince William Sound Area Plan. If you would like any of these or have any questions, please write or call Bob Loeffler (Project Manager), Rob Walkinshaw, or Karen McGuinness:

Prince William Sound Area Plan  
Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Land and Water Management  
555 Cordova Street, P.O. Box 7005  
Anchorage, Alaska 99510-7005  
Phone: (907) 561-2020

■ How to read this report quickly.

This report is organized into four chapters. The next chapter, Chapter II, explains how the meetings were run, what statistics were gathered, etc. The main part of this report is Chapter III, Summary of Public Comments by Resource. That chapter provides the main summary of what was heard at the public meetings. It is divided into six sections: settlement, recreation, fish and wildlife, forestry, mining and general comments. Each section includes a brief summary of the comments on that resource. Chapter IV very briefly summarizes the important parts of each of the seven meetings.

If you need a quick summary for one or more resources, turn to the summary of the appropriate sections in Chapter III. If you need a summary of a particular meeting, turn to Chapter IV.

## Chapter 2. The Public Meeting Process

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### ■ How the comments were collected.

Comments were collected in two ways, through a general discussion and through a two-part questionnaire. During the general discussion, an employee of the Department's planning staff chaired the discussion while another wrote the comments on a large piece of paper at the front of the room. The discussion began with settlement, and then proceeded to recreation and tourism, fish and wildlife, forestry, and mining. At every meeting, the first two topics, settlement and recreation, generated the most comments and required the most time. After the discussion ended, the participants were asked to fill out questionnaire.

### ■ The Questionnaire

The questionnaire has two parts. These are described below and are presented in figure 1.

#### Part A.

For part A of the questionnaire, people were asked their opinions of the importance of different land uses on a scale ranging from "strongly opposed" to "strongly favor". For example, if someone strongly favored the state selling land to individuals for private use, they would circle the "5" in the first line of Part A. If they felt neutral about the use of state land for developed recreation facilities, they would circle the "3" in the third line of the questionnaire. And so on.

Many people wrote comments and notes on the questionnaires. These were transcribed under the appropriate topic and community along with the comments from the general discussion.

#### Part B.

For part B of the questionnaire, participants were asked to rate the appropriateness of each of the same seven land uses for five different subregions of the Sound (see figure 2). This process lets someone record their concern if, for example, they had a strong feeling that forestry was inappropriate in one area but appropriate in another. To continue with the example, if someone felt, in general, neutral about forestry operations around the Sound, they would have rated it that way in part A of the questionnaire. However, they might feel that forestry would be harmful in Passage Canal but appropriate in the Fidalgo subregion. If so, that person would write "Forestry" in the left-hand column for Passage Canal (the second row down), and write "Forestry" in the right-hand column for the Fidalgo subregion (the fourth row). If they had no opinion about forestry operations in the other three subregions, they would not write "forestry" in either column for those subregions.

Figure 1

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA PLAN  
Public Meeting on Issues Questionnaire

Prince William Sound Area Plan

PART A Prince William Sound Area Plan

PART B

The state can use its lands in a variety of ways. In addition, it can select additional land. Below is a list of possible actions the state can take for state land. Please indicate your opinion about each. Please read through all of the actions first, then circle the number that most closely represents your opinion of the action in relation to the others.

	Strongly <u>Oppose</u>	Oppose	Neutral/ Don't Care	Favor	Strongly Favor
Sell land to individuals for private use.	1	2	3	4	5
Provide for * undeveloped recreation.	1	2	4	4	5
* developed recreation (moorings, tent platforms, developed campsites, public use cabins, docks, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
* tourism (commercial lodges, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
Support forestry operations	1	2	3	4	5
Support Mining operations	1	2	3	4	5
Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5
_____	1	2	3	4	5
_____	1	2	3	4	5
	Not at all Important	Not Very Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important	Extremely Important
Protect fish and wildlife (including human use of the resource)	1	2	3	4	5

Below is a list of sub-regions for Prince William Sound and list of uses that could occur in each sub-region. Please write down the uses that you feel should and should not occur in each sub-region. If you don't know enough about a particular sub-region, or if you have no opinion about that sub-region, please mark the appropriate box.

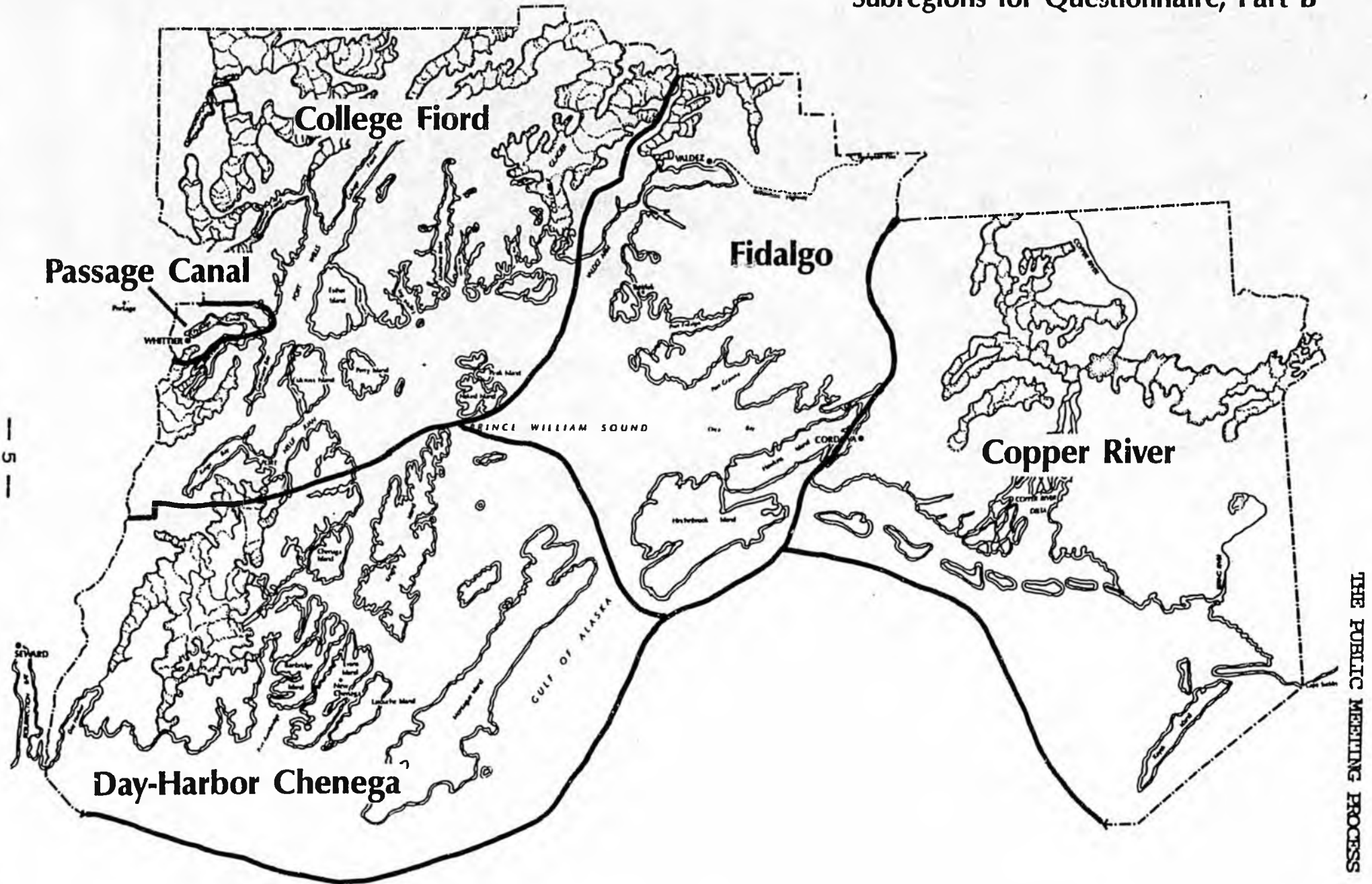
List of possible uses:

- Settlement (Sale of Land)
- Provide for Undeveloped Recreation
- Provide for Developed Recreation
- Provide services for Tourism
- Protect Fish and Wildlife
- Forestry
- Mining
- Other (please write in the name of any other use you feel appropriate).

Subregion	Uses you feel are Appropriate	Uses you feel are Inappropriate	Don't know/ Don't care
Day Harbor Chenega			<input type="checkbox"/>
Passage Canal			<input type="checkbox"/>
College Fjord			<input type="checkbox"/>
Fidalgo			<input type="checkbox"/>
Copper River Delta			<input type="checkbox"/>

Figure 2

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA PLAN  
Subregions for Questionnaire, Part B



The form was designed so that many people would leave parts of it blank; either some subregions or some uses were not rated. If they only cared about settlement, they would only mark settlement (and possibly only mark it for a few of the five subregions) and ignore the other resources. Therefore, the concerns gathered by this second questionnaire were gathered not from everyone who attended the meetings, but only from those had the knowledge and interest about particular resources and subregions.

■ A note about the Seward and Chenega meetings.

The Seward and Chenega meetings were held first and, after the meetings, the forms were changed somewhat to be more effective. In Chenega, part A of the questionnaire used a different scale. The "opposed to favor scale" ("Strongly Opposed; Opposed; Neutral; Favor; Strongly Favor") was replaced with "Not at all Important; Not very Important; Somewhat Important; Very Important; and Extremely Important." In Chenega, there was no Part B.

In Seward, the participants filled out a form like that of Chenega (using the "Not at all Important" to "Extremely Important" scale), but they did so for each of the five subregions rather than for the Sound as a whole. The Seward meeting, however, was very small, only seven people, and only two filled out the forms.

■ A note about statistics.

The statistical information from the questionnaires conveys a powerful impression of the opinions of people at the meetings. This type of information has some problems, however, and readers should be aware of them. In public meetings, it is always likely that a few important user groups or points of view were underrepresented or absent. As the comments are distilled and summarized, minority viewpoints are sometimes lost. This problem is particularly severe with statistical summaries.

Another problem is that numeric averages, such as those used in Chapter III, often hide a significant range of views. For example, at some of the meetings, the average response to the questionnaire's rating of settlement was 2.0. That average corresponds on the scale to "opposed." This result could mean that almost everyone at the meeting held a similar dim view of land disposals, or it could mean that many people were very strongly opposed and quite a few were very strongly in favor.

A related problem occurs when considering the statistics from the Seward meeting. Only five people came to the meeting in Seward, and only two filled out the questionnaires. Thus, the information from the questionnaires in Seward, while useful, must be used carefully. In the remaining meetings, almost everyone filled out Part A of the questionnaire and most people filled out Part B.

In general, we have tried to minimize these problems by attempting to include all of the viewpoints in the summary of the verbal comments and by discussing and presenting the range of responses when displaying the results of the questionnaire.

## Chapter 3. Summary of Public Comments by Resource

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This chapter summarizes the comments heard at the meetings and the results of the questionnaire. For each resource -- settlement, recreation, etc. -- there is a brief summary, followed by the main points heard about that resource. Most of those points are illustrated by one or more quotes taken from one or more meetings. The quotes, while illustrating the particular point being summarized, may not be representative of the model at any one meeting.

The discussion of the resource is followed by a page summarizing the results of the questionnaire for that resource.

## SECTION 1. SETTLEMENT



### Introduction.

Settlement consistently received the most discussion of any topic at the meetings. The term settlement refers to residential/commercial land uses. The Department of Natural Resource sells state land for recreational or year-round residential use. In the Prince William Sound area, the state has sold only one area for settlement, the Blying Sound Remote Parcel sale. Four more are currently scheduled. The decision about whether to offer more than that already scheduled, and the specific location of additional sale parcels, will be decided as a part of the Prince William Sound Area Plan.

The settlement discussion usually covered two major categories: whether or not to sell state land in the Sound, and if the state does sell land, how and where to sell it.

The few paragraphs below summarize the main points that were heard during the meetings. These paragraphs are followed by a more detailed discussion of the individual comments that were made at the meetings.

### Summary

Overall, participants at the meetings were strongly opposed to land sales in Prince William Sound. Approximately 69% of the people attending the meetings opposed land sales, while 27% favored them. Most people seemed to feel stronger about this issue than about any other. This message of opposition was voiced quite strongly by the people attending all but two meetings. The only meeting whose participants were clearly supportive of land sales was Whittier. In Seward, many participants were also supportive.

Participants opposed land sales for a number of different reasons. They perceived it would change the unique characteristics of the Sound that they find important--the recreation, hunting, wilderness, etc. They felt land sales "lock up" the Sound for the few people who own land. Also, since the Native corporations are most likely going to sell land, the state should reserve its land for other uses.

Those who supported land sales felt differently. They explained that land sales can occur in the Sound without adversely affecting the values of the area that most people seem to agree are important. They felt that the state had a responsibility to make land available to the public for private use.

The Passage Canal region was the one location that received moderate support for land sales. Some participants actively supported sales in the Passage canal area, especially those at the Whittier meeting. Those who were opposed to land sales in general felt less vehement that no sales occur in the Passage Canal Area as in other areas. There was strong opposition by the large majority of meeting participants to land sales in all other regions of the sound.

## Discussion

 To Sell or not to sell

Participants had strong opinions about whether the state should sell land. In addition, they identified several points that should be considered when the decision is being made. The paragraphs below first summarize the reasons people gave for not selling the land, then the reasons for land sales.

- Don't sell the land (impacts on other resources). People frequently and vehemently expressed the view that land sales hurt the values of Sound that make the area popular and unique. To many people at the meetings, any land sale (except adjacent to existing communities) lessens the beauty and the values of the Sound. Some comments that illustrate this view are below:

"It is easy to say that boy I'd love to have a cabin out there. But on the other hand, going into a bay and having a cabin in there ruins the whole thing, even though the cabin may be in there and be done in an environmentally sound way." (Valdez)

"If you have one cabin in a cove you may as well have 50. The pristine quality is destroyed." (Anchorage)

"Prince William Sound is one of the last remaining unspoiled coastlines. Further south the coastlines have been ruined. If you put people in some of these coves, they will think the whole area is theirs. It really isn't, but they would think it was, and if anyone else goes in there they will make it clear that you are not wanted. I would hate to see development and land sales in the Sound." (Valdez)

- Impacts on subsistence and fish and wildlife. Some people felt that land sales would hurt their hunting and fishing opportunities. This view was expressed strongly in Tatitlek where people were concerned about subsistence, and also in Cordova. Participants were concerned that disposals would drive the game away and that private disposal make access harder.

"Don't sell the Fidalgo area. The traffic will ruin the trapping, etc. Seiners make a living from the area. It's the source of their income." (Tatitlek)

"Maintain public access to public lands." (Cordova)

- Land in Other Ownerships. Many participants felt that the state should look at the availability of land for sale in other ownerships prior to making any decisions. It was pointed out that there is a great deal of Native land and some private land that may be sold in the years to come. Why should the state sell land if there is land that will be made available on the private market? State land should be reserved for uses that private owners won't provide. Another issue that came up was whether the state should be competing with the private market in land sales.

"In view of the amount of private ownership, it's not a good use to dispose of more. It cuts into public use. A major uncertainty is the Natives who could convey land to private ownership. The state could be

duplicating Natives' conveyances. Until they are aware of Native corporation's plans, you shouldn't dispose." (Cordova)

"Native land disposals will be sufficient. There is no need to sell state land." (Anchorage)

"The state plans should be coordinated with the Natives. The state shouldn't compete with Natives. This includes the sales of property as well as lodges." (Anchorage)

- Fiscal Costs. Some participants pointed out that land sales will be very expensive for the state. The state is expected to provide schools and services to new communities that may be created by land disposals.

"The state is going to be responsible for providing services and facilities to any disposal area in the long term (i.e. boat harbors, and if nothing else, they will have to provide those facilities based on the constitutional provision to 'provide for the public safety'." (Anchorage).

"The problems with land sales is that you put them in and then have to provide services, such as schools." (Valdez)

- Who Benefits? The few versus the many. One of the comments that came up frequently is that land sales benefit only a small number of people, while most of the residents of the state lose. They felt that given this situation, land sales should not be encouraged.

"Areas of the Sound are unique. If private sales occur, benefits go to individuals rather than state citizens. Don't lock it up." (Anchorage)

"Why benefit 100 homesites while destroying the wilderness characteristics of the area?" (Anchorage)

"Land disposed of is lost to the people of Alaska who this plan is supposed to represent." (Anchorage)

- Sell the land. Those who supported settlement felt that the program had a valuable benefit to individuals that should not be degraded or ignored.

"Land should be made available to private individuals. This is a wonderful beautiful area that many people dream about but have no hope at this time in terms of ownership. If an individual wants to live in FWS, this should be more than a 'dream.' I spent a great deal of time commercial fishing and travelling on the Sound. I really enjoy it and would like to live on the water sometime in the future, in an isolated spot." (Valdez)

"I am not against preserving the beauty of the area out there, but there ought to be some option left open for private living." (Anchorage)

- Land sales won't hurt the Sound. Many people listened to the arguments that land sales would hurt the resources of the Sound -- the wilderness, access, fish and wildlife, etc. -- but felt that some sales could be done in a way so access was still preserved, that all the wilderness would not be gone, etc. They felt that the Sound was big enough to accommodate some sales without significantly changing its character.

"With a coastline the size of California, you can have a Los Angeles out in the Sound and you'd never know it." (Seward)

"Sell land to individuals for private use. It would be OK in some areas, as long as you are careful." (Anchorage)

Location of sales

Of all the regions of the Sound, Passage Canal was the area that received the most support for land sales. Approximately 50% of the people that rated settlement in Part B of the Questionnaire listed land sales as an appropriate use for Passage Canal. This was even true for meetings where the vast majority opposed sales in general. Settlement was listed as an appropriate use only 15% to 30% of the time for the other regions.

People also made other points concerning the location of land sales. Some of the more important ones are summarized below.

- Concentrate rather than disperse sale areas. If there are going to be land sales in the Sound, participants supported selling land in concentrated areas rather than throughout the Sound. The main reason given for doing this was that it was preferable to impact one area a lot rather than a lot of areas a little.

"If the state sells lands concentrate them rather than shotgun them all around the Sound." (Anchorage)

"If there are disposals, it is imperative that they be restricted severely and to one bay, preferably non-anadromous." (Anchorage)

- Concentrate around existing development. Several suggestions were made to concentrate settlement around already existing communities or near areas that are already developed (fish hatchery sites) or near other areas that are likely to be developed (i.e. mining areas.) rather than impact new areas.

"You should sell land where there is a nucleus and reason for the land being sold, such as where there is mining or some other activity to support people. If there is no nucleus, don't sell land." (Valdez)

"Disposals, if they occur, should be concentrated near existing communities. Leave the wilderness areas without disposals." (Cordova)

- Areas to avoid. Many felt that the best way of protecting the values of the Sound was to have no sales at all. However, short of this solution, there was a great deal of discussion about where to locate sales so that the values of the Sound would not be adversely affected. The areas that participants identified that should be avoided are outlined below:

- Areas with high values for fish and wildlife (anadromous streams, subsistence or sport hunting areas)
- Areas important for economic development (aquaculture and fish hatchery sites, anadromous streams, etc.)

- Areas with high recreation use and value (areas with good anchorage, good camping sites, areas that are used for remote recreational experiences that depend on a lack of facilities and developments, etc)
- Areas that do not have the ability to support septic systems

■ Areas to identify for sale. Participants supporting settlement provided descriptions of the type of land that would be desirable from their standpoint for settlement. Some of the values that were given as making an area desirable were:

- Protection from open seas and storms (the Blying Sound remote disposal was given as an example of a lousy sale area)
- Areas where there is good anchorage
- Areas where a community dock could be built
- Areas that have good exposure to the sun
- Areas where drinking water is available.

#### Project Design and Layout

Participants felt that when laying out and designing the disposal the state should be sure that the project is attractive to buyers and negative impacts are minimized. A few of the ideas suggested for doing this are

- Protect public access to shorelands and uplands. (Buffers or easements were suggested)
- Provide opportunity for economic development of area (reserve land in subdivisions for commercial use.)
- Reserve land to provide for eventual dock or small boat harbor.
- Adjust lot sizes depending on site and people's wishes.

Several suggestions were made about how the state in the sale document should include certain requirements.

- Require that the owners pay for services so the state or local government doesn't get stuck with the cost.
- Require that the buyer can not resell or subdivide the land for 20 years to avoid speculation.

#### Alternatives to land sales

Some of the people that were opposed to land sales felt that there were alternative methods to meeting the goals of the land offering program other than to sell land. The one option that was discussed most frequently was the public use cabin program.

"State owned public use cabins out of Whittier is a good alternative to satisfy demand for private lands. It does not tie up the land and allows more public use." (Cordova)

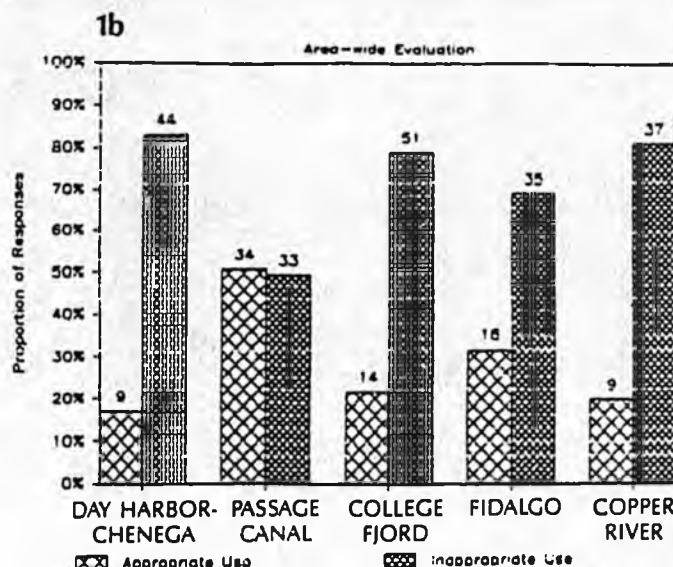
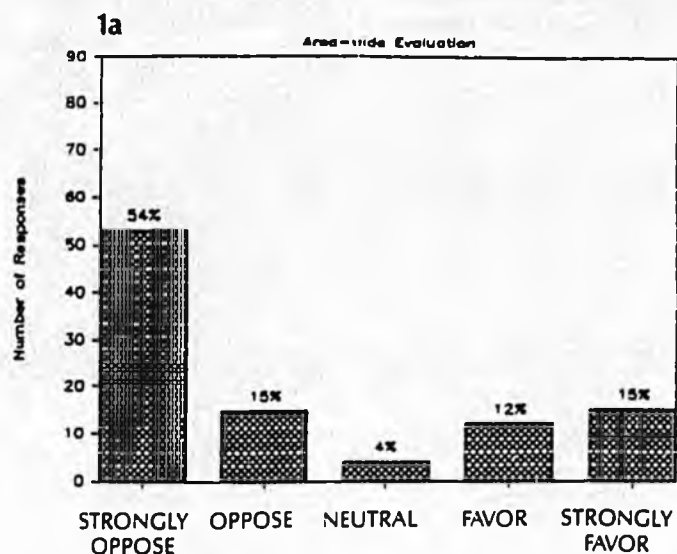
"I am in favor of public cabins. They provide the greatest good for the greatest number of people. Private land ownership provides benefit to owner only. If you keep the land public, or do something like use public cabins more people can use the land and this benefits the public most." (Valdez)

Also mentioned were lodges and the remote cabin permit program.

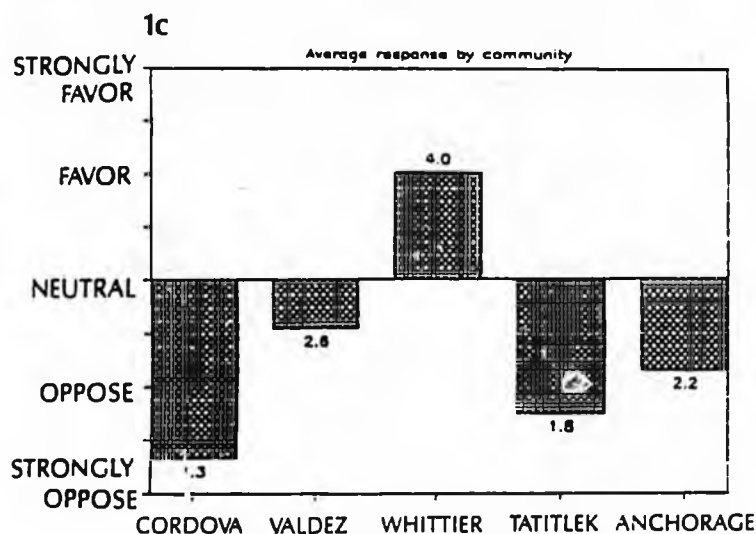
"I'd rather see commercial lodges than people spread out all over the Sound in settlement. With lodges you'd also have the benefit of being able to make people accountable." (Valdez)

"The state seems to only dispose of bad land like Blying Sound. They should give people a chance to get a remote cabin permit rather than have to buy the land. If you use the remote cabin permit program, this will make sure that the land is used. Only the people really interested in building something will apply." (Seward)

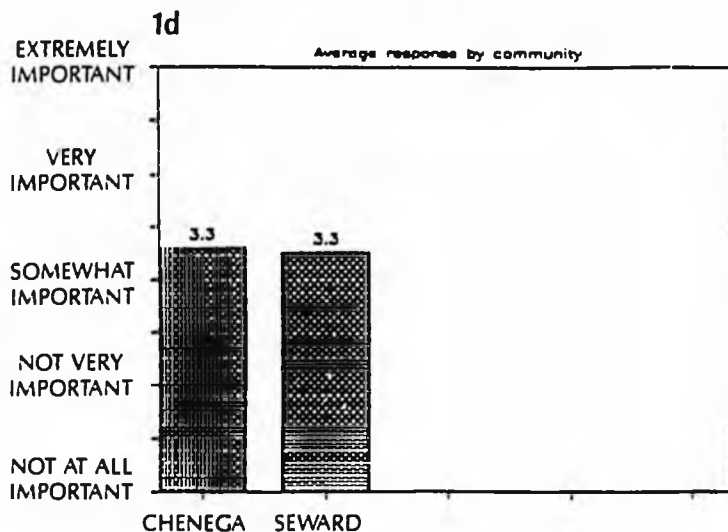
1. PUBLIC OPINION CONCERNING THE SALE OF STATE LAND FOR PRIVATE USE



Numbers above each column represent the number of persons who responded in each category.



The number with each column shows the average response for each community based on the following scale: Strongly Oppose = 1; Oppose = 2; Neutral = 3; Favor = 4; Strongly Favor = 5.



The number above each column shows the average response for each community based on the following scale: Not at all Important = 1; Not Very Important = 2; Somewhat Important = 3; Very Important = 4; Extremely Important = 5.

Sale of land for private use, settlement, was opposed by 69% of the people attending the public meetings (see chart 1a). In fact, over half of the participants were "strongly opposed." 27% of the people favored settlement. The majority of participants favored settlement in one meeting (chart 1c). This community was Whittier with an average response of 4.0 - "favor". The average response in Cordova, Valdez, Tatitlek and Anchorage ranged between 1.3 and 2.6 - all opposed. The average response in both Chenega and Tatitlek to settlement was 3.3, close to "somewhat important" (chart 1d).

A large majority of those completing the subregion evaluation portion of the questionnaire listed settlement as as inappropriate use in all subregions except Passage Canal (chart 1b). In the Passage Canal subregion, half opposed and half favored additional settlement.

## SECTION 2. RECREATION



### Introduction

The recreation discussion at the meeting focused on the options available for using state land to support recreation in Prince William Sound. To aide the discussion, recreation was divided into three categories based on the intensity of services that could be provided. Undeveloped recreation refers to use of the land without improvements -- leaving the land as it is. Developed recreation refers to use of the land with minimal noncommercial improvements -- tent platforms, developed campsites, moorings, and public use cabins. Tourism refers to commercial services, either sale of gas and concessions, or commercial lodges.

The remainder of this section is organized as follows. The general comments concerning the different recreation types are summarized first. This more general summary is followed by a discussion of the individual points brought up in at the meetings.

### Summary

#### Undeveloped Recreation.

Undeveloped recreation was strongly supported in all of the meetings through both the verbal discussions and the questionnaire. Only Fish and Wildlife uses of the Sound received more support. 88% of the people supported undeveloped recreation (by marking either "favor" or "strongly favor" on part A of the questionnaire). In addition, it appeared that most of the public felt undeveloped recreation to be an appropriate use in all subregions. Of those who evaluated its use in different subregions, almost 90% listed it as appropriate for all subregions.

The support was consistent at all of the meetings. However, people who favored undeveloped recreation often also favored other uses as well. The consistent support for this use was not necessarily support for exclusive use of all of the Sound for undeveloped recreation. Only that it was a valid and appropriate use.

There was very little sentiment expressed that undeveloped recreation was not a valid use of the Sound. In addition, there was little sentiment expressed that undeveloped recreation was creating competition with other uses.

#### Facilities for developed recreation.

Developed recreation is a broad category encompassing noncommercial recreational improvements from mooring buoy's to developing campsites. Overall, people were broadly split about the desirability of developed recreation - 46% in favor and 40% opposed. In addition, there seemed to be as many people

opposing any particular type of development as advocating it. There were quite significant differences between the different communities, however. There was strong opposition to developed recreation in Cordova, Tatitlek, and Chenega, and strong support in Whittier. With more mixed reactions in Anchorage, Valdez, and Seward.

Opinions expressed concerning developed recreation varied considerably depending on the type of facility in question and the location. People often expressed opposition to a facility in one area but indifference or support in another. In addition, opinions varied depending on the type of facility. The only area that received consistent support for facilities was Passage Canal. In each meeting, a majority of those completing the subregion evaluations felt that facilities were appropriate in Passage Canal. In Cordova, Valdez, and Tatitlek, the majority was opposed to facilities in most of the other subregions. In Chenega, there was strong opposition to nearby facilities.

#### Facilities for tourism.

Tourism facilities could occur on state lands and tidelands. Examples of these facilities include lodges, and floating lodges anchored on the tidelands. Opinions voiced concerning tourism facilities were similar to those voiced concerning developed recreation facilities but, especially in Anchorage, opinions were more negative. Overall more people at the meetings were opposed to using state land for tourism facilities than favored the concept, 57% versus 31%, but the response differed by community and most meetings included a wide spread of opinion. On average, people at the Anchorage, and Cordova meetings opposed such facilities, but they were supported in Whittier and Tatitlek. In Chenega, there was strong opposition to nearby facilities, and in Valdez, an equal number favored and opposed the concept.

Again, the Passage Canal subregion was singled out as a location for tourism facilities, but the views were much less uniform than they were for developed recreation. In addition, the choice was not supported by responses from all communities.

### Discussion

This section summarizes many of the individual points brought up during the discussions of recreation. For each point, it summarizes the variety of opinions expressed and then selects a few quotes from one or more meetings to illustrate the point.

- Protect the natural beauty and pristine nature of Prince William Sound. Almost all the people at all the meetings felt that Prince William Sound is unique because of its beauty, wildlife and lack of development. People who favored some facilities in some locations frequently expressed that those facilities had to be developed in such a way as to protect the characteristics that make Prince William Sound unique. People used different words to describe that uniqueness -- pristine beauty, scenic quality, wilderness, etc. -- but the feeling that Prince William Sound's uniqueness should remain was very frequently expressed. Some comments illustrating that sentiment are below:

"My main concern is that lands around the Sound, and the Sound itself be permitted to maintain its pristine beauty." (Valdez)

"Provide for all types of recreation, including for those who want lodges (accommodations). Diversify the kinds of recreation but all rely on maintaining the wilderness character of the Sound. If this wilderness character changes then all uses will be affected. Whatever diversity is encouraged, don't impact the visual qualities of the Sound." (Anchorage)

- Leave the Sound alone. Many people expressed the sentiment, "Leave the Sound alone!" Those voicing that wish did so for a variety of reasons. One of those reasons was to protect the existing opportunities for undeveloped recreation. People liked the existing character of the Sound -- the lack of development and lack of people. The sentiment was expressed that any development would degrade the existing recreation qualities. For example, more than one person expressed apprehension about proposed and existing state marine parks because they felt the state might feel compelled to develop them. Some comments illustrating the "leave alone" sentiment are below:

"Leave it (the entire Sound) alone." (Cordova)

"...As undeveloped land, these areas (Prince William Sound) offer an increasingly unique experience in a world of finite resources." (Whittier)

"We may not be able to keep Prince William Sound forever the way it is now, but we cannot improve it." (Anchorage)

"The best way to develop PWS for recreation is not to develop it at all. Improvements like docks, tent platforms, lodges, are not improvements. They are 'disimprovements.' The worst thing you can do to the Sound is scatter facilities around there. Use the money to clean up the area rather than develop facilities." (Valdez)

- The importance of maintaining areas without development for undeveloped recreation. A great many people felt that if some development did occur, large areas of Prince William Sound with excellent recreation potential should remain undeveloped, possibly without so much as a tent platform. The areas most frequently mentioned included the entire Sound, College Fiord, Harriman Fiord, and to a lesser extent Port Nellie Juan. Very few people expressed strong disagreement with this concept; that is, few people said that there should be no undeveloped areas with good recreation potential.

"You should leave Culross and Eshamy Bay alone. No docks. Anything more cut there would be an eyesore." (Whittier)

"A designated wilderness area should be set aside for kayakers (in College Fiord subregion)." (Seward)

"The western Sound is the only area that is totally owned by state or federal government (or nearly so). Keep this area in wilderness stature." (Anchorage)

- Non-motorize areas. Some of the comments concerning undeveloped areas for recreation also included the fact that these should be primarily non-motorized areas. There was little discussion about how to make the areas non-motorized although one possibility mentioned was to just not put mooring buoy's,

anchorage or other development to attract motorized use. There was not a great amount of discussion on this topic at any of the meetings.

"Like to see some areas not developed; remain attractive to tenters/kayakers. Have some areas for non-motorized users, thus not develop moorage in some areas." (Anchorage).

- Developed recreation facilities makes recreation easier and increases use of the Sound. Those expressing this opinion often also mentioned that recreational and tourist use of the Sound is an important part of the local economy. Thus, developed recreation facilities would bring economic benefits. This last point was particularly emphasized in Whittier. Some of the comments illustrating this point are below:

"I'd like to see some docks go in, places where you can tie up and not worry about things, so you can get a good night's sleep." (Whittier)

"Anchor buoys might be good for novices -- for people who might go out there and assume they can anchor somewhere and get out there and find they can't." (Valdez)

"A water trail should be built from Whittier to Valdez with places to stop." (Anchorage)

"Private pockets of land for private use or a lodge would allow people other than those that own a boat or the damn kayaks to enjoy the wilderness." (Anchorage)

- Facilities concentrate use. People who opposed facilities in general sometimes favored them where use was already concentrated. In addition, because facilities can concentrate use, people opposed putting them in the the best campsites or putting moorage in bays with natural anchorages.

"When the plan is considering where to develop campsites, use the following criteria: if no one is there and the land is not damaged, don't develop it; but, if people are concentrated and damage is there, then the sites should be 'hardened' (i.e., maybe tent platforms, gravel pads, cooking etc.)" (Anchorage)

"There will be some areas of concentrated use and you should provide some amenities (rest rooms, etc.) to support them." (Cordova)

- Sale of Fuel. Currently many small boats are limited by lack of fuel. Some people felt that providing fuel in strategic places would let unused areas of the Sound get use. Others felt that much of the Sound is now used by weekend boaters, but much is off limits because of the lack of fuel. However, those off-limit areas are where people can go who make the extra effort and don't want to see anyone. If fuel stops are provided all over the Sound, there will be no place to go to get away from heavy use. The comments below illustrate some of the opinions voiced both pro and con.

"Strategic services would let now unused areas of the Sound be used, beyond the limited number of present boaters." (Anchorage)

"Larger boats don't have the trouble getting around the Sound that smaller boats do. They can carry enough fuel. But the boats that are 20 feet can't haul enough fuel to get out there. You need commercial services, like a lodge that can take people in and provide fuel." (Whittier)

"Don't provide services in all of the strategic places -- keep some of the relatively little used (they're not unused) places in a natural non-motorized state for those willing to suffer some inconvenience in order to reap great benefits." (Anchorage)

"The lack of fuel stops makes Alaska what it is." (Chenega)

- Public Use Cabins. Some people favored cabins because it provided opportunities for a certain type of use in the Sound. People who would not feel comfortable in a tent and didn't own a large boat might still enjoy the use of the Sound in a public cabin. To these people, a public use cabin increased opportunities. Others felt that a single cabin affected one's perception of an entire bay. They would rather have the bay remain totally undeveloped. Others favored public use cabins as an alternative to increased settlement. That is, when moored or camping in a bay with private cabins, some people felt that it no longer seemed wilderness and you were camping in someone's back yard. They did not get that feeling near public use cabins.

Public use cabins received particular attention in Cordova. These three points are illustrated by the comments selected from that meeting:

"Public use cabins provide a different type of recreation opportunity." (Cordova)

"Cabins (public use cabins) reduce the overall public use of an area." (Cordova)

"State owned public use cabins out of Whittier is a good alternative to satisfy demand for private lands. It does not tie up the land and allows more public use." (Cordova)

- Favoring Lodges. Some people favored lodges in some parts of the Sound because of the services they provided and because the tourism they brought in brought jobs and income to the region. These are illustrated in the comments selected below.

"I'd like to see lodge development in the Sound, like there is in Glacier Bay." (Anchorage)

"When you start to navigate the Sound, people need fuel and docking. Putting these facilities in would then encourage other development around the area which would be beneficial to all of us." (Whittier)

- Opposing Lodges. People opposing lodges said that lodges "locked up an area," that they changed the character of a bay so that the bay is no longer available to the general public in the way it was before.

"The development of lodges benefits ONLY two people. The people with money and connections to build one, and the people that they drag in." (Whittier)

"Should not allow so many "wilderness" lodges so that the wilderness quality is lost." (Cordova)

- Floating Lodges. People's perceptions about floating lodges were not very different from lodges on land. That is, they had the same impact on "locking up a bay" and affecting the other recreation opportunities. People were also concerned about water pollution and trash accumulation from the lodges. There was the additional concern that in an area of limited anchorages, a floating lodge could use up a valuable anchorage for a summer or longer.

"A floating lodge is just like a land lodge. It can have the same problems and impacts." (Cordova)

"Winter is OK for floating lodges." (Cordova)

"Houseboats make it a private bay." (Anchorage)

- Competition with local use of fish and wildlife. Some people felt recreation development would increase the use of an area and this increased use would compete with local residents' hunting and fishing. This sentiment was expressed in Tatitlek, Chenega, and Cordova. In Tatitlek, some people felt that kayakers, and undeveloped recreation had little effect on the wildlife, but that more intensive development would draw numbers of motorboats, planes, etc., and these would drive away the wildlife.

"(With increased recreation), we're going to have airplane landings and the game is going to go elsewhere." (Tatitlek)

"If you get too much traffic, all the furbearers will leave. That's what happened in my home (the Kuskokwim area)." (Tatitlek)

- Cost of recreation facilities. There was also some discussion that some recreation services would not pay for themselves, especially campsites, tent platforms, and public use cabins. People opposing these services felt that there may be a better use for the state's money than to provide these services.

"Someday soon we're going to pay state taxes. I'm not sure I don't want Prince William Sound boaters to rough it." (Anchorage)

"What's a tent platform - that's what the ground is for!" (Anchorage)

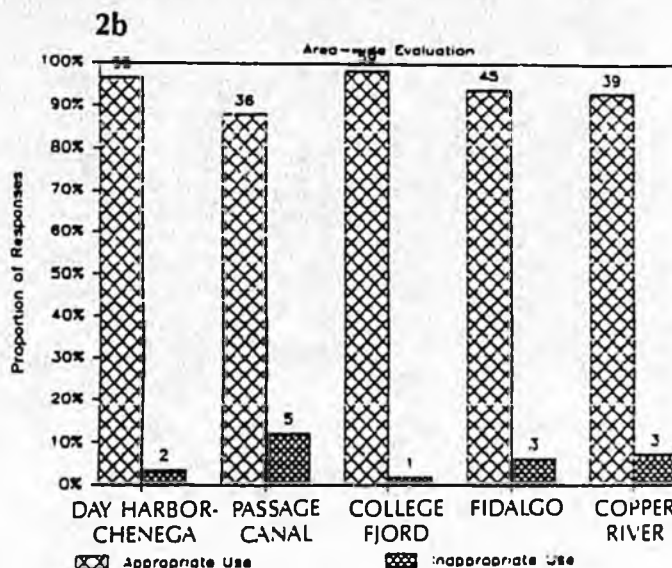
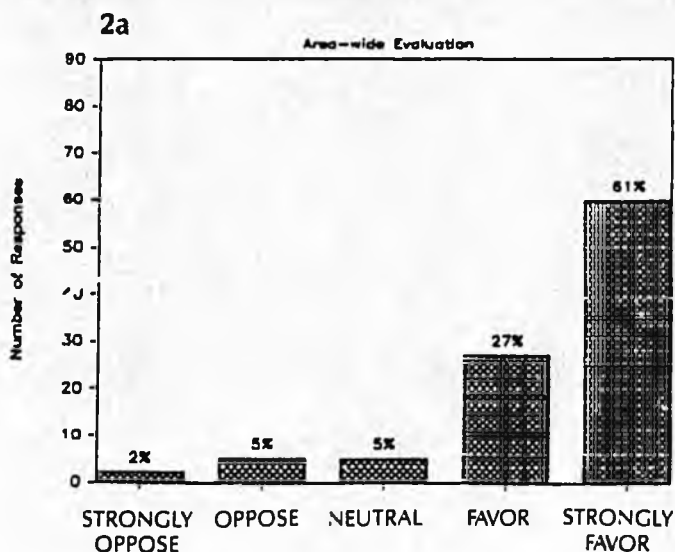
"Maintaining, putting in moorage is expensive. You don't need them." (Anchorage)

- Competition with private land. Finally, there was some discussion whether state lands were appropriate for recreation development. If Native lands were going to develop anyway, the state should let them provide the recreation services rather than use state lands. Not all people agreed. Some favored using state lands for this purpose because many of the services being discussed would not be provided by Natives, public use cabins, campsites, public docks, etc. Some people who felt these were valuable public services -- and services that would attract tourism and recreation dollars to the economy -- felt that it was appropriate for these to occur on state lands.

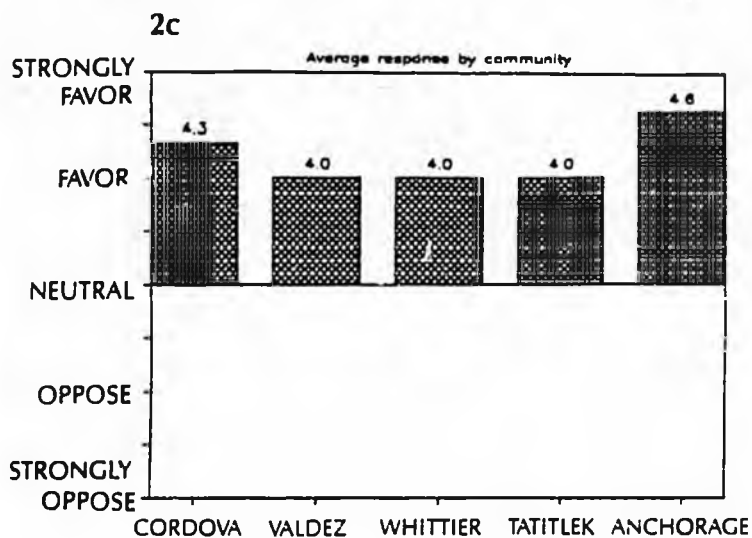
"Tourism should be left in the private market: let the Natives develop it, not the state." (Anchorage)

"State plans should be coordinated with Natives, the state shouldn't compete with Natives. This includes the sales of property as well as lodges." (Anchorage)

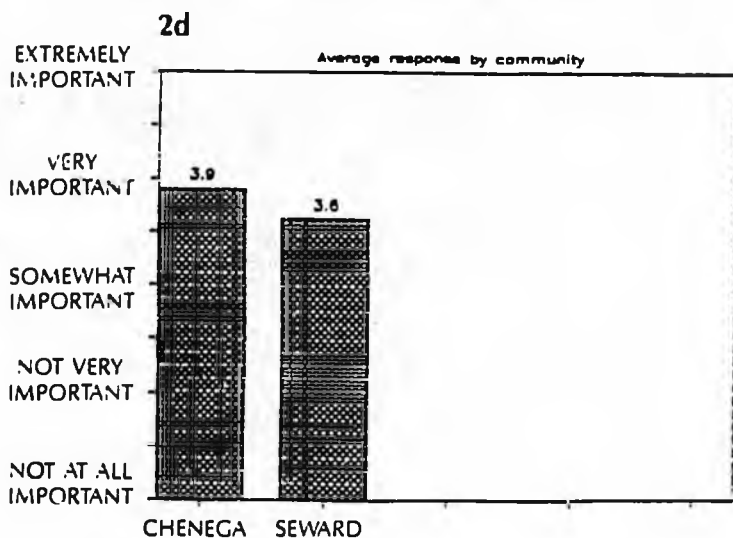
2. PUBLIC OPINION CONCERNING THE USE OF STATE LAND FOR UNDEVELOPED RECREATION



Numbers above each column represent the number of persons who responded in each category.



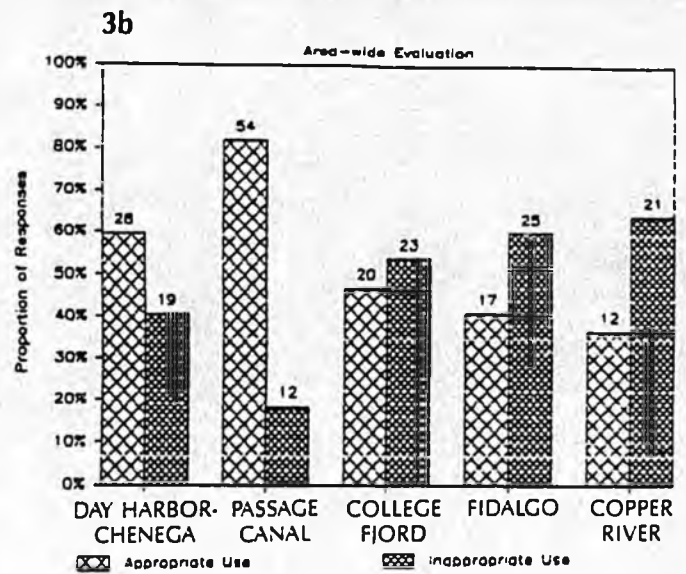
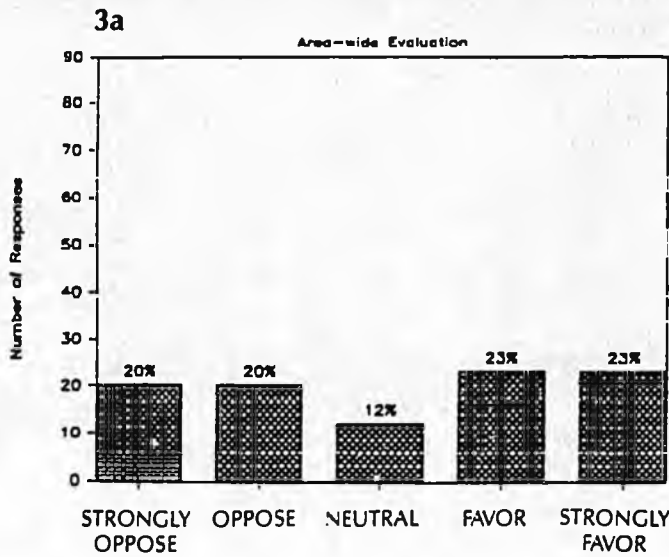
The number with each column shows the average response for each community based on the following scale: Strongly Oppose = 1; Oppose = 2; Neutral = 3; Favor = 4; Strongly Favor = 5.



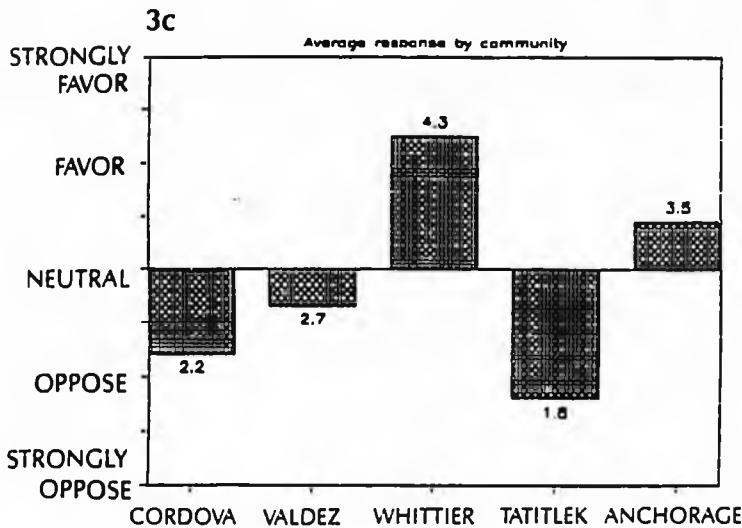
The number above each column shows the average response for each community based on the following scale: Not at all Important = 1; Not Very Important = 2; Somewhat Important = 3; Very Important = 4; Extremely Important = 5.

The strong support for undeveloped recreation did not vary greatly by community. Chart 2a shows the results from all meetings; it shows that more people marked "strongly favor" for undeveloped recreation, than marked all other choices combined. Charts 2c and 2d show that the average rating did not vary greatly between the individual communities. The average rating in Cordova, Tatitlek, Valdez, Anchorage and Whittier varied between 4.0 and 4.8, all greater than or equal to "favor." In Chenega and Seward, the averages were 3.6 and 3.9 respectively, just less than "very important." Chart 2b shows that almost all of the people who evaluated undeveloped recreation for the individual subregions found it an appropriate use for all subregions.

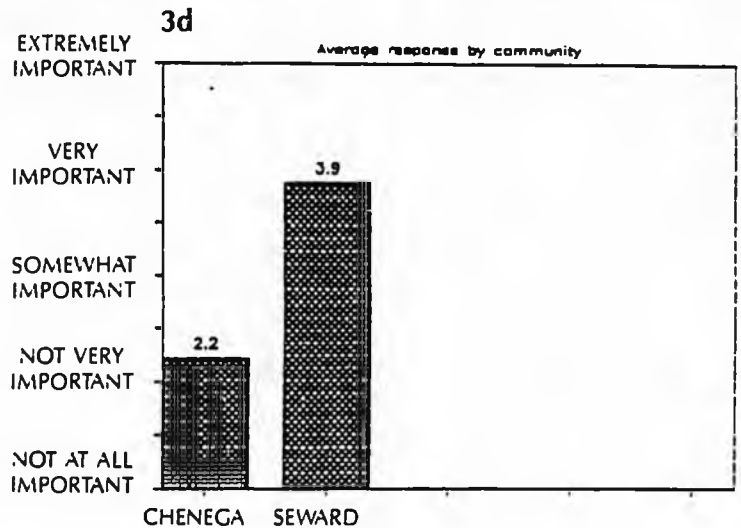
3. PUBLIC OPINION CONCERNING THE USE OF STATE LAND FOR DEVELOPED RECREATION



Numbers above each column represent the number of persons who responded in each category.



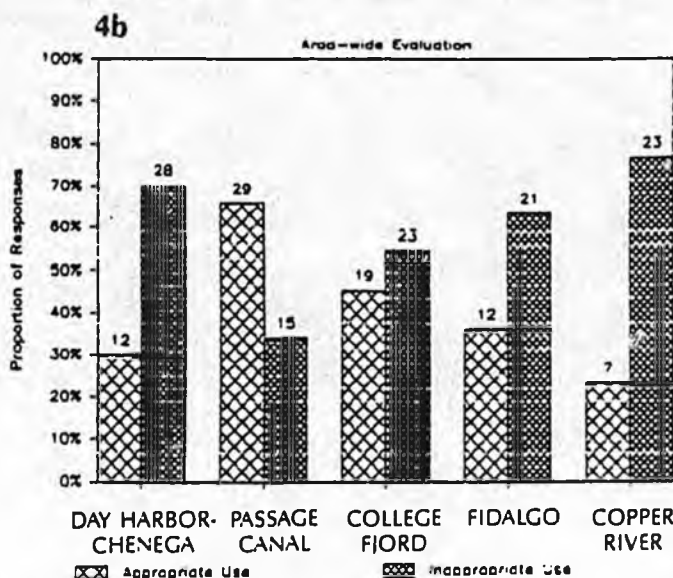
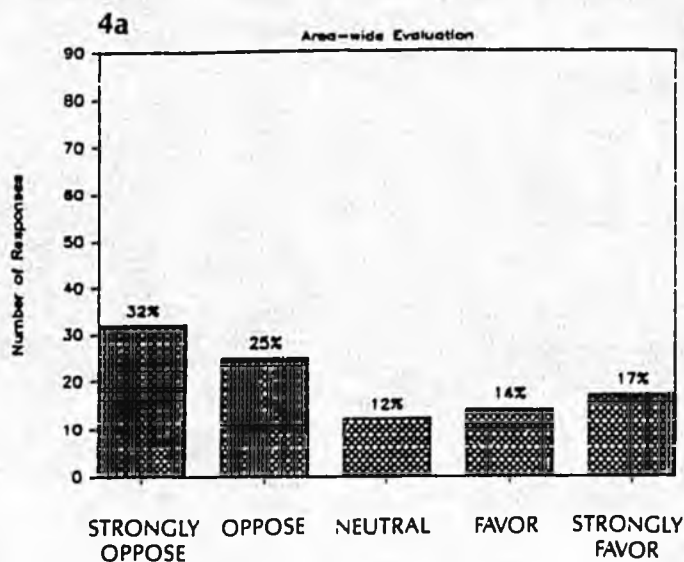
The number with each column shows the average response for each community based on the following scale: Strongly Oppose = 1; Oppose = 2; Neutral = 3; Favor = 4; Strongly Favor = 5.



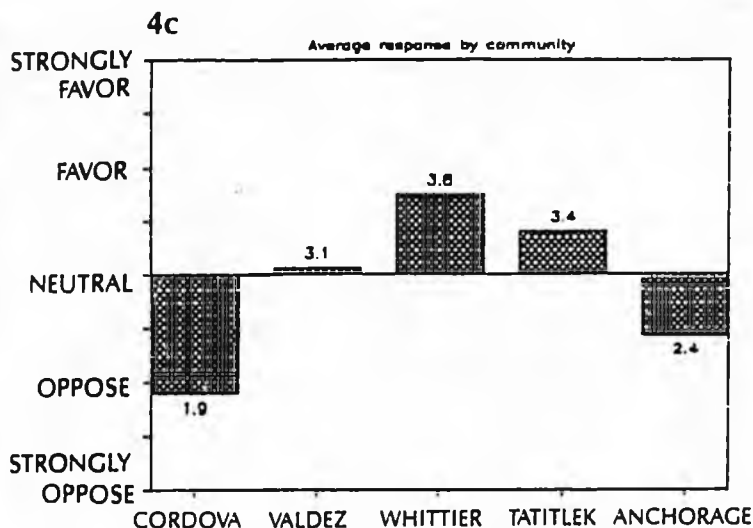
The number above each column shows the average response for each community based on the following scale: Not at all Important = 1; Not Very Important = 2; Somewhat Important = 3; Very Important = 4; Extremely Important = 5.

Overall, people who attended the meetings were approximately evenly split between favoring and opposing developed recreation. In chart 3a, there are 46% in favor and 40% opposed. There was, however, quite a difference between the communities. (See charts 3c,d.) In Whittier where such facilities were strongly supported, the average of all responses was 4.3. In Seward, the average was 3.9, "very important." Anchorage also favored developed recreation. The average response in Cordova, Valdez and Tatitlek was opposed. In Chenega, people on average felt that such facilities were not very important. The majority of people completing the subregion evaluations for this use felt that facilities were appropriate in Passage Canal.

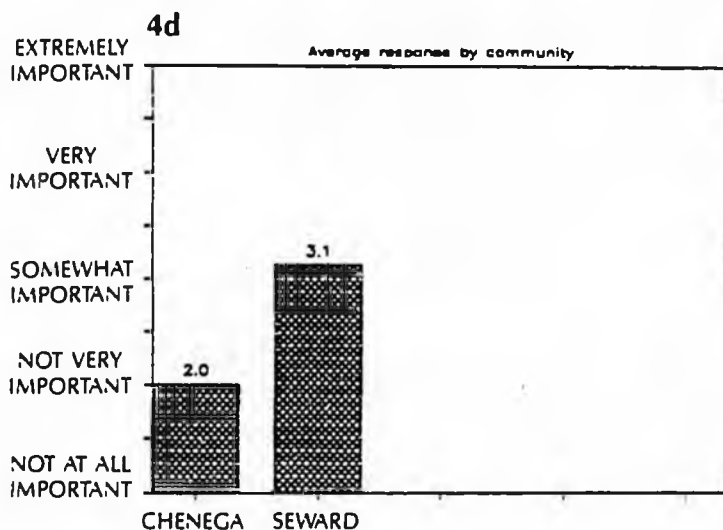
4. PUBLIC OPINION CONCERNING THE USE OF STATE LAND FOR TOURISM



Numbers above each column represent the number of persons who responded in each category.



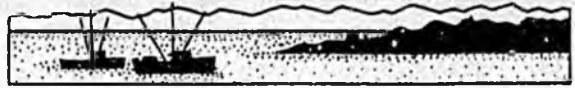
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The number above each column shows the average response for each community based on the following scale: Not at all Important = 1; Not Very Important = 2; Somewhat Important = 3; Very Important = 4; Extremely Important = 5.

Overall, people were split about the desirability of using state land for tourism facilities with more people opposing such a use than favoring it (chart 4a). However, there were significant differences by community (charts 4c and 4d). The average response in Whittier and Tatitlek favored such a use, but the average response in Cordova and Anchorage opposed it. The Cordova and Whittier meetings represent the two extremes of opposition and favor for tourism. In Cordova, 83% of the respondents were opposed; the remainder were neutral. In Whittier, 63% favored it. There was also a wide variation about the subregions appropriate for tourism. In Cordova, the majority of people who completed the subregion evaluation marked no region appropriate. In Whittier, they marked Day Harbor - Chenega, Passage Canal and the Fidalgo subregions as appropriate. In total, people favored tourism more in Passage Canal than in any other subregion where, overall, it was marked as an inappropriate use (chart 4b).

## SECTION 3. FISH AND WILDLIFE



### Summary

At each meeting, the discussion of fish and wildlife was brief. This was because the unanimous support for fish and wildlife protection seemed to leave little to discuss. The discussion of fish and wildlife included the protection both of the individual species of fish and wildlife and the human use of the resources: fishing, hunting, and non-consumptive uses.

Support for all forms of fish and wildlife use was close to unanimous at every meeting. Overall, 99% of the people felt that fish and wildlife protection was either "very important" or "extremely important". Only one person in seven meetings rated fish and wildlife as low as "somewhat important." In addition, fish and wildlife was identified at every meeting as an appropriate use of all subregions in the Sound. Viewing and harvesting fish and wildlife provides employment and income to the local economies and are some of the most important uses of Prince William Sound. One comment heard in Anchorage does a good job of summing up the nature of the discussion on this topic and explaining why the discussion was often so brief:

"Come on. Fish and wildlife? What do you mean? You aren't going to find anyone telling you that fish and wildlife isn't important. There isn't anything to discuss on this issue. Of course it is important." (Anchorage)

There were, however, various issues brought up in the discussion. These included the overall importance of fish and wildlife to the people of the region, the importance of subsistence, importance of commercial fishing, habitat protection, importance of non-consumptive uses, and aquaculture development. The next few paragraphs summarize the comments received about these issues.

### Discussion

- Subsistence and local use. The importance of fish and wildlife for subsistence use was discussed in Chenega and Tatitlek. People felt that subsistence was an important value that should be protected. They said that subsistence fishing and hunting helped get them through the year when jobs were not available. They felt that nothing should be done that would harm the fish and wildlife resources in the Sound or limit their use of this resource. A related concern was voiced by local residents who hunt and fish in the Sound (whether or not they do it for subsistence). They felt just as strongly about the importance of protecting the resources and their use. This concern for local use was strongly stated in Cordova. Also included was the need to protect the access to those resources.

"Protection of subsistence for rural users is important. Not just fishing, but also hunting." (Chenega)

"I am concerned about the effects of development of tidelands on fisheries and wildlife and feel the state should strongly regulate and manage these lands to maximize benefit to fish and wildlife. I am concerned about log transfer sites, logging, and mining in all these regards." (Cordova)

"Protect access to important fish and wildlife resources." (Anchorage)

- Commercial fishing was a related fish and wildlife topic that was supported. People almost unanimously felt that commercial fishing was an extremely important part of the economy of the Sound that should be protected.

"The whole of Prince William Sound is important for fishing. It's been the livelihood of all the Sound's people for centuries." (Tatitlek)

- Fisheries - recreation conflicts. A few people also pointed out that as recreational use of the Sound increases, there are likely to be conflicts between recreationists and the commercial fisherman.

"There isn't a conflict between commercial fishermen and recreation and sport fisherman yet, but I expect that it will be a problem in the future. 200,000 people who want to come in and play in the Sound will eventually say you commercial fishermen are in our way and you should leave. Like in the Kenai, the recreational users will be fishing all over this place."  
(Valdez)

- Protect the habitat. Participants at the meeting unanimously supported the protection of fish and wildlife habitat, and almost universally judged it to be a priority for state land management policies.

"Critical habitats should be protected: bear habitat, spring feeding, marine mammals, anadromous streams, etc." (Cordova)

"There are some things that should be protected in the Sound. You shouldn't do things like put a commercial lodge in these areas. A few of them are salt marshes, salmon streams, and waterfowl areas." (Valdez)

- Aquaculture and hatchery sites. People also stated that aquaculture and fish hatchery sites should be identified and protected through the planning process. In fact, some people took exception to the phrase "fish and wildlife protection" thinking it should be "fish and wildlife enhancement". Hatchery sites and aquaculture areas were cited as important for their potential value in supporting economic development in the Sound. The support, however, was not universal. Many people were opposed to increasing the number of fish hatcheries.

"Develop the fish hatchery programs for increased commercial, sport, and recreational use. Strongly favor." (Anchorage)

"A lot of money is going into the fisheries in Prince William Sound. If more money is spent to enhance fisheries in the Sound it should go to the areas nearest Whittier, Valdez and the other population centers rather than areas far out there." (Whittier)

"Hatcheries -- no more hatcheries. These should be addressed in plan." (Anchorage)

- Non-consumptive use of fish and wildlife. Several participants also wanted it noted that fish and wildlife has value even if it is not consumed. They pointed out that one of the attractions of Prince William Sound is that it is so rich with fish and wildlife and provides enjoyment for those not interested in hunting and fishing. They did not want the non-consumptive value of fish and wildlife ignored.

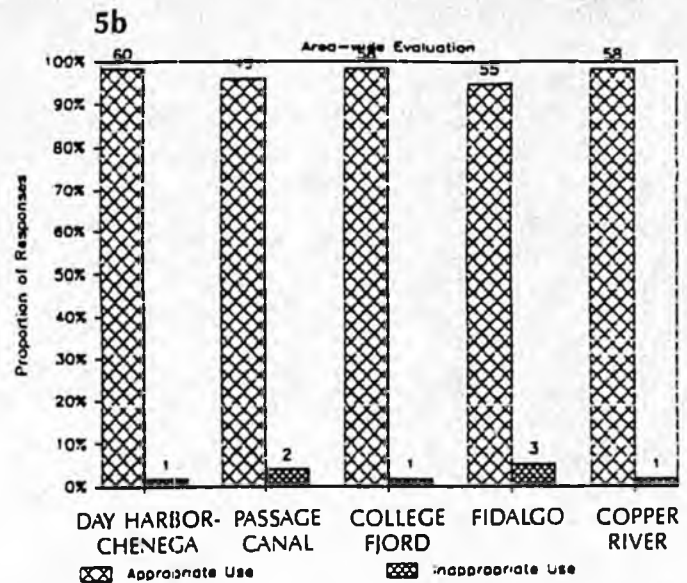
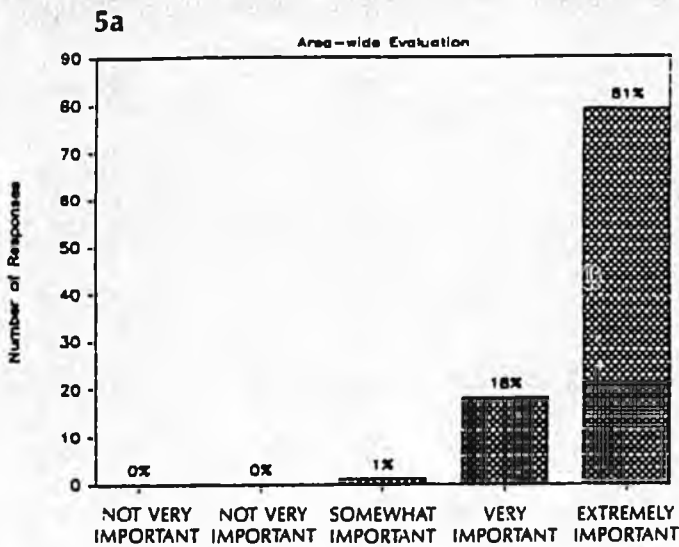
"Remember, you don't have to eat a critter to like it. There are other species in the world besides moose, deer and salmon. Even the little creepy crawly things are important and need our protection." (Anchorage)

- Fish and wildlife is not the only use. During the discussion of fish and wildlife, some people wanted to insure that fish and wildlife values did not obscure all other development. There are places for everything, said some.

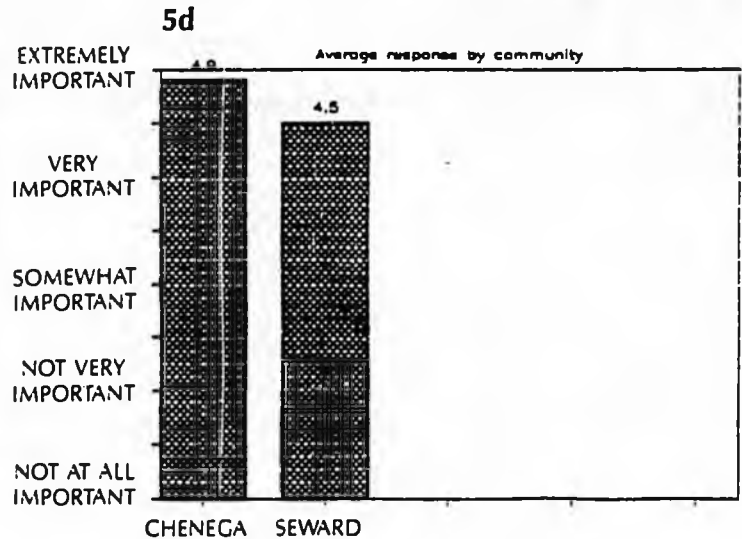
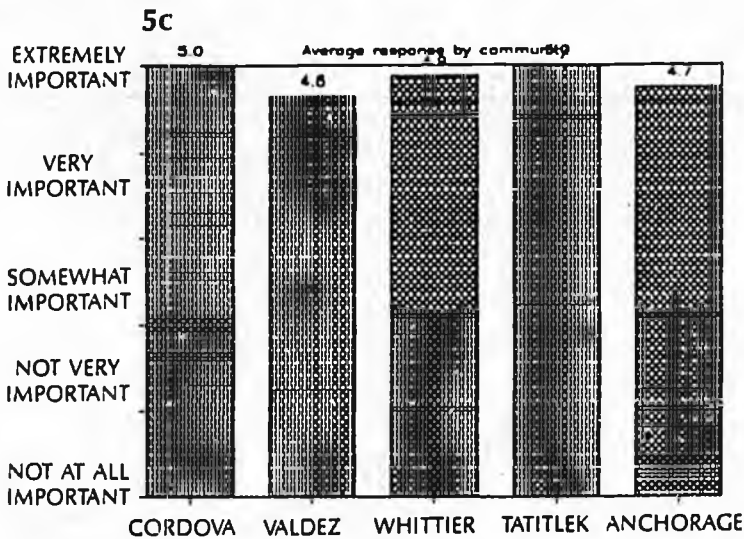
"Include the costs and benefits of development in this resource weighing. All uses cannot take place on every piece of land. In some instances, fish and wildlife will take a back seat to other uses and vice-versa." (Anchorage)

- Set net sites. People were concerned that people who owned set net sites were only allowed to put up non-permanent tent platforms. The restrictions by the state and the federal government caused significant inconvenience to the set net fishermen. Some provision should be made for their needs.

5. PUBLIC OPINION CONCERNING THE USE OF STATE LAND FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE



Numbers above each column represent the number of persons who responded in each category.



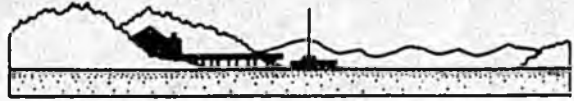
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The number above each column shows the average response for each community based on the following scale: Not at all Important = 1; Not Very Important = 2; Somewhat Important = 3; Very Important = 4; Extremely Important = 5.

There was unanimous support for fish and wildlife protection in every meeting and for every subregion. Chart 5a shows that the only disagreement was whether the resource was "very important" or "extremely important" with the latter being by far the most popular response. Charts 5c and 5d show that this sentiment varied little by community. The average response in each meeting was very close to "extremely important." Finally, chart 5b shows that fish and wildlife uses were almost unanimously thought appropriate for every subregion of the Sound. Only 9 out of 290 responses (the total for all subregions) list fish and wildlife as an inappropriate use.

## SECTION 4. FORESTRY

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### Summary

Because the state owns very little land with commercial forestry potential, the discussion at the meetings focused partly on people's general opinion about forestry and potential problems and benefits in the Sound, and partly on the state's role in locating log transfer sites. In Whittier, Valdez, and Cordova, there was some discussion of personal use forestry needs.

The general sentiments concerning logging voiced at the meetings were mixed. Some people favored it for the economic benefits it would bring, but more were suspicious and opposed both because of its visual impact and its impact on fish and wildlife populations. Opinions also varied by community. Most people at the Anchorage and Cordova meetings were opposed, most people in Whittier and Tatitlek meetings were in favor, and people at the remaining meetings were more evenly split.

### Discussion

- Forestry brings economic benefits. People who favored forestry often did so because of the jobs and income it provides to the people of the region. Two examples of this opinion are below:

"I do not mind supporting mining and forestry. The state needs to diversify from fishing. It should support any economical industry."  
(Chenega)

"Why not acquire good commercial timberland with land selections remaining to the state? Forestry is just as important and historical use of the Sound as of fish and wildlife. By forestry, I mean timber harvesting. Cooperative forest management among state, federal and Natives could make some of the small state parcels economically feasible...There are people in the state who want to be able to make a living in the Sound and not just see it used solely for recreation." (Anchorage)

- Forestry does not bring economic benefits. A few people disagreed with the viewpoint expressed above. They felt that in many areas of the Sound, the trees are not good enough to log economically. Many of the past sales were not profitable, they said.

"What makes them think its such a good idea to cut trees. That stuff they are cutting is crap. Rotten. They aren't worth anything." (Seward)

- Leave logging to the Natives and the feds. A number of people at each of the meetings voiced the opinion that since the Natives and federal government were going to log in the Sound, the state should use its limited land for other purposes. In addition, the state should not compete with the fledgling Native timber program.

"I object to any leases for timber sales in Prince William Sound. Let the Native and federal lands provide the timber." (Cordova)

"The state shouldn't compete with Natives in timber or land sales. We'd be knifing them in the back." (Anchorage)

- Visual Impacts. Many people opposed logging in the Sound because of its visual impacts. They felt that logging in general, and especially clear-cuts, created unsightly scars that would affect the recreation and tourist industries, and that just look ugly. These visual impacts also extended to log transfer sites. Some people wished that the state would take visual impacts into account when locating log transfer sites and would rehabilitate the site when it was no longer needed.

"I'd like to see some part of the Sound not developed. I don't want to see big hacked stripped out areas and floating logs. Timber is the most obnoxious type of development. Mining can go in and take from a small hole. That seems OK, but timber you can see." (Seward)

"I wouldn't like to see log transfer facilities just left alone after they are used. In Southeast, they look terrible." (Valdez)

- Environmental impacts are a problem. Many people opposed logging because of its impacts on fish and wildlife populations. People also voiced the fear that logging would interfere with hunting and fishing.

"Timber and mining tideland access must be allowed only where no habitat damage to herring spawning areas would result." (Cordova)

"Locate log transfer sites at sterile areas only so as not to damage micro-organisms for fish and wildlife sustenance." (Anchorage)

"I do not favor logging in areas of high Sitka deer population such as on Naked and Montague Islands." (Valdez)

- Environmental impacts can be controlled. Some people took exception to the view presented above -- that logging creates environmental problems. They said that while logging could create those problems, it can also be done with out them. Both the permit process and sensitivity when locating cuts can insure that problems don't occur. Most of the people at the Tatitlek meeting voiced this viewpoint.

(When asked about log transfer sites), "As long as it doesn't disrupt the fishing. But the permit process takes care of that OK." (Tatitlek)

One person wrote that forestry was favored "in certain areas which won't affect subsistence uses and commercial fishing." (Tatitlek)

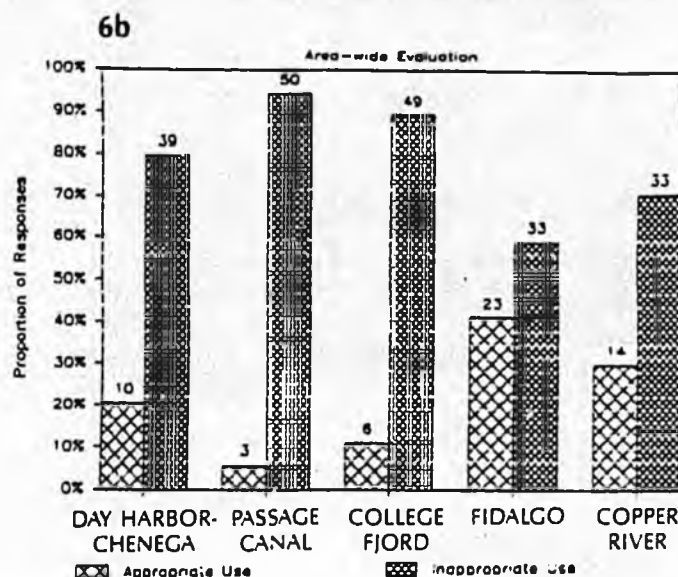
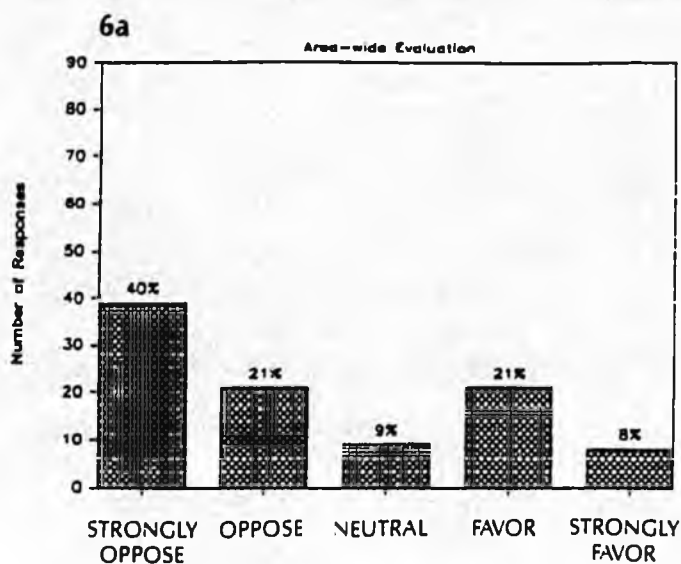
- Personal Use Forestry. People in Valdez, Cordova, and Whittier spoke very differently about logging on the uplands, away from the Sound and near the shore. Many of the people at the Valdez and Cordova meetings favored small sales in the uplands behind the communities but strongly opposed sales on the Sound, proper. They favored sales both for local mills and for personal use products -- houselogs and firewood. In all three communities, people were concerned that about the availability of firewood.

"We need firewood cutting areas near Valdez. We currently have to drive over the pass to get firewood.... What is happening is that people are cutting on city land indiscriminately. We also should be able to pick up permits for cutting in Valdez." (Valdez)

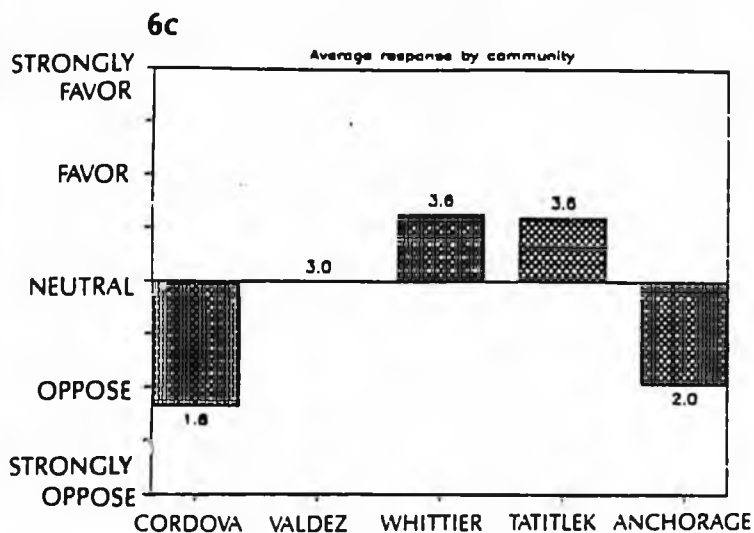
"We should try to provide forest lands near Cordova for individual use sales (firewood and houselogs)." (Cordova)

"If Shotgun Cove gets developed, there is likely to be a real firewood problem. In Whittier there isn't a problem because everyone lives in two buildings and heats with oil." (Whittier)

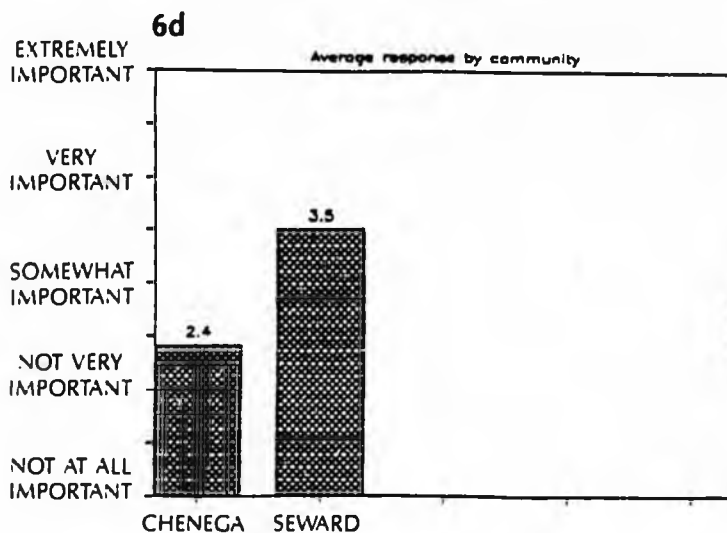
6. PUBLIC OPINION CONCERNING THE USE OF STATE LAND TO SUPPORT FORESTRY OPERATIONS



Numbers above each column represent the number of persons who responded in each category.



The number with each column shows the average response for each community based on the following scale: Strongly Oppose = 1; Oppose = 2; Neutral = 3; Favor = 4; Strongly Favor = 5.



The number above each column shows the average response for each community based on the following scale: Not at all Important = 1; Not Very Important = 2; Somewhat Important = 3; Very Important = 4; Extremely Important = 5.

Overall, people had mixed reactions to forestry in the Sound with more people opposed, 61%, than in favor, 29%. (See chart 6a.) However, the reactions differed by community. People at the Anchorage and Cordova meetings were, on average, opposed; at the Whittier and Tatitlek meetings in favor; and, at Valdez, exactly neutral. In Chenega, forestry was thought between "not very important" and "very important"; in Seward, between "somewhat important" and "very important" (charts 6c and 6d). In addition, people made some distinctions about the subregions with forestry being particularly inappropriate in Passage Canal, College Fjord and in Day Harbor - Chenega. Only three people, one person in each of Anchorage, Valdez and Tatitlek, marked Passage Canal as an appropriate location for forestry. In fact, although people at the Whittier meeting favored forestry, all people who responded to Part B of the questionnaire marked forestry as inappropriate in Passage Canal.

## SECTION 5. MINING



### Summary

Most of the mining in Prince William Sound will occur on federal and private lands. Therefore, the discussion did not emphasize the use of state lands for mining. Rather, it focused on the economic benefits mining would bring, the effect it has on other resources, and the state's role in supporting mining. In addition, a number of people at the meetings said that they did not know enough about mining to comment.

Overall, more people opposed mining than favored it, but opinions differed by meeting. The strongest opposition was shown at Cordova, and the strongest support at Whittier and to some extent Seward. In addition, more people marked "neutral" when rating mining, 17%, than occurred for any other resource.

Oil and gas was discussed briefly during the meetings. Participants voiced the same concerns as were voiced with most other resources. They did not want to see oil and gas development occur if it was going to degrade the values of the area.

### Discussion

- Mining brings economic benefits. Those supportive of mining usually argued that the state needs to diversify its economy. These people also usually felt that with regulations mining could be done in an environmentally compatible manner:

"I don't mind forestry or mining. The state needs to diversify from fishing. It should support any economical industry." (Chenega)

"You should emphasize the richness of the Sound in fish and wildlife, recreation, and mineral values in the Sound. Mining goes back hundreds of years and should be respected." (Anchorage)

"With all the permits that are required by the Corps, it is not likely that a fly by night operation can come in here and start mining. They have to do a lot of things before they can plop something in the water." (Whittier)

- Mining has negative impacts. The people opposed to mining usually felt that mining would result in too many undesirable impacts. These impacts included visual impacts, damage to the shoreline and resource that support fish and game, and harm to the quality of recreation in the areas.

"My concerns with mining are the same as with forestry -- the visual impacts, recreational use conflicts, protection of intertidal zone, commercial fishing, tourism season, reclamation)." (Valdez)

"How would mining affect the water? Mining is a dirty business. It can affect the entire food chain." (Tatitlek)

- Mining is OK, if it's controlled. Many people at the meetings voiced the sentiment that mining was OK, but only if it was controlled. That is, only if it did not scar the landscape, or affect the fish and wildlife.

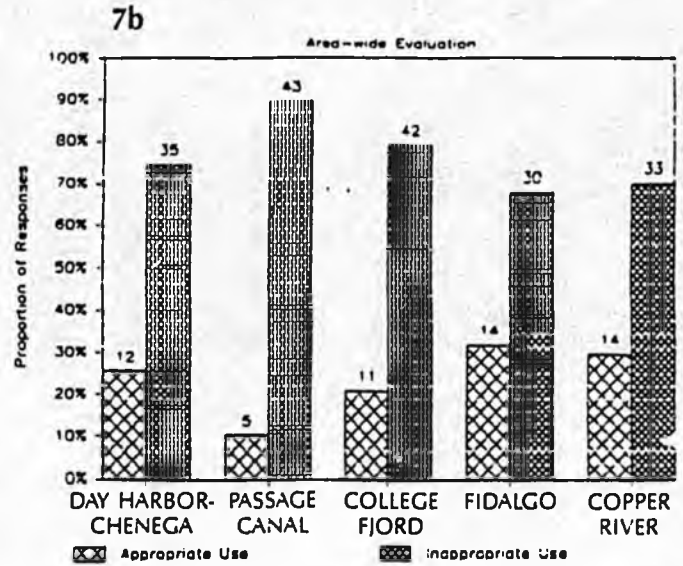
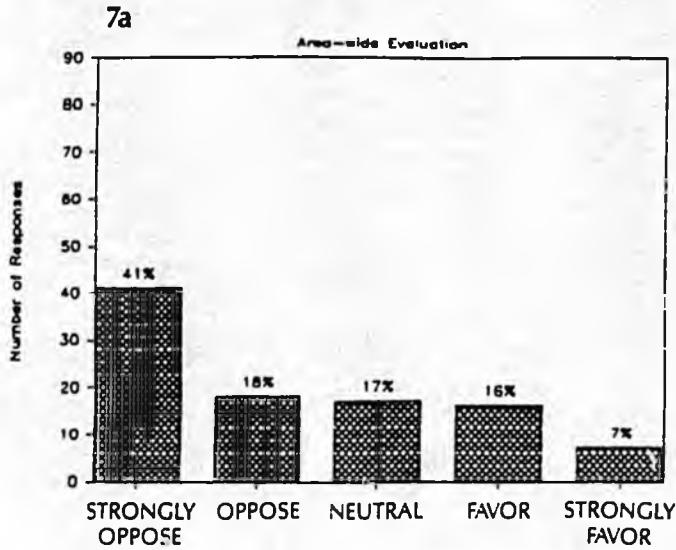
"In general, I oppose mining, but with proper constraints, it can be accommodated." (Cordova)

"If logging and mining are allowed, commercial operators need to be responsible for cleaning up after themselves -- slash, oil drums, broken down cats and other equipment, etc., etc." (Anchorage)

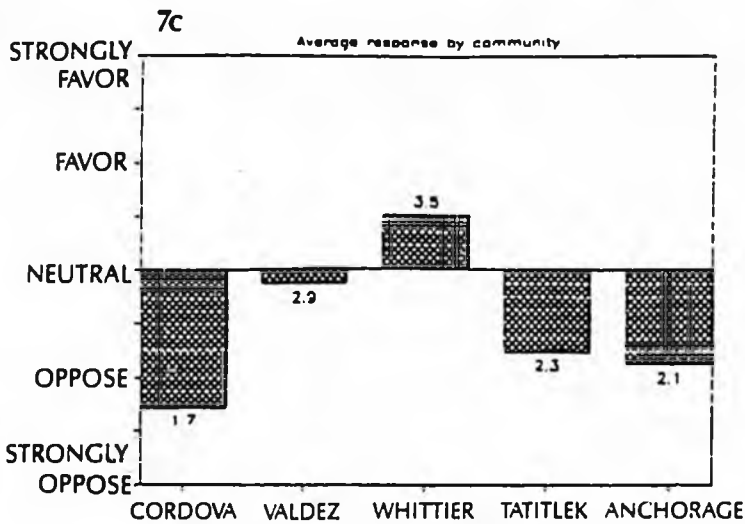
- I don't know enough to comment. Many people were unsure about mining. They had never seen a mine and felt they did not have enough knowledge to voice a realistic opinion. Every resource had at least some one who felt this way, but mining seemed to have more.

"I don't know enough about mining to say much about it. Never seen a mine." (Tatitlek)

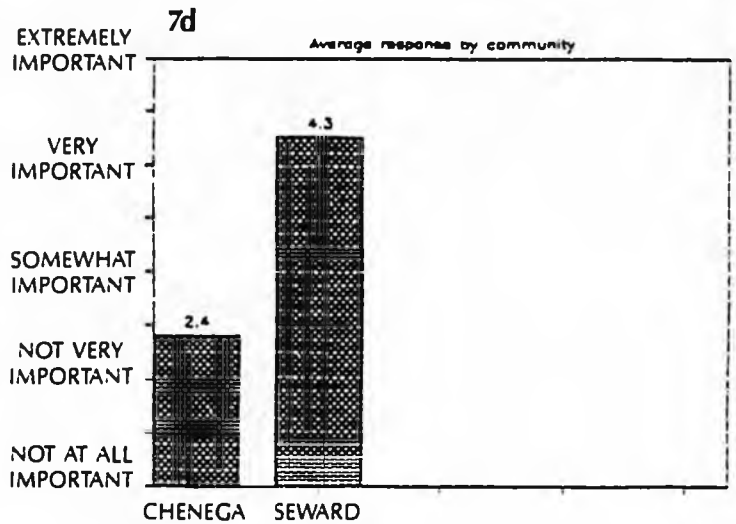
7. PUBLIC OPINION CONCERNING THE USE OF STATE LAND TO SUPPORT MINING OPERATIONS



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The number above each column shows the average response for each community based on the following scale: Not at all Important = 1; Not Very Important = 2; Somewhat Important = 3; Very Important = 4; Extremely Important = 5.

There was a wide variation in people's response to mining operations, though more opposed the use than favored it (see chart 7a). Opinions varied by meeting, however (chart 7c and 7d). On average, the people in Whittier favored mining, and in Seward it was felt "very important." Valdez was approximately neutral, Chenega felt it "not very important" and at the remaining meetings, people were opposed. In addition, no important distinctions were made by subregion (chart 7b). People rated the appropriateness of mining in each subregion approximately the same.

## SECTION 6. GENERAL COMMENTS



### Introduction

The meetings generated many comments and opinions that are not easily categorized. They were important, yet they do not refer to settlement, recreation, mining, forestry, or fish and wildlife. This section contains those comments.

### Discussion

■ Education. A number of people voiced comments concerning education. These fell into two categories. First, the need for public education about the Sound, to decrease the impact of litter and other abuses. And second, the use of the Sound for educational purposes -- by the University of Alaska, various community colleges, etc. This educational use was supported. Both comments were voiced at various meetings.

■ Access and transportation. People at different meetings favored maintaining public access to all of the public resources: the beaches for camping, the streams and lakes, hunting areas, etc. Any development in the Sound -- whether settlement, recreation, tourism, logging, or mining -- should occur in such away as to protect public access. Some comments illustrating this sentiment are below:

"Maintain public access to public lands." (Cordova)

"Maintain public easements and rights-of-way around and through disposals." (Cordova)

"If land sales, require 1500-foot public easements. Allow for campable beaches. Need room for use of the beaches for campers." (Anchorage)

■ Scenic Resources. The scenic resources of Prince William Sound were spoken of often, and with reverence. People favored protection of the scenic resources because it was important for recreation and tourism, but for more than that. Many people felt that the views in the Sound are special enough to deserve protection. The form these comments took were often, "Protect the scenic values of the Sound from..." whatever development was being talked about at that time. Typical comments are selected below.

"The big thing in Alaska is the visual thing. And it costs the state nothing." (Whittier)

"Preserving the unique wild character of Prince William Sound carries its own long term economic benefit." (Anchorage)

■ Don't compete with the Natives or other private landowners or duplicate their activities. A number of people voiced the comment that the state should not compete with the Natives or other private landowners for economic development. This comment was heard not only in the Native communities but also in Valdez,

Cordova, Anchorage, Seward, and Whittier. The comment often was based either on the premise that development was best left in the hands of private enterprise, or on the feeling that if the Natives were going to dispose of land or develop facilities (lodges, etc.), then state land should be reserved for other uses. For example, if the Natives were going to dispose of land, then why did the state need to? Also, people in Chenega felt that commercial recreation development was one of the important options for development of their land, and that the state should not deprive them by developing state land for the same purpose. Comments illustrating this sentiment are below:

"Development should be left for private enterprise. The state should not compete with private enterprise." (Chenega)

"There is sufficient private land in the Sound so that development can be done on private land. This includes private industry or private enterprise." (Chenega)

"Do not lease for lodges. Leave state land in public ownership and let the Natives develop for their income." (Cordova)

■ Economic Development. Many people voiced the sentiment that Prince William Sound provided the resources for economic development: tourism, recreation, commercial fishing, mining, etc. The state should encourage this development. Sometimes the support for economic development took the form of "Leave it alone, it's the wilderness that provides for the long-term development." Sometimes it took the form of advocating development of all the resources -- developed recreation, tourism, mining, forestry, etc. Often it took the form of supporting aquaculture. Some comments illustrating these sentiments are below:

"I think the area should be developed primarily for its natural resources, such as mining, timber, and fishing. Tourism isn't a primary interest of mine. The main interest in the area should be commercial aquaculture. There are areas out there for that kind of farming." (Seward)

"Protect what tourists come to see, the scenic values, wildlife, and wilderness." (Anchorage)

"We are trying to develop tourism and recreation in this area. It is what will be the economic base of this community." (Whittier)

"We are pro development here. We are against all of them environmentalists in Anchorage." (Seward)

■ Historic resources. Some people spoke favoring protection of historic resources.

"Historic resources should be protected (fox farms, historic sites, etc.)." (Tatitlek)

■ Water Pollution. A number of people were concerned that increased development of the Sound would bring water pollution with it. This concern was especially strong when the discussion turned to floating lodges, but it also appeared during the discussion of a number of other development types.

"I'm opposed to the trash and pollution which results from a lot of people. This is seen a log during the fishing season. A lot of oil, gas and diesel is found in the waters. Too many people in a tight area create waste." (Chenega)

"If the state allows floating lodges, the state needs to make sure the lodges meet certain specifications. I am concerned about waste. If they anchor those things in a prime fishing area, its not good to have a lot of turds floating around. Make them have tanks so they don't dump the waste into the water." (Whittier)

- Trash. Many comments were also made about trash and litter. These were similar to the water pollution comments made above--that any state action that concentrates people is likely to result in trash and litter. The state should make some effort both to educate people to not litter and to pick up the trash in high use areas.
- Local control and the influence of Anchorage. People in many of the communities were concerned that not enough weight would be given to their concerns. Some people felt that Anchorage concerns would have more influence. There was also the concern that the plan should proceed with a potential borough in mind. The state plan should leave the borough some land to select and should not make decisions that would rightfully be the borough's.

"We are concerned in Valdez that too much weight will be given to Anchorage ideas. Why are you holding a public meeting there? We are concerned we will get overrun by Anchorage, as has been the case for many years." (Valdez)

"The state should not infringe on the Native's rights. Inputs to what occurs in this vicinity should be controlled by local government. This concerns what is and what is not developed. (Chenega)

"Hear the people. Come and listen to what they say. It's their home and their culture and long lines of heritage." (Tatitlek)

"You should coordinate this plan with the potential Borough in the area in mind. Don't foreclose options for the Borough, particularly concerning land sales and selections." (Valdez)

## Chapter 4. Summary of Public Comments by Community

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This chapter summarizes the important points of the different community meetings. The summaries are brief; most of the important points people brought up at the meetings are included in the summaries by resource, Chapter III. A full list of the comments is also available (from the address given in Chapter I).

### ■ Section 1. Seward Meeting

Seven people attended the Seward meeting. Much of the discussion focused on settlement, developing commercial facilities in the Sound, and maintaining the pristine character of the Sound.

The opinion was strongly voiced that the Sound should be made more accessible to Seward. This meant that commercial facilities that sold gas should be located in the Sound. Thus, small boats that cannot carry sufficient fuel for a round trip to the Sound would be able to buy fuel for the return trip. Others acknowledged that commercial facilities would provide opportunities for small boaters, but felt that commercial facilities would harm the values that make the area attractive. Some people felt that at least part of the Sound should be set aside as a wilderness area for recreation.

Some participants at the meeting also voiced strong support for land sales in the area. However, the Blying Sound land disposal was given as an example of the type of project that the state should not sell. People said that the Blying Sound project was too remote and inaccessible. Remote cabins were mentioned as a program that should be considered in the Sound. As with commercial facilities, other people disagreed; they felt that settlement would negatively impact the important values of the area.

### ■ Section 2. Chenega Meeting

Sixteen people attended the meeting in Chenega. Participants in Chenega value the remoteness of their village and their lifestyle (including subsistence). Many participants felt that settlement and commercial development would hurt these values. Others were not as certain and felt that settlement could occur without having a negative effect.

Employment was identified as an important issue. Participants identified several enterprises that would provide employment to local people. These were dock and gas facilities in Chenega, a system of public use cabins on Native land, and tour boat operations run out of the village. However, participants felt strongly that the state should not provide for these uses, but should allow the village a chance to develop them using Native land. Participants felt that the state should not compete and undermine their efforts.

### ■ Section 3. Anchorage Meeting

Approximately 60 people came to the Anchorage meeting. Most of the discussion at that meeting focused on settlement and the various types of services that should or should not be provided for recreation. There was a very strong feeling at the meeting that the unique characteristics of the Sound should be preserved. People described those characteristics differently--beauty, pristine nature, wilderness, wildlife, etc.--but the concept was frequently and strongly expressed.

Most of the people at the Anchorage meeting were very strongly opposed to settlement in the Sound--60% marked "strongly opposed" on part A of the questionnaire. However, approximately half of the 40 people who rated settlement on part B of the questionnaire felt that it was an appropriate use in Passage Canal. There was even greater uniformity on the support for undeveloped recreation and fish and wildlife uses of the Sound--over 90% of the people at the meeting favored (or strongly favored) these uses. To a great extent these were seen as uses that were consistent with the existing character of the Sound with little or no negative effects.

There was a wide range of opinions concerning facilities for recreation and or tourism on state land. Many people voiced clear opposition to any facilities from a tent platform to lodges. Others felt that some facilities would be appropriate in some areas of the Sound, but that large wilderness areas should remain completely undeveloped. This wide range of opinions also existed for lodges and floating lodges, but more people, in general, disapproved of them than felt otherwise.

### ■ Section 4. Tatitlek Meeting.

Seven people attended the meeting in Tatitlek. Most of the discussion focused on the east side of the Sound, from Valdez to Cordova, and on the effects that any development would have on the existing character of the area. This is the area used most frequently by the residents for hunting and fishing. Participants of the meeting felt strongly that nothing should be done that would change the existing character or use patterns in this area.

The participants said that subsistence uses of fish and wildlife was very important to the community and were opposed to activities such as land sales, commercial development and developed recreation because they felt that these uses would harm the fish and wildlife values. Specifically, the people felt that anything that drew additional traffic--boats, plane landings, etc.--would drive away the game. There was considerable discussion about the proposed Jack Bay disposal. People used it as an example of the type of effects they feared--that people who built on the land would drive away the goats, and there would then be one less place to hunt.

People said that undeveloped recreation is an appropriate use of the area. They did not expect undeveloped recreation to harm subsistence and commercial fishing. They also favored forestry, as long as it was "done right" (and they expected it would be) and favored tourism facilities west of Valdez Arm. The sentiments are consistent with the actions of Tatitlek Native Corporation that is scheduling a nearby timber sale and intends to develop a lodge on Native land in Columbia Bay.

People did not voice particularly strong feelings about what should happen to land on the west side of Valdez Arm and in western Prince William Sound.

#### ■ Section 5. Valdez Meeting

Twenty people attended the Valdez meeting. Discussion focused primarily on settlement and recreation.

Except for fish and wildlife, there was a wide variation in Valdez about the appropriateness of each of the uses. Every use had a significant number of people in favor and opposed. For example, in Valdez the average rating for forestry was exactly neutral, but only 13% of the responses marked neutral--the rest were in favor or opposed. In fact, for forestry 31% of the people were strongly opposed. The people at the meeting all felt that fish and wildlife uses of the Sound were very important. In addition, many felt that enhancing the commercial fishery through aquaculture and mollusk farming was important.

There was little disagreement that Prince William Sound was a unique resource and that any development should be consistent with the existing character of the area. However, there was disagreement on what types of development were, in general, consistent with that character.

Overall, people at the meeting opposed land sales in the Sound because of the effect on the Sound's existing character and uses (63% opposed), but the alternative viewpoint, supporting land sales, was also voiced and 38% of the people rated land sales favorable.

People were very supportive of undeveloped recreation in the Sound with 75% of the people attending the meeting favoring this use. The reaction to developed recreation was mixed. Approximately 53% of the people were either neutral or in favor while 47% opposed this use. Participants were not as certain that developed recreation would cause the same negative impacts to the Sound as settlement, and fell out on both sides of this issue.

#### ■ Section 6. Cordova Meeting

Just less than 25 people attended the meeting in Cordova. The people at the meeting were almost uniform in their opposition to almost any near-by development. All 18 people who turned in the questionnaire opposed or strongly opposed settlement; every one of them felt that fish and wildlife uses were extremely important; none supported providing facilities for tourism; only two favored forestry; and only one favored mining. Facilities for developed recreation did, however, prompt a somewhat wider range of opinions. There was both support and opposition voiced at the meeting for public use cabins and other facilities for recreation.

In general, a consistent point at the meeting was that a great amount of the valuable land around Cordova had been selected by the Natives. There was little public land available for Cordova residents to use--to hunt, camp on,

to support the wildlife they use. Therefore, state land should be left undeveloped to support the uses may soon be eliminated on the Native land. This feeling was particularly strong for the area typically used by Cordova residents; that is, west to Knowles Head, east past the Copper River, and including Hawkins, Hitchinbrook, and Montague Islands.

#### ■ Section 7. Whittier Meeting

According to the sixteen people who attended the meeting at Whittier, the economy at Whittier is based on recreation, tourism, and to some extent commercial fishing. Many of the people at the meeting favored developing the Sound for these uses. On average, the people at the meeting favored developing the Sound for all uses: settlement, undeveloped recreation, developed recreation, tourism, forestry, mining, and fish and wildlife uses. The sentiment was not unanimous, however. For all uses except developed recreation and fish and wildlife, some people at the meeting were opposed. In addition, though people might favor development, they did not favor it everywhere. Though only 13% opposed forestry and 15% opposed mining, no one at the meeting suggested that either was appropriate for Passage Canal. The appropriate uses for Passage Canal were settlement, developed and undeveloped recreation, tourism, and fish and wildlife.

There was a concern that the important visual qualities of the Sound be maintained. A number of people emphasized that large areas of the Sound should be kept free of development. Specifically, Harriman Fiord and Port Nellie Juan were mentioned.

A significant portion of the meeting focused on Whittier's need for additional settlement land. There is currently little private land available in or near Whittier and people felt that some was needed. Billing's cove was suggested as a prime location for a new townsite. It has water, sunlight, and is close to Whittier. In addition, there was some opposition to the proposed Logging Camp and Poe Bay disposals. One person suggested that these would be better for recreation and Entry Cove would make a better disposal.