

**SB**

**247**

**HFIN**

**FILE**

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(11)

Date Referred to Committee: May 4, 1996

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: \_\_\_\_\_

The FINANCE Committee considered:

CSSB 247(RLS) am(efd fld)(ct rule fld)

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 247(RLS) AM(EFD FLD)(CT RULE FLD)

USE OF FISH & GAME FUND/COMM'R'S POWERS

"An Act restricting the use of certain funds deposited in the fish and game fund; and relating to the powers and duties of the commissioner of fish and game, and providing for an effective date."

recommends it be replaced  
with the following committee substitute \_\_\_\_\_

the same title  
 a new title

additional referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee  
 attached amendment(s)

ADOPTS: \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): \_\_\_\_\_ (Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: \_\_\_\_\_ (Dept/Date)

fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS	DP	DNP	NR	AM
Died in committee				

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

# FISCAL NOTE

No. 8

Bill Version: CS SB 247 (RLS)

(S) Publish Date: 4/10/96

**STATE OF ALASKA  
1996 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Revision Date: 4/9/96 Dept. Affected: Fish and Game  
 Title: An Act relating to the fish and game fund BRL: Administration and Support  
 Component: Administrative Services  
 Sponsor: Senators Taylor and Sharp  
 Requester: Senate Rules COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 479

**Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)**

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES (1002)</b>	(977.5)	(977.5)	(977.5)	(977.5)	(977.5)	(977.5)

**FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)**

	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02
1002 Federal Receipts	(977.5)	(977.5)	(977.5)	(977.5)	(977.5)	(977.5)
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	977.5	977.5	977.5	977.5	977.5	977.5
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other (1024 Fish & Game Fund)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY95) cost: \$ 0.0

**POSITIONS**

	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02
FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

To maintain department services and programs at existing levels, general funds will be necessary to offset the decrease in federal funding.

Federal receipts are currently collected as indirect overhead to fund such items as accounting services, personnel and payroll services, budgeting services, procurement and contracting services, and data processing services.

Prepared by: Kevin Brooks Kevin Brooks, Director Phone: 465-6091  
 Division: Administration Date: 4/9/96  
 Approved by Commissioner: Geena Bunn Date: 4/9/96  
 Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

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**STATE OF ALASKA**

**1996 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Bill Version: CS 88247(FIN)

(S) Publish Date: 4-4-96

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Public Safety  
 Title: An Act relating to the fish and game fund; BRU: Fish & Wildlife Protection  
amending Rules 79(b) and 82(b)(2),... Component: Enforcement & ISU  
 Sponsor: Senators Taylor and Sharp  
 Requestor: S. Resources COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 0490

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars) (inflation not included)**

OPERATING	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Code Revenue						

**FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)**

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

Estimate of current year (FY 96) impact: \$ 0.0

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

**ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)**

No fiscal impact. The Division of Fish & Wildlife Protection receives no revenue from the Federal Aid To Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs nor from the sale of licenses.

Prepared By: Captain Richard Graham, Operations Commander Phone: 269-5589  
 Division: Fish & Wildlife Protection Date: 03/19/96  
 Approved by Commissioner: *Ronald L. Otte* Date: 3/19/96  
 Agency: Ronald L. Otte, Department of Public Safety

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# FISCAL NOTE

No. 7

Bill Version: CS5B 247(RLS)

(S) Publish Date: 4/10/96

**STATE OF ALASKA  
1996 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Revision Date: 4/9/96 Dept. Affected: Fish and Game  
 Title: Restrict Use of Fish & Game Fund BRU: Wildlife Conservation  
 Component: Wildlife Conservation  
 Sponsor: Senator Taylor  
 Requester: Senate Rules COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 473

**Expenditures/Revenues**

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES (1002)</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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**FUND SOURCE**

(Thousands of Dollars)

FUND SOURCE	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02
1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	2,060.4	2,060.4	2,060.4	2,060.4	2,060.4	2,060.4
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other (1024 Fish & Game Fund)	(2,060.4)	(2,060.4)	(2,060.4)	(2,060.4)	(2,060.4)	(2,060.4)
<b>TOTAL</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY96) cost: \$ 0.0

**POSITIONS**

POSITIONS	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02
FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Assumptions: (1) To maintain department services and programs at existing levels, General Funds will be provided to offset funding cuts in Fish & Game Fund revenues. (2) Federal Aid apportionments and license/tag revenues will remain constant for foreseeable future. (3) The regulatory process (\$713.3) and data processing programs (\$1,042.9) are assumed to directly benefit consumptive users and will continue to be funded by federal aid and Fish & Game Fund revenues.

Secs. 2 and 4 of the bill restrict use of Fish & Game Fund and Federal Aid funding for such programs as education, nongame, marine mammals management, sanctuary management, endangered species, law enforcement, and public information (\$2,060.4). To continue to provide these services, general funds would have to compensate for the loss of current revenue sources.

Prepared by: Diana Ground, Admin. Officer  
 Division: Wildlife Conservation  
 Approved by Commissioner: Olson Bruce Jr  
 Agency: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Phone: 465-6194  
 Date: 4/9/96

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# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1996 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HCS CSSB 247(RLS)  
am(efd fld)(ct rule fld)

Revision Date: 5/4/96 Dept. Affected: Fish and Game  
 Title: Restrict use of fish & game fund BRU: Sport Fish  
 Component: Sport Fish  
 Sponsor: Senator Taylor  
 Requester: Senate Rules COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 464

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 100	FY 01	FY 02
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANECUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( 1002 )</b>	<b>(500.8)</b>	<b>(500.8)</b>	<b>(500.8)</b>	<b>(500.8)</b>	<b>(500.8)</b>	<b>(500.8)</b>
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

FUND SOURCE	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 100	FY 01	FY 02
1002 Federal Receipts	(500.8)	(500.8)	(500.8)	(500.8)	(500.8)	(500.8)
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	500.8	500.8	500.8	500.8	500.8	500.8
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Fish and Game Fund 1024)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY96) cost: \$ 0.0

**POSITIONS**

POSITIONS	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 100	FY 01	FY 02
FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

See attached pages for assumptions made in fund source calculations. Overhead costs are calculated based on the amount of Federal Funds expended by Division of Sport Fish.

With implementation of SB 247 the Division of Sport Fish will not be able to fully utilize available Federal funds and will be forced to revert \$500.8 of the estimated \$8,397.7 available. This is shown in CHANGE IN REVENUES above. Since the State of Alaska receives the maximum allowable DJ/WB funding, other states have already been suggesting that funding formulas be changed to lower our share of DJ/WB money. By not fully utilizing this money it will supply those states more ammunition for that battle.

Prepared by: Kevin Delaney TRB for  
 Division: Sport Fish

Phone: 465-4180  
 Date: 5/4/96

Approved by Commissioner: Debra Buerger  
 Agency: Fish and Game

Date: 5/4/96

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FISCAL NOTE Continuation

Bill Number HCS CSSB 247(RLS)am(efd fld)(ct rule fld) Revised (5/4/96)

Title: Restrict use of fish & game fund

Assumptions used in analyzing SB 247.

- Division of Sport Fish will operate all projects at proposed FY 97 levels
- Headquarters projects can receive funding from either the Fish and Game fund or Federal DJ/WB fund.
- Research and Technical Services (RTS) can receive funding from either the Fish and Game fund or Federal DJ/WB funds.
- All hatchery projects and access projects can be funded with moneys from the Fish and Game fund and/or the Federal DJ/WB fund.
- All regional projects can be funded with Fish and Game Funds and/or Federal DJ/WB funds.
- All projects which can no longer be funded with Fish and Game funds and/or Federal DJ/WB funds would have to receive General Fund moneys.
- Division of Administration (ADF&G) receives money to cover overhead costs on all federal money expended. Currently this is paid with federal money, but from this point forward, would have to be paid using General Fund money.

Current FY 97 Funding Sources and Funding Sources With Senate Bill 247

FY 97 Sport Fish Projects		Current Funding Sources				Funding Sources With SB 247				
Project # / Title	Total \$	F&G*	Fed*	Prog*	CIP*	F&G*	Fed*	Prog*	CIP*	GF*
54 Headquarters	1228.1	1113.3	99.9	15.0	0.0	1113.3	99.9	15.0	0.0	0.0
64 Boating Access	362.5	36.9	110.6	0.0	215.1	36.9	110.6	0.0	215.1	0.0
55 RTS	1865.1	1029.8	835.3	0.0	0.0	1029.8	835.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
56 SE Supervision	1379.8	1379.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	1379.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
57 SE Salmon	1604.1	401.0	1203.1	0.0	0.0	401.0	1203.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
58 SE Resident Sp	498.9	124.7	374.2	0.0	0.0	124.7	374.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
64 SE Access	50.0	12.5	37.5	0.0	0.0	12.5	37.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
91 SE Hatcheries	1150.8	442.7	487.8	220.4	0.0	442.7	487.8	220.4	0.0	0.0
59 SC Supervision	2088.3	2037.5	50.8	0.0	0.0	2037.5	50.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
60 SC Salmon	2676.4	841.0	1835.4	0.0	0.0	841.0	1835.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
61 SC Resident Sp	507.4	126.8	380.5	0.0	0.0	126.8	380.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
62 SC Shellfish &	267.3	124.2	143.2	0.0	0.0	124.2	143.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
64 SC Access	97.4	24.4	73.1	0.0	0.0	24.4	73.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
90 SC Hatcheries	1607.0	392.8	1178.3	36.0	0.0	392.8	1178.3	36.0	0.0	0.0
69 IN Supervision	942.7	942.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	942.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
70 IN Salmon	124.1	31.0	93.1	0.0	0.0	31.0	93.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
71 IN Resident Sp	831.4	207.8	623.5	0.0	0.0	207.8	623.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
64 IN Access	32.5	8.1	24.4	0.0	0.0	8.1	24.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
92 IN Hatcheries	461.6	115.4	346.2	0.0	0.0	115.4	346.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>17775.8</b>	<b>9392.4</b>	<b>7896.9</b>	<b>271.4</b>	<b>215.1</b>	<b>9392.4</b>	<b>7896.9</b>	<b>271.4</b>	<b>215.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Admin Ovrhead**			500.8							500.8
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>18276.6</b>	<b>9392.4</b>	<b>8397.7</b>	<b>271.4</b>	<b>215.1</b>	<b>9392.4</b>	<b>7896.9</b>	<b>271.4</b>	<b>215.1</b>	<b>500.8</b>

\*F&G is the Fish and Game Fund; Fed is Federal Funds; Prog is Program Receipts; CIP is Capital Improvement Project Funds; GF is General Funds.

\*\*Fees paid to Department of Fish and Game, Division of Administration for overhead related to federal funding.

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1996 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HCS CSSB 247(RES)

Revision Date: <u>5/4/96</u>	Dept. Affected: <u>Fish and Game</u>
Title: <u>An Act relating to the fish and game fund</u>	BRU: <u>Wildlife Conservation</u>
Sponsor: <u>Senators Taylor and Sharp</u>	Component: <u>Wildlife Conservation</u>
Requester: <u>House Finance</u>	COMPONENT SERIAL NO. <u>473</u>

**Expenditures/Revenues**

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES (1002)</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**FUND SOURCE**

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	240.0	240.0	240.0	240.0	240.0	240.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other (1024 Fish & Game Fund)	(240.0)	(240.0)	(240.0)	(240.0)	(240.0)	(240.0)
<b>TOTAL</b>						

Estimate of any current year (FY96) cost: \$ 0.0

**POSITIONS**

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Assumptions: (1) To maintain department services and programs at existing levels, General Funds will be provided to offset funding cuts in Fish & Game Fund revenues. (2) Federal Aid apportionments and license/tag revenues will remain constant for foreseeable future. (3) The regulatory process (\$713.3) and data processing programs (\$1,042.9) are assumed to directly benefit consumptive users and will continue to be funded by federal aid and Fish & Game Fund revenues.

The bill restricts use of Fish & Game Fund and Federal Aid funding for conservation of nongame and endangered species (\$240.0). To continue to provide these services, general funds would have to compensate for the loss of current revenue sources.

Prepared by: Diana Ground, Admin. Officer  
 Division: Wildlife Conservation  
 Approved by Commissioner: Goran Bruner for  
 Agency: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Phone: 465-6194  
 Date: 5/5/96

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A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

TO: HCS CSSB 247(RES)

1 Page 2, lines 26 - 27:

2 Delete ", except under a general indirect recovery provision"

3 Page 4, line 11:

4 Delete "or"

5 Page 4, line 12:

6 Delete "and"

7 Insert "or

8 (F) costs allowed under an indirect cost recovery agreement  
9 between the department and the federal government; and"

HCS for CS for Senate Bill 247(RES)  
Sponsor Statement

This legislation was precipitated by the Department of Fish and Game's policy of using funds raised through consumptive uses of fish and game for non consumptive purposes. It will ensure that this abuse is curtailed in the future.

This legislation will direct, with a few exceptions, that the Department of Fish and Game is to expend Fish and Game funds for consumptive uses for both sport hunting and fishing. These funds are collected from sportsmen through the purchase of licenses, stamps and tags. It is only proper that the funds provided by these individuals be used to benefit these users of the resource. *The attached amendment is anticipated to zero out the negative fiscal note from Administrative Services. It also makes a technical correction in the House Resources version that clarifies and corrects an amendment that committee adopted.* The previous Senate fiscal notes should be reduced significantly as well with the adoption of the House Resources Committee substitute.

Here are the principle points of the bill:

1. Directs the commissioner to cooperate with sportsmen's organizations and other organizations to increase game populations and to expand indigenous populations into suitable habitat.
2. Limit to a large extent the use of fish and game funds to provide for intensive management of sport fish stocks and game populations for maximum sustained yield. It also provides for propagation, reintroduction, restocking, transplantation, manipulation of habitat, predator removal, hunter education, wildlife education, public access to sports fishing and hunting areas, and restoration of sport fish and game resources.
3. Direct benefits to the purchasers of licenses, stamps and tags that increase human harvests of sport fish and game. It also requires that proper credit be given for the source of these funds be given to the contributors when the funds are used for educational and non-consumptive uses allowed under the legislation. Examples of these uses are; credits on interpretive signs, public service, wildlife education events and hunting education days.
4. Allow funding to continue for facilities that would be used for the propagation of sport fish or game for restocking, enhancement, transplantation and educational uses. And also continue funding of shooting ranges and facilities to improve public access to areas where consumptive uses of sports fish and game may occur.
5. Directs that federal funds received by the state, under the federal aid to fish restoration program or the federal aid in wildlife restoration program, be used for consumptive use purposes except where federal law directs they be used otherwise. It does however permit costs allowed under the department's indirect cost allocation plan that is negotiated with the federal government.
6. The Department of Fish and Game must prepare an annual report on expenditures from the Fish and Game Fund to legislators.

MAR 27 1996



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Resources  
 committee name  
 committee on SB 247, dated 3/20/96  
 bill/subject

As a lifelong Alaskan and a consumptive user of Fish and Game resources for more years than I care to admit to, I wish to express the strongest possible support for S.B. #247.

I think it is vitally important to use funds generated by sportsmens' and sportswomens' license fees, tags, and permits to directly benefit consumptive users.

I don't claim to be a legal expert, but from what I see in the State Constitution, it appears that the Department of Fish and Wildlife is mandated to manage fish and wildlife resources in a manner that provides the highest possible sustained yield for consumptive users.

From the projects and programs generated by administrative positions within the Department over the last few years, it would appear that this mandate has been subverted and in some cases deliberately ignored.

The passage of S.B. #247 would go a long way toward squelching these departures from that mandate. Respectfully,  
 Signed: Cheryl A. Stoner  
 Testifier (Cheryl A. Stoner)

Representing (Optional)  
940 Serrano Dr., Wasilla, Alaska 99654  
 Address  
(907) 376 9488  
 Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Resources  
committee name

committee on S.B. #247, dated March 20, 1996.  
bill/subject

I am a housewife and mother of two married to a lifelong Alaskan who has provided our family with fish and game for years. I and my children have grown to prefer wild fish and game over domestic. I buy a license each year and each fall we have a family hunt to further the heritage of hunters.

I feel it is important that S.B. #247 be passed so that I and my family will be able to hunt and fish on a continuing basis.

Signed: Andrea L. Steiner  
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

940 Larsano Dr. Waiilla

Address

(907) 376-9488

Phone No.

To: Senator Taylor

Date: March 20, 1996

Subject: SB 247

From: Peter Shepherd, 1012 Galena St., Fairbanks, AK 99709

I support SB 247 and would like to commend Senators Taylor and Sharp for their efforts on this bill.

It is indeed unfortunate that it has become necessary to promulgate law mandating the dispensing of fish and game funds. However, I have witnessed over a number of years the mounting influence of changing public values on the attitudes of the ADF&G leadership towards those who provide the operational revenues. It is unconscionable that the fish and game funds are being used in ways that subvert the interests of the paying hunting and trapping public.

In general, a non-contributing public, many who embrace a philosophy that rejects human consumptive use, are those most vocally demanding the Department reframe from intensive management programs. In all due respect to these opposing public values, ADF&G and the State Board of Game should still act within the framework established by Alaska constitutional law. I suggest that any concessions made to these demands are patently unconstitutional on the part of ADF&G and the Board of Game.

In my opinion there is no moral or legal reason that fish and game funds be used to decrease opportunities, promotion, and enhancement of traditional consumptive uses of renewable wildlife resources on a sustained yield basis. Until such a time that other sources of funding are provided by the non-consumptive public, present uses of the fish and game fund are justifiably assignable to those outlined in SB247.

Thank You.

*Peter Shepherd*

Peter Shepherd

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Mar. 20, 1996

Senator Robin Taylor  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Ak. 99801

Dear Senator Taylor:

The Alaska Outdoor Council appreciates your continuing interest in promoting traditional wildlife management in Alaska. We support your efforts to create an impetus through legislation for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to once again take up important management concerns for Alaska's consumptive users of fish and wildlife.

We believe SB 247, "An Act relating to the fish and game fund", is an important component in the effort to re-establish traditional management of fish and game here in Alaska. For the past fifteen years consumptive users have continually endured the onslaught of an uninformed vocal minority bent on eliminating hunting and trapping opportunities. Although the Alaska Outdoor Council has traditionally supported the Department's budget and has tried to maintain a working relationship with leadership and staff, our efforts were increasingly frustrated by an apparent shift within some levels to accommodate non-consumptive uses at the expense of consumptive uses. We realize that a significant portion of that policy shift has been, and continues to be at the direction of an unsympathetic Administration.

Although we recognize the use of our dollars for some projects which may not appear to readily benefit hunters, trappers, and fishermen do have some merit, the opposition who also benefits from those expenditures has never recognized the contribution outdoorsmen have made to their benefit, and for the most part continues to oppose projects and programs beneficial to wildlife and humans. It is for that reason we have become increasingly reluctant to have our money spent in those arenas.

The AOC is still more than willing to work with the Department and the Administration to resolve some of the areas of concern to consumptive users of our wildlife resources; however, we must see some movement toward those items which we feel are important. Traditional management of wildlife, including predator

management, an educational effort structured to enlighten a broader segment of the public about wildlife management and the role consumptive uses play therein, better efforts to communicate with the consumptive user public, and more judicious use of consumptive use dollars in arenas which may not appear to have a direct cost/benefit ratio.

At the moment the membership of the Alaska Outdoor Council is supporting the effort on the part of those legislators who wish to reduce the Department's budget. We would prefer to return to our traditional role of fully supporting their budget; however, until the Department and the Administration can produce tangible assurances that our concerns are being given serious consideration, backed up with appropriate action, we feel there aren't many alternatives for us right now. We remain hopeful continuing dialogs with Departmental leadership will prove productive and that we will once again be more closely involved in supporting their efforts. Recent discussions we have had with the Commissioner and Divisional heads leads us to believe they are genuinely interested in our concerns and would like to accommodate such to the best of their ability. Any movement in our direction would be welcomed, and would quite likely result in much improved relations.

The Alaska Outdoor Council believes legislation, such as SB 247, has become necessary to help define the ADF&G's primary role in wildlife management. More importantly, such legislation will provide the groundwork for moving Alaska back toward traditional wildlife management.

Once again, the members of the Alaska Outdoor Council would like you to know how appreciative we are for your efforts on our behalf. If there is anything we can do to further assist you in this important effort, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Eddie Grasser

cc: Sen. Loren Leman  
Sen. Drue Pearce  
Sen. Steve Frank  
Sen. Rick Halford  
Sen. Georgianna Lincoln  
Sen. Lyman Hoffman  
Sen. Bert Sharp  
Sen. Mike Miller

November 2, 1995

Mr. Raiph C. Seekins  
Alaska Wildlife Conservation Assn.  
1625 Old Steese Highway  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Dear Mr. Seekins:

I received your correspondence of October 4. I believe it is important that the Department of Fish and Game attempt clear and effective communication with all user groups and interests. Certainly, I tried with your group.

I disagree with your summary of what was said at our meeting. The department does manage all of Alaska's wildlife resources on a sustained yield basis in accordance with our constitutional mandate. This administration will enact policies that are in compliance with the Alaska Constitution. Likewise, the department will implement management actions that are in compliance with the Alaska Constitution.

As provided in Alaska statute, the Board of Game and the department work together to authorize and implement predator control programs. The Board of Game adopts population and harvest objectives and determines where and when it will authorize the department to conduct predator control to meet these objectives. Within the authorities granted by the Board of Game in regulation, the Commissioner of Fish and Game may approve expenditure of funds for predator control programs.

This administration will not authorize expenditure of funds for predator control unless the program is scientifically sound, cost effective, and broadly acceptable to Alaska's public. Any management program that does not meet these criteria will not be politically or fiscally sustainable. I assume you would not want government to carry out programs that are not scientifically sound, not cost effective, and not broadly acceptable to Alaskans.

At your request, I have enclosed copies of recent species management reports prepared by the Division of Wildlife Conservation. These documents contain management objectives and data on

Mr. Ralph C. Seekins

2

November 2, 1995

status of populations on a unit, area, or herd basis as is appropriate for the species. I have instructed that your name be put on the mailing list for these documents as they are published.

Sincerely,



Frank Rue  
Commissioner

Enclosures

FR/WR/KT/kt CO1022

**ALASKA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ASSN.**

1625 Old Steese Hwy. - Fairbanks, AK 99701 - (907) 456-1992

October 4, 1995

**RECEIVED**

Mr. Frank Rue, Commissioner  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME  
P.O. Box 25526  
Juneau, AK 99802-5526

OCT 9 1995  
DEPT. OF FISH & GAME  
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

Re: August meeting with statewide user groups in Fairbanks at  
Commissioners request

Dear Commissioner Rue:

Thank you for meeting with the representatives of Alaska's statewide user groups. In attendance were representatives of Alaska Bow Hunters, the Alaska Trapper's Association, the Fairbanks Hunting Club, the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Association and the Alaska Outdoor Council. Remarkably, in the first five minutes of our meeting you outraged those assembled with your statements concerning the administration's and your unwillingness to manage Alaska's resources on a sustained yield basis (as mandated in Alaska's Constitution), and your belief that consumptive uses are a privilege and not a right guaranteed in our State's Constitution. In reviewing notes taken during this meeting, it became clear to me that you have no intention to manage Alaska wildlife resources for increased productivity. My conclusion is based on your statements as a representative of the Knowles administration. You said:

1. That there will be no predator control programs in 1995 or 1996.
2. That the Department completely opposes Human Harvest Legislation (SB77-HB170).
3. That the Department is incapable of managing Alaska's wildlife for 1/3 human harvest.

4. That hunting (and other consumptive uses) are a privilege, not a right granted by Alaska's Constitution.
5. That the administration (not B.O.G.) will set predator control policy.
6. That the Department knows that trapper wolf harvest will drop by up to 90% in two years and the Department has no intent to increase other harvest.
7. That Department data indicates our game resources, in many areas statewide, are rapidly approaching a complete predator pit situation for which the Department has no corrective plan.
8. That the Department places a higher value on bears and other predators than on human consumptive uses.
9. That the Alaska Constitution does not require the Department to manage game resources (other than bears and wolves) on a sustained yield basis and that human consumptive use is not the highest priority use for game animals.
10. That the Department's plans and goals, under your guidance, is to satisfy "outside" and "inside" Environmentalist, Anti-Hunting demands regardless of what the Alaska constitution or state law (SB77) requires.
11. That, regardless of Alaska Constitution and state law, no predator control will take place unless it is: scientifically sound; cost effective; and broadly acceptable to Alaska's public.

If your recollection differs from that set forth above, please notify me immediately.

Also, at one point in our meeting, you referred to Department state-wide, unit-by-unit population and harvest goals and objectives. Could you please provide us with a copy of those goals and objectives as well as any data you have which would show how close actual population and harvest comes to meeting them.

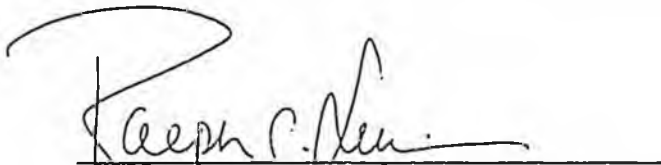
This administration's apparent belligerence and unwillingness to abide by Alaska's Constitution and State statutes necessitates that I repeat our warning that, if you pursue the course you have outlined, we have no recourse but to consider your actions a declaration of war on all Alaska's

Mr. Frank Rue  
October 4, 1995  
Page 3

consumptive users. I will also repeat that you will be held accountable for your actions and that the department and its actions will be closely scrutinized. We will make every effort to require strict compliance with Alaska statutes which mandate intensive management of declining wildlife populations. If your personal philosophy will not allow you to abide by Alaska's Constitution and law, which you have sworn to uphold, then we suggest your resignation would be very appropriate.

Sincerely,

**ALASKA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION**



Ralph C. Seekins, President

## ALASKA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ASSN.

1625 Old Steese Hwy. - Fairbanks, AK 99701 - (907) 456-1992

November 10, 1995

Wayne Regelin, Director  
State of Alaska  
Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Wildlife Conservation  
P.O. Box 25526  
Juneau, AK 99802-5526

Dear Director Regelin:

The Alaska Wildlife Conservation Association is becoming increasingly outraged at the current direction of the Department, which can only be categorized as an all out attack, indeed a declaration of war on Alaska's consumptive users. We, along with other statewide users groups, met with you and Commissioner Rue in Fairbanks and were astounded by the Commissioner's and your stated unwillingness to manage Alaska's resources on a sustained yield basis. We have written to the Commissioner, subsequent to this meeting, and by his silence he has assented to our conclusions of the Department's statements and representations at that meeting.

Since that meeting, we have been apprised of a material misrepresentation by the Department concerning the source of funding for a Fish & Game office building scheduled for construction in Fairbanks. We also discovered that the Department has misappropriated hundreds of thousands of dollars from the Division of Wildlife Conservation into the Subsistence and Habitat Division Projects and Personnel salaries. This misappropriation is patently illegal. Moreover, the Department has violated the public trust (if not the law) by diverting an additional \$900,000 of funds specifically allocated and authorized for intensive management projects which were also diverted into salary for existing personnel. These misappropriations have outraged not only Alaska's license purchasers, who directly provide nearly 100% of your budget, but also the Legislature, who will hold the Department strictly accountable.

Our membership is dedicated to the return of abundance of Alaska's wildlife populations, is also shocked by the Department's advocacy of the preservationist's proposals at the November Board of Game meeting. Though the Department's biologists testified that there was no biological problem nor justification and that due to separation of user groups that there was no actual conflict among users, you recommended the closure of 236 square miles of the Alaskan Peninsula to hunting. The Board of Game, manipulated by you, voted to close this area even though you admitted in your testimony that the only issue was one based solely on a misperception resulting from purposeful misinformation and disinformation by animal rights extremists. Because these groups oppose any biological based wildlife management, we must vigorously challenge your decision.

Wayne Regelin

Page 2

Aligning the Department with the animal rights extremists and advocating for them violates your own policy and principle of management adopted by you in your August 28, 1995, memorandum. On page 2, of that document, you state that,

Biological base - we will always maintain a biological bottom line in making resource management decisions... (emphasis added)

In discussing your conflicting responsibilities, you state at page 4 that,

"...we will present this information in an unbiased, professional fashion, providing the Board of Game and others our honest assessment of available data and management options. We will neither advocate for any particular management regime, nor oppose any management strategy that is biologically sound, consistent with state law and administration policies.

By advocating the closure of a land mass nearly the size of the State of Rhode Island without biological basis or user conflict violates your stated policy and, most certainly, violates the public trust which the Department no longer deserves.

Also alarming, as disclosed in your August 29, 1995, memorandum is the fact that you have established a social science program within the Division of Wildlife Conservation. You state that, "while biology and the environment set limits on the range of viable management options, the "right" option to select is often a matter of social values, not biology." What statutory authority allows the Department (and not the Board of Game) to evaluate, utilize and advocate social values rather than biology in the wildlife management decision process? Your constitutional mandate is to manage Alaska's wildlife resources for sustained yield by human harvest. There seems to be no social value other than consumptive uses that is necessary to satisfy that requirement.

The AWCA submits that the business of the Department of Fish & Game is to provide sound biological management to increase Alaska's wildlife to provide for abundance. Because Alaskan's now harvest less than 2% of the annual harvestable surplus we can categorically state that Alaskan's demand a larger allocation of the resource and are not interested in "feeling better" about harvesting less! Social engineering should be left in the classroom and certainly has no place within the Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

An abundance of wildlife is the answer to the divisive subsistence dilemma. The Department can accomplish this by providing higher allocations to human harvest of increasing wildlife populations. When other states routinely harvest 30 to 60% of their big game populations each year

Wayne Regelin

Page 3

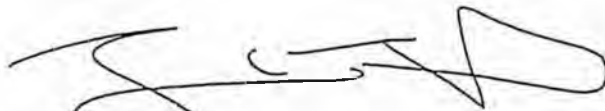
Alaska's harvest of 2%, with precipitous decline in the last five years, demonstrates that your Department is failing to provide sustained yield.

In an attempt to increase one wildlife population, the Board of Game, in its March 1995 meeting, directed the Department to resume predator control in Game Management 20A on January 1, 1996. This effort is aimed to provide relief to the Delta caribou herd which remains at risk sustaining much higher calf predation than other caribou herds. The AWCA hereby requests a copy of the implementation plan which the Department is planning on initiating this January. If no progress is planned, we demand to know why. After all, \$900,000 was appropriated for intensive management projects this year.

The governor suspended the previous GMU 20A program shortly after his inauguration and then solicited the Academy of Sciences to conduct further review. The governor has now had nearly a year to receive an answer from the Academy. Hopefully, this project is nearing completion as the January deadlines approaches. However, AWCA has received information that the Academy has not even agreed to perform this task because those charged with the project in Alaska have failed to provide definitions of the key terms (cost effectiveness, popular support, scientifically sound) by which the Academy is to evaluate these programs. Is this correct? Also, please confirm whether the Academy is requesting \$300,000 to perform this review, and whether the funding would come from Alaska's Fish & Game Fund.

As a result of our meeting with you and the Commissioner, and our discovery of the misrepresentations, misappropriation, and violations of public trust set forth above, attached is a list of questions which we need answered so that we can evaluate the Department's current direction based upon your response and not rumor or anecdote. We trust that you will provide this information because Commissioner Rue indicated that you would answer our inquiries. Your prompt attention in this matter is necessary, warranted and appreciated. Should we not hear from you by December 15, 1995, we will proceed as we believe necessary.

Sincerely,



Lynn E. Levensood, Esq.  
Executive Director, AWCA

cc: Commissioner Rue

### A.W.C.A. QUESTIONS

1. What predator control plans will the Department implement pursuant to the directions of the Board of Game in Game Management 20A beginning January 1996? When does the plan begin implementation and if no program is planned what is the basis and authority for your decision?
2. Why does the Department oppose SB-77 and HB-170?
3. Why does the Department oppose sustained yield being defined in statute?
4. Is the current human harvest level of big game in the State of Alaska meeting the Department's human harvest goal? In this regard, Commissioner Rue indicated his belief that the Department had population and harvest goals for all big game populations. We are requesting copies of these goals as written.
5. Why have you testified that the Department cannot provide 1/3 of the annual harvestable surplus to be allocated for human harvest?
6. Because the Commissioner indicated his belief that consumptive uses are a privilege and not guaranteed by the Alaska Constitution, please define or explain the Department's position on what the sustained yield mandate in our constitution means.
7. Why did you create a human dimensions group involved in social engineering? By what authority does the Department believe it can undertake this function and what funding source does the Department anticipate utilizing for these activities? Please consider this correspondence a Freedom of Information request for all information, plans, memorandums, and proposals concerning the implementation or the establishment of this Human Dimensions/Social Engineering group including any projects, programs or actions assigned to them.
8. Please furnish AWCA with any and all material concerning what economic value the Department places upon human consumption of Alaska's wildlife resources.
9. What circumstances or conditions does the Department believe are necessary for the Board to terminate an existing Tier II subsistence harvest/restriction?
10. The Department of Fish & Game's harvest data indicates a severe decline in human harvest of moose, caribou, and sheep in the last five years, what, if any, plan does the Department have to reverse the decline in human harvest? If there is no plan, does the Department wish to increase harvest, and if so, by how much and what means?
11. During the August meeting with the Commissioner, you frequently indicated that you were "managing the system" and also the term bio-diverse management was used. Please define what you mean when you say the Department is "managing the system" and what do you mean by bio-diverse management?

12 Does the Department currently support or oppose one bear per year harvest level in Unit 13?

13 If you oppose, please indicate why. If you support, please indicate at what population level would the Department seek a more restrictive harvest regime? (At the Fall 1992 Board Meeting Ken Prichart indicated that at bear population of 250 grizzly bears in Unit 13 would represent an unthreatened, healthy and viable population.)

14. In regard to the National Academy of Sciences' inquiry, please define the following three terms:

- (a) Scientifically sound;
- (b) Cost effective; and
- (c) Broadly supported by the Alaskan public.

15. Though the AWCA has requested a copy of the official tasking and/or request which the State of Alaska has presented to the National Academy of Sciences, we have yet to receive this information. Please provide any prospectus and all documentation, files, notes, requests, to/from the National Academy of Sciences concerning their independent review.

16. Please explain the Department's position concerning each BRU and project in which the \$900,000 intensive management allocation was spent and how the Department believes those BRU projects qualify as "intensive management."

17. What is the Department's definition of intensive management?

18. Please provide detailed expenditure breakdowns of spending on the following projects: 2465, 2715, 2865, 2805, 2505, 3405, 3605, 3435, 3625, 3805. Also include the objectives and the plans as written for each project.

19. Do you believe the Department has, in the last five years, or is currently utilizing any fish and game fund monies and/or any monies derived from Pittman-Robertson funds or other federal matching monies for any projects or purposes not authorized by the federal program restrictions or A.S. 16.05.130? If yes, please indicate what your belief is based upon.

20. Is the Department committed to returning Alaska to an abundance of wildlife, if so, how does it plan to biologically manage for such an abundance? If not, why not?

To aid in answering the above questions, Harvestable Surplus is defined as:

The number of animals that is equal to the number of offspring born in a game population during the year less the number of animals in the population that die during the year from all causes other than predation or human harvest.

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

P.O. BOX 25526  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-5526  
PHONE: (907) 465-4190  
FAX: (907) 465-6142

December 14, 1995

Mr. Lynn E. Levensgood  
Alaska Wildlife Conservation Association  
1625 Old Steese Hwy.  
Fairbanks, AK 77701

Dear Mr. Levensgood:

Commissioner RUIE did respond to the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Association letter of October 4, in which Mr. Seekins summarized the conclusions he drew from our meeting in August. In his response, the commissioner disagreed with many of the statements in the summary and explained that the Department of Fish and Game does manage all of Alaska's wildlife resources on a sustained yield basis in accordance with our constitutional mandates. This letter was sent to Mr. Seekins on November 12. I am enclosing a copy for your information (see attachment 1).

I am sorry you believe the department is working against the best interests of hunters. I disagree and think an examination of the record clearly demonstrates that the Division of Wildlife Conservation works hard to protect and enhance hunting opportunities for Alaskans and nonresident hunters. During the past 18 months the division has recommended, and the Board of Game has taken, the following actions.

- increased season length and numbers of permits for White Mountain caribou
- added eight days to moose season in the northern Wrangell Mountains
- added 20 days to the grizzly bear season in the Nelchina Basin
- created new caribou hunts on the Kenai Peninsula
- created new goat hunts in the Anchorage area
- created an early winter moose hunt in the Matanuska and Susitna valleys
- liberalized the bag limit on Mulchatna caribou
- created a cow moose hunt in the Homer area
- extended the moose season on the west side of Cook Inlet by 10 days
- transplanted ruffed grouse to the Kenai Peninsula

I know you disagree with the department's position on the closing of the McNeil River Refuge to hunting of brown bears. The division did present all pertinent biological

information to the Board of Game in a professional manner. Our biological assessment was that the harvest of three bears per year in the refuge would have no impact on the bear population or bear viewing opportunities in the McNeil Sanctuary. I then discussed the strong public opposition to hunting on the refuge and how the issue was harmful to the image of hunting. I explained how the issue had become a major national animal rights campaign that was turning nonhunters into antihunters. I recommended the Board of Game close the refuge to hunting of brown bears.

I do not believe providing all relevant information to the board to be manipulation of the board. Neither do I believe that I violated my policy of providing information to the board in an unbiased, professional fashion or made a biological unsound decision. A decision not to harvest bears in the refuge did not cause a biological concern. I do believe continued hunting on the refuge would do great harm to hunting in Alaska in the long term.

I do not know what you mean by the statement, "we have been apprised of a material misrepresentation by the department concerning the source of funding for a Fish and Game office building in Fairbanks." This building is funded by Fish and Game Fund (25 percent) and Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Funds (75 percent).

You allege that the department illegally "misappropriated hundreds of thousands of dollars from the Division of Wildlife Conservation into the Subsistence and Habitat Division projects and personnel salaries." In FY 96, the Division of Wildlife Conservation transferred via reimbursable service agreement(RSA) \$112,500 to Habitat Division and \$72,800 to Subsistence Division. These funds provided to the Habitat Division were entirely Fish and Game funds. They were used by Habitat Division to work on wildlife issues in the Tongass Land Use Plan and to work on a cooperative project with U.S. Forest Service to identify and mitigate the impacts of timber harvest on wildlife populations. The Subsistence Division received \$23,900 of Fish and Game funds to assess the opinions of residents in GMU 19 on the need for wolf control in the area and \$48,900 from a Capitol Improvement Project to assist the division in completion of a economic analysis of the importance of trapping to rural Alaskans.

Nothing was illegal about these transfers and no diversion of funds occurred. All of the projects funded via RSA provide a direct benefit to wildlife management and they all meet all federal requirements for expenditure of Fish and Game funds.

The legislature provided \$900,000 to the division in FY 96 for intensive management. These funds are being expended to collect biological data in areas identified by the department and the Board of Game as potential candidates for wolf control as required by the intensive management law (AS 16.05.255(g)(1)). Regulations require the department to collect information on ungulate and predator populations before wolf control can occur. We also used some of these funds to evaluate the effects of the wolf control program that was conducted in GMU 20A in 1993 and 1994. The intensive

Mr. Lynn Levengood

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December 14, 1995

management appropriation did not include any specific language on how the funds should be expended. I fully briefed the legislative leadership on how I intended to use these funds prior to the beginning of FY 96.

Answers to the 20 questions you asked are attached (see attachment 2).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wayne Regelin".

Wayne Regelin  
Director

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FROM THE ALASKA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

1. The Board of Game authorized wolf control in GMU 20A beginning January 1, 1996. The Governor has directed the department not to implement any wolf control project until the National Academy of Science evaluates the scientific soundness and the cost effectiveness of predator control. The Board of Game has authority to authorize predator control. Implementation of a control project is the decision of the Governor or the Commissioner of Fish and Game.

2. The department opposes SB77 and HB 170 because this proposed legislation would set bad wildlife policy. This bill promotes an extreme position that would mandate widespread wolf control to increase the harvest of ungulates. The public has demonstrated that they will not accept such practices. If such extreme action is mandated by statute, the public will respond through lawsuits, boycotts, and probably federal intervention.

If enacted, this bill would require the department and the Board of Game to attempt to fulfill often unachievable objectives, ignoring accepted scientific standards, and sacrifice other resources and values.

The bill would preempt the Board of Game's allocation responsibilities and exclude the public from the board process. The bill would impede wildlife range expansion and hinder the recovery of depressed populations by requiring annual allocations of "at least one-half of the harvestable surplus" as a priority over herd growth or health of a wildlife population.

3. Sustained yield is a general principle that should not be limited by law. From an ecological perspective, sustained yield for a wildlife population is the number of animals that can be removed from a population year after year without causing a population to decline. Sustained yield is not a unique value for a population, rather there are a variety of sustained yield values each which corresponds to a different management strategy and to various population levels. In Alaska most wildlife populations are managed on the basis of optimum sustained yield to provide maximum public use opportunities for the variety of species in an area. A limiting definition of sustained yield in statute would hamper, not enhance, wildlife management. Also, the Department of Law has reviewed the ramifications of various proposed definitions of sustained yield and strongly oppose such action.

4. Wildlife population management goals and objectives have been established for big game populations throughout Alaska. In most cases, these goals and objectives have been established by the area wildlife biologist with input from the local advisory committees, regional staff, or planning groups. These are generally established on a Game Management Unit, Subunit, or portion of a subunit basis. Exceptions to this include caribou population goals and objectives which are established for each herd, and sheep goals and objectives which are established for portions of their range (i.e., Central Alaska Range, Chugach Mountains, etc.). Management reports are available in the Fairbanks office for each big game species in Alaska. These contain the goals and objectives of each identified big game population, history of the population and its

use, its current status, and management recommendations to meet population objectives if they are not currently being met.

5. The language in SB 77 and HB 170 defines harvestable surplus as the number of offspring born in a game population during the year less the number of animals in the population that die during the year from all causes other than predation or human harvest. This proposed legislation also mandates a high level of human harvest which is defined as the harvest of one-third or more of the harvestable surplus of a game population by humans. This level of harvest may be achievable at times if winter weather is mild for a series of years, but it would require very low levels of predation. Predator populations would have to be extirpated or reduced to such low levels that their populations would not be usable. Such a harvest level would require a substantial harvest of calves. Cow harvest would also be required to meet such a harvest goal and to maintain a reasonable bull:cow ratio.

Sweden has the most productive moose population in the world. They have very mild winters, no predators in most of the country and an abundance of food due to intensive forest management and because moose can eat pine trees. Even in Sweden, under near ideal conditions, they do not harvest at the rates mandated by SB 77. They do manage moose very aggressively and have a high rate of harvest, but one-half of their harvest are four month old calves and 20-25 percent are cows.

I do not think the mandates in SB 77/HB 170 are achievable over the long-term. I think the Board of Game already has ample direction from the legislature regarding its desire for more intensive management and higher levels of harvest.

6. The constitutional mandate is that fish and wildlife are to be "utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle subject to preferences among beneficial uses." (Alaska Const., Art. VIII, Sect. 4.) Our department takes this mandate seriously and literally. We take the conservative view that, regardless of the beneficial use allocation, sustainability of the subject wildlife population is the top management goal.

7. I am in the process of creating a Human Dimensions in Wildlife section because it is essential that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) understand the economic and social values associated with Alaska's wildlife resources. Alaska statutes charge ADF&G to "manage, protect, maintain, improve, and extend the fish, game and aquatic plant resources of the state in the interest of the economy and general well-being of the state" (AS Title 16, Sec. 16.05.020(2)). This charge clearly requires ADF&G to develop an understanding of how fish and wildlife resources contribute to the economy and well-being of the state, and it will be the goal of the Human Dimensions in Wildlife section to provide decision makers with quantitative information regarding that relationship. The unit will be funded from Federal Aid and Fish and Game Fund revenues.

Because we are just beginning to develop the Human Dimension in Wildlife section, few documents related to the section have been written. In addition to my August 29, 1995, memorandum (which you currently have), the only other document that has been sent within the

Division of Wildlife Conservation regarding human dimensions is a June 15, 1994, memorandum from Chris Smith in which he summarizes the work of a team created to provide the division's Program Review Committee with recommendations on the future of human dimensions research. I am enclosing a copy of that memorandum (attachment A).

8. The Division of Wildlife Conservation has been conducting a study for several years to estimate the economic value of wildlife to the state. This study has produced a several documents relative to the economic value of hunting in Alaska:

- An Economic Impact Analysis of the Big Game Hunting Guide Industry in Alaska by John R. Boyce, Daniel W. McCollum, and John A. Morrison (attachment B);
- Alaska Hunters: Their Hunting Trip Characteristics and Economics by Daniel W. McCollum and SuzAnne M. Miller (a 450+ page report available through state libraries or may be purchased; copy of title page enclosed, attachment C);
- Alaska Nonresident Hunters: Their Hunting Trip Characteristics and Economics by Daniel W. McCollum and SuzAnne M. Miller (a 450+ page report available through state libraries or may be purchased; copy of title page enclosed, attachment D).

9. The controlling statute, AS 16.05.258, indicates that a given game population, or subpopulation, which is subject to customary and traditional uses, must be managed under a Tier II regime when the harvestable surplus is insufficient to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses. Whenever the harvestable surplus is sufficient, the Tier II scheme for limiting participation would no longer be appropriate.

10. Our harvest data indicate that Alaska has not experienced a severe decline in human harvest of moose, caribou, and sheep in the last five years. The estimated statewide moose harvest has remained relatively constant with 7257 reported taken in 1989-90 and 7282 taken in 1993-94 (range 5999-7282). Caribou harvests have increased steadily from 9997 taken in 1989-90 to 17,519 taken in 1993-94. Sheep harvests were stable at about 1400 taken annually until 1992-93 when they declined to 1132 and remained at this level the following year. We believe the effects of the severe winters in the late 80s and early 90s had a significant influence on declining sheep populations throughout Alaska. We heard from several Interior residents that they believed predation was the major cause of the sheep decline, and in spring 1995 we initiated a lamb mortality study in the Central Alaska Range to determine the relative influence of various predators on each year's cohort. This study will continue through 1996.

11. When I refer to "managing the system", I am referring to the interrelationships between moose, caribou, wolves and bears. Management actions directed toward one species will often influence other species and we must be aware of these interactions. I do not recall using the term biodiverse management. I am not familiar with this term and do not know what it means.

12. The department supports the current bear regulations in GMU 13, including the one bear per year bag limit.

13. Current policy of the Board of Game is to maintain at least 350 grizzly bears in GMU 13. Population and harvest goals for all hunted species occurring in GMU 13 will be considered by the board in March, 1997. At this board meeting the department will provide a biological assessment of current status and goals. We may suggest changes to goals or regulations at that time if we think a change is needed.

14 and 15. The National Academy of Science (NAS) was asked by Governor Knowles to consider undertaking a scientific review and cost/benefit analysis of predator control in Alaska. The department is currently in negotiations with the NAS to determine if they will conduct such a review, what specific questions they would address and the cost for such a review. The NAS is interested in this project, but we have not reached agreement on the statement of task (specific questions and products) or costs. If we reach agreement with the NAS, I will send you a copy of the agreement. It is not appropriate to release this information until an agreement has been reached.

16. This question was addressed in the letter that accompanies these answers (last paragraph on page 2).

17. The department's definition of intensive management is "management of an identified big game prey population to enhance, extend, and develop the population to maintain high levels of human harvest, including control of predators and prescribed or planned use of fire and other habitat improvement techniques."

18. Information on these projects, including costs, was provided to the AWCA in a letter from Dan Reed to Bill Hagar on November 29, 1995. (I have attached this letter as attachment E.)

19. No. The department has not misused any Federal Aid or Fish and Game Funds. Annual audits of these accounts verify this fact.

20. The Division of Wildlife Conservation is committed to conserving and enhancing Alaska's wildlife. All of the division's programs address this commitment. This commitment includes restoring populations that are depleted and have been identified as important to Alaskans for their use. Examples of current programs designed to restore populations include the Fortymile caribou effort, implementation plans for 19D, 20A, and 20D, prescribed fire plans in Unit 20A, efforts with the Division of Forestry to improve wildlife habitat through various logging practices, efforts with the Alaska Fire Service to identify natural fires that should be allowed to burn and rejuvenate habitat, and transplants of wildlife when and if appropriate for the habitat such as the recent ruffed grouse transplant to the Kenai Peninsula.

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

5/9/96  
Finance

(9)  
Date Referred to Committee: April 15, 1996

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 5-3-96

The RESOURCES Committee considered:

CSSB 247(RLS) am(efd fld)(ct rule fld)

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 247(RLS) AM(EFD FLD)(CT RULE FLD)

USE OF FISH & GAME FUND/COMM'R'S POWERS

"An Act restricting the use of certain funds deposited in the fish and game fund; ~~amending Rules 79(b) and 82(b)(2), Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure~~, and relating to the powers and duties of the commissioner of fish and game; and providing for an effective date."

recommends it be replaced with the following committee substitute HCS CSSB 247(RES)  the same title  a new title

additional referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee  
 attached amendment(s)

ADOPTS: \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept) \_\_\_\_\_ APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date) \_\_\_\_\_

fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Senate  
 (3) fiscal note(s) (3) F+G 4-10-96

zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_  Senate  
 zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

DPS 4-4-96

SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS	DP	DNP	NR	AM
<del>_____</del> Nicholia				X
<del>_____</del> DAULES		X		
<del>_____</del> Long			X	
<del>_____</del> Williams	X			
<del>_____</del> Green	✓			
<del>_____</del> KOTI	✓			
<del>_____</del> Ogan	✓			
<del>_____</del> GUSTERMAN			X	
	(4)	(1)	(2)	(1)

CO-CHAIR'S SIGNATURE [Signature]  
Green