

SB

122

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: SB 122
 (S) Publish Date: 3/6/03

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Fish and Game
 Title Annual wildlife conservation pass and BRU Administration
nonresident big game tag fee increase Component Administration
 Sponsor Rules Committee
 Requester Governor Component No. 479

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Personal Services	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
Travel						
Contractual	555.0	570.0	596.0	623.0	653.0	683.0
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	575.0	590.0	616.0	643.0	673.0	703.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES (1024)	206.0	536.7	536.7	536.7	536.7	536.7
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Fish and Game Fund)	575.0	590.0	616.0	643.0	673.0	703.0
TOTAL	575.0	590.0	616.0	643.0	673.0	703.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost: 35.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time	1	1	1	1	1	1
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The number of vendors will increase since many of the tour guide operators and cruise ship companies do not currently sell licenses/tags. We will need an additional part-time employee to deal with the increase in mailings of stock to vendors, processing of revenue, and reconciliation of vendor accounts. Contractual costs are postage, printing of Pass and printing of vendor collection reports.

See Department of Fish and Game/Division of Wildlife Conservation's fiscal note for revenue projections. In addition to the contractual costs outlined above, AS16.05.390 entitles vendors to retain 5% of the fee that is charged. Retained fees the first fiscal year would be \$375.0. Net revenue would be \$7125.0.

Prepared by: Kevin Brooks, Director Phone 465-5999
 Division Administrative Services Date/Time 3/6/03 10:00 AM
 Approved by: Kevin Duffy, Acting Commissioner Date 3/6/2003
 Agency Department of Fish and Game

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 122 FN #1

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

AS16.05.390 also entitles vendors to receive \$1.00 for each pass sold. Additional compensation the first year would be \$500.0. The additional compensation is reflected in the contractual costs above.

FY03 costs will be incurred for preparation of the wildlife conservation passes and the distribution to vendors.

Note: The fiscal note does include any projections of Wildlife Conservation Pass expense related to Alaska residents as under this bill regulations exempting Alaskans will be adopted to the extent allowed by law.

Big Game Tag Fee Increase:

Assumption: The number of tag sales will remain constant.

Fish and Game Fund: The increase in Caribou, Sheep, Moose and Goat big game tags will result in a revenue increase of \$206.0 the first fiscal year based on the following: 1. Sales remain same as tags sold during January through June, 2002. The following fiscal years, the revenue increase is based on a full calendar year of tag sales, \$536.7. AS16.05.390 entitles vendors to retain 5% of the fee that is charged. Retained fees for the additional revenue raised would total \$10.3. Total revenue raised would then net the first year \$195.7. The following fiscal years, net would be \$509.9.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 2
 Bill Version: SB 122
 (S) Publish Date: 3/6/03

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Fish and Game
 Title Annual wildlife conservation pass and BRU Wildlife Conservation (147)
nonresident big game tag fee increase Component CARA Implementation
 Sponsor Rules Committee
 Requester Governor Component No. 2564

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual	70.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0
Supplies	25.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	95.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES (1004)	7,500.0	7,875.0	8,269.7	8,682.4	9,116.1	9,571.9
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
1024 Fish and Game Fund	95.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0
TOTAL	95.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost: 30.0
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

Annual revenue estimates are based on the following assumptions:
 1) About 1.2 million nonresidents will travel to Alaska as tourists in FY04. Of these about 300,000 will purchase a hunting, fishing or trapping license and therefore would not be required to purchase an annual Wildlife Conservation Pass. Of the remaining 900,000 nonresidents (some of whom are under the age of 16), we project that approximately 500,000 would purchase the pass, generating about \$7.5 million in revenue.
 2) We project that the number of pass purchasers will increase by an estimated 5% annually based on current tourism trends.

Prepared by: Matt Robus, Acting Director Phone 465-4190
 Division Wildlife Conservation Date/Time 3/6/03 10:01 AM
 Approved by: Kevin Duffy, Acting Commissioner Date 3/6/2003
 Agency Department of Fish and Game

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 122 FN #2

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

Note: The fiscal note does not include any projections of Wildlife Conservation Pass revenue related to Alaska residents as under this bill regulations exempting Alaskans will be adopted to the extent allowed by law.

The operating costs, including FY03 costs, associated with the wildlife conservation pass are for outreach to 1) prospective purchasers of the pass to inform them of these new requirements and 2) those who will be selling the passes (e.g., cruise ship companies, tour operators, etc). We expect to produce newspaper articles and radio and television public service announcements, develop fliers for vendors to post explaining the new program, a brochure describing how the funds will be used, and other materials to explain the program to vendors and participants. During the first year of implementation, costs will be significantly higher than in following years when materials have been produced and the program is in place. However, some outreach will continue to be necessary.

Note: The costs of printing the passes, administering the program, and providing compensation to vendors is included in the fiscal note submitted by the Department of Fish and Game, Division of Administrative Services.

STATE OF ALASKA

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

P.O. BOX 25526
JUNEAU, AK 99802-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-4100
FAX: (907) 465-2332

March 12, 2003

The Honorable Scott Ogan, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Re: SB 122 "An Act relating to an annual wildlife conservation pass and the fee for that pass; relating to nonresident alien big game tag fees; and providing for an effective date."

Dear Senator Ogan:

SB 122 has been introduced by the Governor through the Rules Committee and referred to Senate Resources. The bill establishes a \$15 annual wildlife conservation pass that will be required of nonresidents who utilize commercial service providers of an opportunity to view wildlife. The funds raised through this fee may be appropriated by the legislature for purposes of fish and wildlife management, viewing, and education programs. State expenditures on such programs may be used to match significant new federal dollars that are available to Alaska through the State Wildlife Grants program. SB 120 also raises the nonresident and nonresident alien tag fees for moose, caribou, sheep and goats. Revenue from tag fees is deposited in the Fish and Game Fund for use in wildlife management.

We respectfully request the scheduling of SB 122 in your committee and urge favorable action on the bill. We are available to meet with you or other members of the committee to answer any questions you may have or provide additional information you may desire.

A copy of the bill and the fiscal notes are enclosed. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,


Kevin C. Duffy, Acting Commissioner

Enclosure

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI
GOVERNOR

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Sectional Analysis Senate Bill 122

Senate Rules Committee by Request of the Governor

“An act relating to an annual wildlife conservation pass and the fee for that pass; relating to nonresident and nonresident alien big game tag fees; and providing for an effective date.”

- Section 1:** Legislative findings
- Section 2:** Adds 16.05.115 providing that funds from the sale of annual wildlife conservation passes shall be deposited in a separate account of the general fund and may be appropriated for wildlife management, wildlife viewing, and wildlife-related education programs.
- Section 3:** Amends 16.05.340(a)(15) to raise nonresident big game tag fees for caribou, goat, moose, and sheep.
- Section 4:** Amends 16.05.340(a)(21) to raise nonresident alien big game tag fees for caribou, goat, moose, and sheep.
- Section 5:** Amends 16.05.350(a) to provide that annual wildlife conservation passes expire on Dec. 31.
- Section 6:** Amends 16.05.360(a) to provide an application process for annual wildlife conservation passes.
- Section 7:** Amends 16.05.380 to provide that the commissioner may appoint agents to sell annual wildlife conservation passes.
- Section 8:** Amends 16.05.390(a) to provide that agents are entitled to compensation. Compensation is \$1 per pass sold and 5% of fees collected.

- Section 9:** Amends 16.05.390 to provide that agents, as directed by the commissioner, shall transmit the required amount of the fees received from sales of annual wildlife conservation passes for deposit in the general fund.
- Section 10:** Amends 16.05.390(c) to provide for payment of compensation to vendors for sales of annual wildlife conservation passes.
- Section 11:** Amends 16.05.390(e) to provide that state employees shall not receive compensation for sales of annual wildlife conservation passes.
- Section 12:** Amends 16.05.390(f) to provide that proceeds and reports from sales of annual wildlife conservation passes must be submitted monthly unless otherwise established by contract.
- Section 13:** Adds Sec. 16.05.417 to require nonresidents age 16 and older to purchase a \$15 annual wildlife conservation pass before using a "commercial provider of an opportunity to view public wildlife." Provides exemptions for Alaska residency and for persons who meet certain criteria. Exempts persons traveling on the Alaska Marine Highway System. Provides that commercial providers of an opportunity to view public wildlife may not provide service to persons required to have a valid annual wildlife conservation pass unless they hold such a pass. Defines commercial provider; field; public wildlife; and transportation as they relate to this section.
- Section 14:** Amends 16.05.420 to provide the conditions and penalties for making a false statement in an application for an annual wildlife conservation pass.
- Section 15:** January 1, 2004 effective date for sections 3 and 4.
- Section 16:** July 1, 2003 effective date for other than sections 3 and 4.

Contributions by Hunters and Anglers to Fish and Wildlife Management

Wildlife conservation funding:

- The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, popularly known as the Pittman-Robertson (P-R) Act, was approved by Congress in 1937 to provide funding for wildlife research as well as restoration, rehabilitation and improvement of wildlife habitat. The Act was amended in 1970 to include funding for hunter training programs and the development, operation and maintenance of target ranges.
- Funds are derived from an 11% federal excise tax on sporting arms, ammunition, and archery equipment, and a 10% tax on handguns. These funds are collected from manufacturers by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and are apportioned each year to states on a formula basis. Funds for hunter education and target ranges are derived from one-half of the tax on handguns and archery equipment.
- The apportionment formula considers the total area of the state and the number of licensed hunters in the state. States must provide at least 25 percent of project costs from a non-federal source.
- In the more than 50 years since "P-R" began, over \$2 billion in federal excise taxes have been matched by more than \$500 million in state funds (chiefly from hunting license fees) for wildlife restoration.

Sport fisheries:

- The Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act, commonly referred to as the Dingell-Johnson (D-J) Act, passed in 1950, and was modeled after the Pittman-Robertson Act to create a parallel program for the management, conservation, and restoration of fishery resources.
- The Sport Fish Restoration program is funded by revenues collected from manufacturers of fishing rods, reels, creels, lures, flies and artificial baits, who pay an excise tax on these items. An amendment in 1984 (Wallop-Breaux Amendment) extended the excise tax to previously untaxed sport fishing equipment.
- State apportionment is based 60% on its licensed anglers and 40% on its land and water area. No State may receive more than 5% or less than 1% of each year's total apportionment.
- In the past 50 years, the Sport Fish Restoration Act has provided over \$3.6 billion to the states to fund research and inventory projects; to build or reclaim 1,200 fishing or boating access sites; and to purchase over 260,000 acres as fishing access areas, boat landings, piers, and fish production sites.

How States are Matching New Federal "State Wildlife Grant" (CARA) Funds

- **Arkansas:** 1/8 of 1% of the state sales tax goes to wildlife and state parks programs. This is generating about \$20 million annually for wildlife programs. **Missouri** also gets significant revenue for wildlife conservation from their state sales tax.
- **Louisiana:** Requires anyone over 16 and under 60 who uses lands administered by their wildlife agency to purchase a "Wild Louisiana Stamp." Cost of the stamp "shall not exceed \$10."
- **Maine:** Governor Baldacci has proposed a \$6 registration fee for canoes and kayaks that would generate \$861,000 for their wildlife agency.
- **Virginia:** ½ of the 4.5% sales tax collected on wildlife-related recreational equipment (bird seed, field guides) goes to wildlife conservation.
- **35 states:** Have a check-off for wildlife conservation on their income tax forms.
- **Colorado:** Dedicates proceeds from its state lottery to wildlife conservation, outdoor recreation, and parks. **Arizona** also gets about 80% of its revenue for "CARA" programs from its lottery.
- **Washington:** Is proposing a "wildlife stewardship decal" of \$25 to encourage donations to fund wildlife viewing activities.

Other countries:

- Since 1996, Belize has collected a US \$3.75 conservation fee from each departing visitor and 20% commission from cruise ship passenger fees for conservation.
- The Galapagos National Park collects an entrance fee of \$100 from foreign non-residents over 12 years of age.

Acceptance of fees by visitors appears to be tied to confidence that fee revenues collected will go back to enhance and conserve resources directly related to the fee assessment.

**Background on S.B. 122:
An Act relating to an Annual Wildlife Conservation Pass**

Why a "Wildlife Conservation Pass"?

- The opportunity to view wildlife is one of the main reasons visitors come to Alaska. About 1.2 million visitors travel to Alaska each summer.
- For nearly a century, hunters and anglers have borne most of the cost of wildlife management. While they are willing to pay their fair share to conserve wildlife populations, many have asked why other wildlife enthusiasts have not stepped up to the plate.
- During the last session of Congress, then-Sen. Frank Murkowski and Rep. Don Young sponsored legislation (known as "CARA") that would have provided a new stable source of funding for fish and wildlife management. In response to this proposed legislation, new federal dollars are coming to Alaska. Last year, Alaska received nearly \$4 million in new State Wildlife Grant money. This year we will receive an additional \$3 million.
- These new federal dollars generally must be matched 1:1 with state dollars. SB 122 provides a way for visitors who use and enjoy Alaska's wildlife, but do not purchase hunting or fishing license, to contribute funds that may be used for wildlife management.
- SB 122 requires visitors who take a commercial tour to view wildlife to buy an annual Wildlife Conservation Pass. The cost of the Pass is \$15, less than the cost of 3-day nonresident sport fishing license (\$20) or a nonresident hunting license (\$85). We estimate it will raise about \$7 million in new revenue.
- The billion dollar tourism industry draws substantial revenue each year from marketing Alaska's wildlife. It's only fair that these visitors and the industry that most directly benefits from it help to sustain our fish and wildlife resources. Most visitors will be happy to know they are making a contribution to wildlife conservation in Alaska.
- One of the legislative priorities of the Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA) is "increased wildlife viewing opportunities." These funds could be used to respond to this need by developing interpretive signs for highway pullouts, brochures about viewing opportunities, and other materials to help visitors increase their viewing success and satisfaction. A satisfied visitor is one of the best marketing tools we have.

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI
GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR@GOV.STATE.AK.US



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SB122

March 5, 2003

The Honorable Gene Therriault
President of the Senate
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 107
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Therriault:

Under the authority of art. III, sec. 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill that raises additional revenues for fish and wildlife management programs in Alaska.

Alaska's fish and wildlife is a public resource enjoyed by a variety of users from hunters, trappers and anglers to wildlife viewers, many of whom travel to Alaska to utilize our abundant resources. This legislation ensures that the cost of wildlife management is shared more broadly with those who use and enjoy our wildlife, and that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has the resources necessary to manage Alaska's fish and wildlife resources.

Under this bill, wildlife viewers using certain commercial services will be required to help support management of Alaska's wildlife by purchasing a \$15 annual "wildlife conservation pass" unless they hold another qualifying license or permit. Funds generated will be deposited into a separate account of the general fund and may be used for wildlife management, research, education, and viewing programs.

Alaska is a world class visitor destination, and viewing wildlife is one of the primary visitor attractions. The abundance of wildlife throughout the state provides tremendous economic development opportunities. These user funds will help support wildlife management programs and in so doing will support Alaska's growing tourism industry. Funds from this bill will be used in part to match new federal dollars Alaska is receiving through the State Wildlife Grants Program.

The Honorable Gene Therriault

March 5, 2003

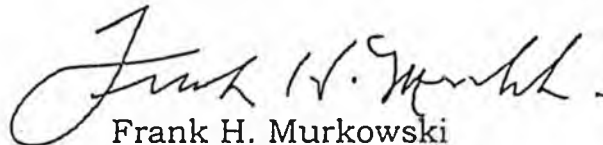
Page 2

This bill also raises the big game tag fees for non-resident and non-resident alien hunters to harvest caribou, moose, goats, and sheep. These increases bring Alaska's fees in line with fees charged in a number of other Western states for these or similar species. In general, hunters visiting our state are more oriented to a recreational experience than Alaska residents and it is important that they support the wildlife management that helps make these resources available.

The fees in this legislation will enhance revenues for a diversity of wildlife management programs. I urge your prompt and favorable action on this legislation.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Frank H. Murkowski".

Frank H. Murkowski
Governor

See Elton
not offered
just discussed

Amendment # 1

p. 2, line 12

Following "wildlife management,"

add:

"fish and wildlife protection,
tourism promotion,"

AMENDMENT

To: SB 122

Page 6, lines 7 – 9:

Delete all material and insert:

(3) a resident who possesses a permanent state identification card issued under AS 18.65.310, a voter registration card issued under AS 15.07.070, a valid driver's license issued under AS 28.15, or who possesses other proof of residence approved by the commissioner.

Page 6, lines 10 – 12:

Delete all material and insert

(4) a person who possesses a sport fishing license, hunting license, trapping license, or a combination of sport fishing, hunting or trapping license issued by the department under this title to the person during the current calendar year.

Page 6, following line 24:

Insert:

(e) The commissioner may issue a duplicate wildlife conservation pass as a replacement for a wildlife conservation pass issued under this section. The fee for a duplicate wildlife conservation pass is \$5. The commissioner shall not issue a duplicate wildlife conservation pass unless the commissioner is satisfied that the original has been lost or destroyed.

Re-letter

THE
FOLLOWING
DOCUMENT(S)
ARE
POOR
ORIGINAL
COPIES



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www.audubon.org

3-28-03

CHAIRMAN SCOTT OGAN
SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ALASKA LEGISLATURE
Juneau, AK

Mr. Chairman and Committee members:

Please accept this letter as Audubon Alaska's recommendations on Senate Bill 122, establishing an annual Wildlife Conservation Pass. Audubon Alaska is dedicated to the conservation of Alaska's natural ecosystems focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations. My name is John Schoen. I am Senior Scientist for Audubon Alaska. Prior to my work with Audubon, I spent over 20 years as a wildlife biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Audubon Alaska supports SB 122 because we believe establishing a state match for federal wildlife dollars will provide significant benefits to the people of Alaska and wildlife conservation. This wildlife conservation pass would essentially be a user fee on people engaging commercial tours involving wildlife viewing.

Although Audubon supports the concept of a user fee to provide a state match for federal wildlife conservation dollars, we have two caveats. First, we believe there should be clear intent language that this funding would go to support wildlife conservation programs in Alaska. Specifically, the money should be focused on nongame conservation, wildlife education, and wildlife viewing programs. These programs will directly benefit the users and the commercial operators involved in wildlife viewing. If this funding were to go in the general fund without clear intent language, Audubon would oppose this legislation. Second we recommend that the legislature work directly with the visitor industry to further refine an appropriate fee structure and implementation date. Finally, I see no reason to exempt Alaska residents from this fee, if they have not already purchased a hunting, fishing, or trapping license.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Audubon Alaska's comments on this important bill.

Sincerely,

John W. Schoen, Ph.D.
Senior Scientist

Friday, March 28, 2003

RE: SB 122 wild life tour pass

Senate Resource Committee
Chairman Ogen and members of the committee,

I would like to express my opposition to passage of this bill as it nothing more than a Alaska visitor head tax.

Nearly all of the Alaskan communities that are involved with tourism have at one time or another considered the option of instituting a visitor head tax and decided against such action due to it's negative impact to the small local business owners. It does not encourage visitors to come to this state and at a time when very limited state resources are devoted to tourism development, the burden lies on individual businesses to promote themselves.

If this head tax were to be designated to the promotion of Alaska tourism, it may have some merit on those grounds. That not being the case, I am strongly opposed to the passage of this bill, as any short term revenue gains will not out weight the long term costs to Alaska small businesses at a time when those businesses are struggling to achieve sustainable reservations in light of current world events.

Thank you for your time.
Very Sincerely

Dennis Rogers
Alaska Sea Adventures
PO Box 542
Petersburg, Alaska 99833

907-772-3137
whales@aptalaska.net

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
DIVISION OF PUBLIC SERVICES

PETERSBURG LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

PHONE: 772-3741

FAX: 772-3779

FAX TRANSMISSION

TO: SENATE Resources Committee

FAX: 465-3265

DATE: 3-28-2003

MESSAGE:

FOR SB 122

From Dennis Rogers

TO THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

Good Afternoon. My name is Julie Hursey. My husband and I own a small charter boat business and run trips out of Petersburg. We became very concerned when we heard the Governor's Budget address, specifically over the issue of the Wildlife Watching Pass". If this bill passes, it could place a financial burden on small Alaskan businesses like ours.

Basically this is a head tax, which will cost each visitor \$15 to watch wildlife in the State. That means a family of six people on one of our trips will pay an extra \$90. And since invoices for this year have already gone out that means our business will have to absorb that cost for each trip. Governor Murkowski said last week that his budget changes were going to cost the average Alaskan about \$300. This tax alone will cost me over \$600 so far this year. Some of the other tour operators I have talked to say that \$15 on one of their trips represents a tax of between 16% to 50% of the total cost. Here in Petersburg, we have a local sales tax of 6%, which would be added on top of that.

Alaska Tourism went into a slump after September 11th, and we are still trying to recover. Our business was down considerably last year. Now with the economy the way it is, and most recently the war with Iraq, our bookings are down from where they should be at this time again this year. Other small Alaska tour operators I have talked to say the same thing.

Americans are staying closer to home in the lower forty-eight, and when they do travel, they are watching their dollars. The State of Alaska should be trying to encourage tourism, not trying to stick visitors with a head tax. It is bad publicity for Alaska. The tourism market is competitive, and people can go to Canada instead, where they get more for their dollar. The Canadian government also spends a lot of money promoting tourism, as I have seen when I have gone to the sportsmen and travel shows.

The money generated by this tax is not going to support the tourist industry in Alaska. Supposedly it will go to a special fund that may or may not be spent on enhancing wildlife viewing. Since it is not constitutional to dedicate funds in that way, there is no guarantee that this will happen. Much of the funding for managing "watchable wildlife" has been cut in recent years. Is that trend suddenly going to be reversed now?

I think it is disingenuous to call this a wildlife conservation pass if the money is not going to be used to conserve wildlife. And by wildlife conservation I do not mean predator control in McGrath. People coming up here to watch wildlife might become very upset if they thought the money they paid to watch a wolf was going to kill a wolf somewhere else in the State. We were affected by a tourism boycott once before over wolf control. There is talk of another boycott now.

The salmon industry has taken a drastic downturn in recent years, and some former commercial fishermen like me have turned to tourism. The local tourist industry, at least in my town is small-scale and in the early stages of development. Added expenses like this wildlife conservation tax eats away at the profit margin. Maybe the big cruise ship lines from Outside can absorb this cost and lower their prices to accommodate the tax, but we can't afford to do that.

I also wonder why there is such a rush to put this tax in place when as yet it is unclear who would be administering the program to collect fees. I also wonder who will be responsible for monitoring who has the pass and who does not. Is this the kind of responsibility that we add to the already overburdened state troopers who are overseeing fish and wildlife? It seems like there are too many unanswered questions to rush this bill through this year.

This season, covering the costs of the wildlife conservation pass is going to make it harder for me to make ends meet. It may sound appealing to pass taxes along to people visiting Alaska from out of state, but in fact, the wildlife-watching pass is going to hurt small Alaskan businesses like mine.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

Julie Hursey
Alaska Passages Adventure Cruises

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
DIVISION OF PUBLIC SERVICES

PETERSBURG LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

PHONE: 772-3741

FAX: 772-3779

FAX TRANSMISSION

TO: *SENATE Resources Committee*

FAX: *465-3265*

DATE: *3-28-2003*

MESSAGE:

FOR SB 122

WESTERN CONSERVATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION
2003 Prices as of 9/20/02

COST TO HUNT-RESIDENT

PROVINCE/STATE	DEER	ELK	BLACK BEAR	TURKEY	MTN LION	MOOSE	SHEEP	ANTELOPE	MTN GOAT	SMALL GAME
Alaska	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00			\$25.00	\$25.00		\$25.00	\$25.00
Alberta	\$58.42	\$33.97	\$14.18	\$25.16	\$51.99	\$33.97	\$51.99	\$51.99		
Arizona	\$22.50	\$64.50	\$13.00	\$15.00	\$13.00		\$184.50	\$64.50		\$25.50
British Columbia (All licenses are subject to 7% Goods & Service Tax)	\$38.52	\$49.22	\$43.87		\$54.57	\$49.22	\$75.97		\$54.57	
California (Prices include application and agent fees)	\$51.45	\$320.25	\$60.90	\$37.80			\$303.75	\$127.75		\$37.80
Colorado	\$20.25	\$30.25	\$30.25	\$10.25	\$30.25	\$200.25	\$150.25	\$20.25	\$150.25	\$15.25
Hawaii	\$35.00			\$25.00			\$35.00		\$35.00	\$25.00
Idaho	\$29.50	\$40.00	\$22.00	\$29.50	\$22.00	\$177.00	\$177.00	\$40.00	\$177.00	\$11.50
Montana (effective 3/1/02)	\$13.00	\$16.00	\$15.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$11.00	\$75.00	\$6.00
Nebraska (Includes \$13.00 Habitat Stamp)	\$38.00	\$143.00		\$33.00				\$39.00		\$11.00
Nevada	\$62.00	\$142.00		\$57.00	\$50.00		\$137.00	\$87.00	\$137.00	\$24.00
New Mexico	\$27.00	\$69.00	\$34.00	\$16.00	\$34.00		\$109.00	\$39.00		\$13.00
North Dakota	\$29.00	\$32.00		\$23.00		\$32.00	\$32.00	\$29.00		\$15.00
Oregon	\$32.00	\$47.00	\$29.00	\$29.00	\$29.00		\$109.00	\$44.00	\$109.00	\$17.50
Saskatchewan (Includes \$11 Wildlife Habitat Certificate)	\$49.00	\$66.00	\$28.00			\$44.00				
South Dakota	\$30.00	\$105.00		\$20.00				\$30.00	\$105.00	\$27.00
Texas										
Utah (includes \$5.00 fee)	\$40.00	\$65.00	\$88.00	\$35.00	\$63.00	\$313.00	\$513.00	\$55.00	\$413.00	\$22.00
Washington (Indicates 9.5% transaction fee)	\$39.42	\$39.42	\$21.90	\$32.85	\$21.90	\$109.50	\$109.50		\$109.50	\$32.85
Wyoming (includes \$10 Conservation Stamp)	\$38.00	\$48.00	\$40.00	\$20.00	\$30.00	\$88.00	\$88.00	\$35.00	\$88.00	\$20.00
Yukon Territory	\$10.00		\$15.00			\$15.00	\$20.00		\$20.00	\$5.00
Average Price	\$34.40	\$74.20	\$32.01	\$25.85	\$34.56	\$96.83	\$129.17	\$48.11	\$115.26	\$19.61
Maximum Price	\$62.00	\$320.25	\$88.00	\$57.00	\$63.00	\$313.00	\$513.00	\$127.75	\$413.00	\$37.80
Minimum Price	\$10.00	\$16.00	\$13.00	\$5.00	\$13.00	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$11.00	\$20.00	\$5.00

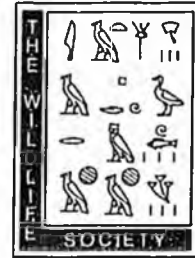
COST TO HUNT-NONRESIDENT

PROVINCE/STATE	DEER	ELK	BLACK BEAR	TURKEY	MTN LION	MOOSE	SHEEP	ANTELOPE	MTN GOAT	SMALL GAME
Alaska	\$235.00	\$385.00	\$310.00			\$485.00	\$510.00		\$385.00	\$85.00
Alberta	\$150.96	\$140.14	\$64.83		\$140.14	\$140.14		\$189.66		
Arizona	\$113.50	\$371.00	\$183.00	\$55.50	\$183.00		\$920.00	\$304.50		\$113.50
British Columbia (Non-resident Alien)	\$235.40	\$315.65	\$294.25		\$315.65	\$315.65	\$583.15		\$369.15	
California (Prices do not include application or agent fees)	\$294.30		\$304.55	\$115.25			\$608.70			\$115.25
Colorado	\$285.25	\$470.25	\$250.25	\$75.25	\$250.25	\$1,580.25	\$1,580.25	\$285.25	\$1,580.25	\$40.25
Hawaii	\$160.00			\$125.00			\$160.00		\$135.00	\$130.00
Idaho	\$363.50	\$467.00	\$363.50	\$190.00	\$363.50	\$1,643.00	\$1,643.00	\$363.50	\$1,643.00	\$73.50
Montana (effective 3/1/02)	\$325.00	\$575.00	\$350.00	\$115.00	\$320.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$200.00	\$750.00	\$110.00
Nebraska (Includes \$13.00 Habitat Stamp)	\$188.00			\$78.00				\$142.00		\$67.00
Nevada	\$324.00	\$1,129.00	\$0.00	\$174.00	\$212.00	\$0.00	\$1,124.00	\$374.00	\$0.00	\$111.00
New Mexico	\$191.00	\$481.00	\$161.00	\$76.00	\$211.00		\$3,016.00	\$202.00		\$76.00
North Dakota	\$170.00						\$610.00	\$165.00		\$85.00
Oregon	\$250.00	\$365.00	\$210.00	\$100.00	\$210.00		\$1,035.00	\$260.00	\$1,035.00	\$58.50
Saskatchewan (Includes \$11 Wildlife Habitat Certificate)	\$291.00		\$176.00			\$341.00				
South Dakota	\$155.00			\$85.00				\$155.00		\$100.00
Texas										
Utah (includes \$5.00 fee)	\$213.00	\$338.00	\$313.00	\$60.00	\$263.00	\$1,013.00	\$1,013.00	\$238.00	\$1,013.00	\$50.00
Washington (Indicates 9.5% transaction fee)	\$394.20	\$394.20	\$219.00	\$164.25	\$219.00	\$1,095.00	\$1,095.00		\$1,095.00	\$164.25
Wyoming (includes \$10 Conservation Stamp)	\$230.00	\$420.00	\$260.00	\$60.00	\$260.00	\$1,020.00	\$1,520.00	\$205.00	\$1,520.00	\$60.00
Yukon Territory	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$230.00			\$155.00	\$260.00		\$210.00	\$20.00
Average Price	\$235.96	\$428.66	\$230.59	\$105.23	\$245.63	\$711.50	\$1,026.76	\$237.30	\$811.28	\$85.84
Maximum	\$394.20	\$1,129.00	\$36	\$190.00	\$363.50	\$1,643.00	\$3,016.00	\$374.00	\$1,643.00	\$164.25
Minimum	\$113.50	\$140.14	\$	\$55.50	\$140.14	\$0.00	\$160.00	\$143.00	\$0.00	\$20.00

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

ALASKA CHAPTER

1910 Glacier Avenue • Juneau, AK 99801



May 6, 2003

The Honorable Senator Scott Ogan
Senate, State Capitol, Rm. 103
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Ogan:

On behalf of the Alaska Chapter of the Wildlife Society, I would like to express our support for SB 122, a bill that would require visitors to Alaska who take a commercial tour to view wildlife to purchase a \$15 annual Wildlife Conservation Pass. This bill would provide much needed revenue for wildlife management programs in Alaska and would help ensure that all users of wildlife help pay the costs associated with conserving wildlife, as hunters and anglers have done for decades. Attached is a Chapter resolution supporting SB 122 that was passed by members at our annual business meeting last month.

We would appreciate hearing your views on this bill, and appreciate any support you can offer in getting it passed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Larsen".

Doug Larsen
Chapter President

RESOLUTION OF THE ALASKA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

A Resolution Supporting H.B. 163 and S.B. 122.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ALASKA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY:

WHEREAS Governor Murkowski has introduced legislation (H.B. 163 and S.B. 122) to raise additional revenues for fish and wildlife management programs in Alaska; and

WHEREAS this legislation would require nonresidents who use a commercial provider of an opportunity to view wildlife to purchase an annual Wildlife Conservation Pass; and

WHEREAS hunters and anglers already contribute substantially to the cost of fish and wildlife management through the purchase of licenses and tags and the payment of excise taxes; and

WHEREAS the Governor's intent is to ensure that "the cost of wildlife management is shared more broadly by those who use and enjoy our wildlife, and that the Department of Fish and Game has the resources necessary to manage Alaska's fish and wildlife resources;" and

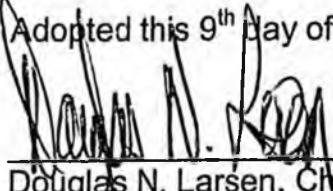
WHEREAS the Alaska chapter of The Wildlife Society endorses these goals; and

WHEREAS the legislation calls for revenues generated from the sale of passes to go into a separate account of the General Fund, where they "may be appropriated by the legislature for the purpose of fish and wildlife management, viewing, and education programs;"

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska Chapter of the Wildlife Society, that the Chapter endorses this proposed legislation, provided that a major portion of the funds are appropriated to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for the stated purposes; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that these funds should be appropriated to match federal funds provided to the Department of Fish and Game through the State Wildlife Grant Program, thus ensuring that Alaska is able to make optimal use of these funds.

Adopted this 9th day of April 2003.



Douglas N. Larsen, Chapter President

**United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters**

P.O. Box 23378, Ketchikan, AK 99901 (907) 247-2471 Fax (907) 225-0241 E-mail: usag@uci.net

April 3, 2003

The Honorable Scott Ogen
Chairman, Senate Resources Committee
State Capitol - Room 103
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Send Via Fax To: 907-465-3265

Dear Senator Ogen;

The United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters Association (USA^G) represents about 150 fishermen who make their living primarily by drift gillnetting for salmon in Southeast Alaska. Many of our members participate in numerous other fisheries such as crab, shrimp, longline, dive fisheries etc.

USA^G supports SB 122 which creates a wildlife viewing pass. We believe it is very appropriate that visitors to our state contribute to the management and protection of the resources they have come here to enjoy. We understand that some of the funds generated by such a pass will be made available to ADFG to support its programs and we favor this use of generated monies. Even if the funds go to the general fund and are used for other purposes, the funds generated by the creation of the viewing pass will support the funding needs of the state.

This type of pass is being used in numerous other places in the lower 48. Examples that come immediately to mind are the Northwest Recreation Pass, and the Red Rock Pass. Both cost \$5.00 per day or \$15.00 for the season. The Northwest Recreation Pass is required in many places in Oregon, Washington etc to park at trailheads, view waterfalls or visit other places of interest in those areas. The Red Rock Pass in the Sedona, Arizona area is required even to pull off the side of the road to view the red rock formations, and is similarly required to park at overlooks and trail heads.

In Alaska, we are reserving timber along ferry routes and main roads for 'view sheds' for visitor's enjoyment. The management of our wild and scenic areas also costs money, as does the management of our wildlife. We urge you and the Senate Resources Committee to support and pass the Wildlife Viewing Pass legislation.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Duckett
Executive Director