

SB

284

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Sen. Charlie Huggins, Chair
Sen. Bert Stedman, Vice Chair
Sen. Lyda Green
Sen. Gary Stevens
Sen. Lesil McGuire
Sen. Bill Wielechowski
Sen. Thomas Wagoner



State Capitol, Room 119
Juneau AK 99801-1182
907-465-3878
Fax: 907-465-3265
800-862-3878

Senate Resources Committee
Butrovich Room 205
Tuesday, March 11 2008
3:30-5:30 p.m.

AGENDA

➤ **SB 267 – Wildlife Violator Compact**
Testimony: By Invitation

➤ **SB 284 – Board of Fisheries: Membership**
Testimony: Time Limit May Be Set

Teleconference

SB 284 Board of Fisheries: Membership

March 19, 2008

[Heard & Held March 11, 2008; heard all who were signed up to speak]

Workdraft CSSB284 vs/V

SB 284 vs C (originally introduced)

- 1. Fiscal Notes**
- 2. Sponsor Statement**
- 3. Support**
- 4. Opposition**
- 5. Statutory authority, duties, schedule**

*Senator's
packet*

SB 284 Board of Fisheries: Membership

March 19, 2008

[Heard & Held March 11, 2008; heard all who were signed up to speak]

Workdraft CSSB284 vs/V

SB 284 vs C (originally introduced)

1. Fiscal Notes

2. Sponsor Statement

3. Support

4. Opposition

5. Statutory authority, duties, schedule

25-LS1500V
Kane
3/5/08

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 284()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATOR GREEN

A BILL
FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the membership of the Board of Fisheries; and providing for an**
2 **effective date."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 *** Section 1. AS 16.05.221(a) is amended to read:**

5 (a) For purposes of the conservation and development of the fishery resources
6 of the state, there is created the Board of Fisheries composed of seven members
7 appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of
8 the legislature in joint session. The governor shall appoint each member on the basis
9 of interest in public affairs, good judgment, knowledge, and ability in the field of
10 action of the board [, AND WITH A VIEW TO PROVIDING DIVERSITY OF
11 INTEREST AND POINTS OF VIEW IN THE MEMBERSHIP]. The appointed
12 members shall be residents of the state and shall be appointed without regard to
13 political affiliation or geographical location of residence. A member of the board
14 may not be an immediate family member of another member of the board. The

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commissioner is not a member of the Board of Fisheries, but shall be ex officio secretary. The board consists of

(1) two members who represent commercial fishing interests and who do not hold and do not have an immediate family member who holds

(A) a sport fishing operator license under AS 16.40.260; or

(B) a sport fishing guide license under AS 16.40.270;

(2) three members who represent personal use or subsistence fishing interests and who

(A) do not hold and do not have an immediate family member who holds

(i) a commercial fishing permit or crewmember permit under AS 16.05.480;

(ii) a sport fishing operator license under AS 16.40.260; or

(iii) a sport fishing guide license under AS 16.40.270;

or

(B) do not own or have an immediately family member who owns a commercial fish processing business;

(3) two members who represent sport fishing interests and who

(A) do not hold and do not have an immediate family member who holds a commercial fishing permit or crewmember permit under AS 16.05.480; or

(B) do not own or have an immediate family member who owns a commercial fish processing business.

* Sec. 2. AS 16.05.221 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(e) In this section, "immediate family member" means

(1) the spouse or domestic partner of the member; or

(2) a parent, child, including a stepchild and an adoptive child, or sibling of the member if the parent, child, or sibling resides with the member, is financially dependent on the member, or shares a substantial financial interest with the member.

1 * Sec. 3. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
2 read:

3 TRANSITION. The amendment to AS 16.05.221(a) made by this Act does not prevent
4 a person who is a member of the Board of Fisheries on the day before the effective date of this
5 Act from continuing to serve until the expiration of the member's term.

6 * Sec. 4. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

SENATE BILL NO. 284

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR GREEN

Introduced: 2/19/08

Referred: Resources, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the membership of the Board of Fisheries; and providing for an**
2 **effective date."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 *** Section 1. AS 16.05 221(a) is amended to read:**

5 (a) For purposes of the conservation and development of the fishery resources
6 of the state, there is created the Board of Fisheries composed of nine [SEVEN]
7 members appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by a majority of the
8 members of the legislature in joint session. The governor shall appoint each member
9 on the basis of interest in public affairs, good judgment, knowledge, and ability in the
10 field of action of the board [, AND WITH A VIEW TO PROVIDING DIVERSITY
11 OF INTEREST AND POINTS OF VIEW IN THE MEMBERSHIP]. The appointed
12 members shall be residents of the state and shall be appointed without regard to
13 political affiliation or geographical location of residence. The commissioner is not a
14 member of the Board of Fisheries, but shall be ex officio secretary. The board

1 consists of

2 (1) three members who represent commercial fishing interests;

3 (2) three members who represent personal use and subsistence
4 fishing interests;

5 (3) three members who represent sport fishing interests.

6 * Sec. 2. The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
7 read:

8 TRANSITION. (a) The governor shall appoint two new members to the Board of
9 Fisheries within 30 days after the effective date of this Act. The two new members of the
10 board must meet the requirements for members of the board, and the addition of the two
11 members may not violate the provisions of AS 16.05.221(a), as amended by sec. 1 of this Act.

12 (b) A person who is a member of the Board of Fisheries on the day before the
13 effective date of this Act continues to serve until the expiration of the member's term.

14 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
Bill Version: SB284
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name) SB284-DFG-BSS-03-07-08 Dept. Affected: Fish and Game
Title Board of Fisheries Membership RDU Administration and Support
Sponsor Senator Lyda Green Component F&G Boards & Advisory Committees
Requester Senate Resources Committee Component Number 2825

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information					
		FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES							
Personal Services	18.9	18.9	18.9	18.9	18.9	18.9	18.9
Travel	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0
Contractual	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Supplies	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Equipment							
Land & Structures							
Grants & Claims							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	43.9	43.9	43.9	43.9	43.9	43.9	43.9

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

1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF	43.9	43.9	43.9	43.9	43.9	43.9	43.9
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other Interagency Receipts							
TOTAL	43.9	43.9	43.9	43.9	43.9	43.9	43.9

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)
 Passage of this bill will increase expenditures by \$43,900 per year.
 Personal Services is the combination of administrative support and honoraria for the additional Board members.
 Administrative support includes payroll, travel and accounting functions.
 The honorarium figure assumes 35 full days and 10 half days of meetings per year.
 Travel is calculated by the attendance at 6 meetings per year.
 Contractual and Supply costs would increase slightly.

Prepared by: Jim Marcotte, Executive Director, Board of Fisheries Phone 465-6095
 Division: Boards Support Section Date/Time 3/7/08 4:00 PM
 Approved by: Tom Lawson, Director Date 3/7/2008
Division of Administrative Services, Department of Fish and Game

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



Interim:

600 East Railroad Avenue
Wasilla, Alaska 99654
(907) 376-3370
(907) 376-3157 Fax

Senator_Lyda_Green@legis.state.ak.us

Session:

State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-6600
Fax (907) 465-3805

Toll Free: 1-877-465-6601

SENATOR LYDA GREEN
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPONSOR STATEMENT

CSSB 284

*"An Act relating to the membership of the Board of Fisheries;
and providing for an effective date."*

CSSB 284 was introduced to provide a statutory board appointment framework and process. This framework will better ensure balance and fairness on the Board of Fisheries as well as provide a more focused effort on conservation measures designed to sustain Alaska's salmon resources.

The Board of Fisheries is currently comprised of seven members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the legislature. Members currently serve three-year terms and their main role is to conserve and develop the fishery resources of the state. Generally, members are chosen to reflect different points of view, interests and regions of the state (AS16.05.221).

The proposed committee substitute brings the number of Board members back to seven, from the nine proposed in the original bill, and statutorily requires that certain qualifications must be met in order to serve on the Board. There are 122 Boards and Commissions in Alaska, and the Board of Fisheries has almost no requirements or guidelines for appointments to the Board.

CSSB 284 puts into statute selection requirements that provide for fair and balanced representation on the Board of Fisheries for years to come, regardless of who may be governor or who may be in political leadership positions at the Department of Fish and Game.

I encourage your support of CSSB 284.

Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR
LYDA GREEN
Senate President

(907) 465-6000
Fax (907) 465-3805

INTERIM ADDRESS:
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654
(907) 376-3370
Fax (907) 376-3157



State Capitol, Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

REPRESENTATIVE
JOHN HARRIS
Speaker of the House

(907) 465-4859
Fax (907) 465-3799

INTERIM ADDRESS:
716 W. 4th Ave. #600
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 269-0129
Fax (907) 269-0128

February 1, 2008

The Honorable Sarah Palin
Governor
State of Alaska
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Governor Palin:

In the past decade the drainages in the Mat-Su valley have experienced historically low salmon runs and some species have not met escapement goals in five of the last seven years. For example, in 2005 only 36,921 sockeye returned to the Yentna River, a shortage of more than 50,000 fish at the lower end of the escapement goal, and more than 120,000 under the upper objective. Fish Creek (Big Lake system) is even in worse shape. Minimum escapement goals have not been achieved in the past four years, despite enhancement from hatchery fish.

The problem with not meeting escapement goals for Northern District bound salmon are two-fold; it is unacceptable biologically, and it presents serious challenges to local economies.

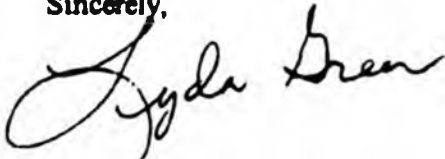
If adequate escapement goals are not met, the state may soon be facing both biological as well as economic problems in the Cook Inlet area. Without adequate escapement, salmon stocks may decline throughout enough of their historic range to induce actions by various groups that could be harmful to both local and state economic interests.

Although allocation issues exist between fishing groups, biological issues could lead to restrictions or curtailment of fishing activities across the board. If that were to happen, the economic benefits derived from both the commercial and sport fish effort may be lost. Such an outcome would be devastating to many of the Inlet's local economies and would almost certainly impact the state's economy as well.

We are, however, encouraged by the heightened awareness toward this issue by local businesses. The recent actions of the Mat-Su Borough and the Willow Chamber of Commerce highlight the importance of adequate salmon returns to our local economies.

We are committed to working with you, local fishing groups, local businesses impacted by returns or the lack thereof, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to find a meaningful solution to this growing problem. We must give our biologists the tools they need to discover the root causes of declining returns, as well as the resources necessary to rebuild our failing salmon stocks.

Sincerely,



Senator Lyda Green
President of the Senate



Representative John Harris
Speaker of the House

cc: Denby Lloyd, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game
Emil Notti, Commissioner, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic
Development
Mel Morris, Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries



Willow Chamber of Commerce

March 10, 2007

To Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
Board of Fisheries
Board Support Section
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Upon review of the action request from Board of Fisheries Chairman Mel Morris and through our member's own observations, the Willow Chamber of Commerce can make the following recommendations.

Because the single most important economic base for Willow based businesses is tourism and specifically recreation minded visitors, our Chamber of Commerce encourages wise protection of our recreational resources. Our fisheries are our most cherished resource. The value of a single fish to our community and our state is huge when caught by our visitors or by our own family members as our traditional food source. When an economist adds up the true value of a sport caught fish they would probably recognize a visitors air fare, car rental, gas purchases, hotel or bed and breakfast charges groceries or restaurant bills as well as fishing licenses and gear and guides fees. Because our Willow Chamber of Commerce is made up of businessmen and women who earn our living from the money spent in the pursuit of sport fish and game we urge the state to do whatever possible to ensure the quota of fish that reach our local streams and the upper Susitna Valley sustainable fisheries. Its spawning fish numbers and healthy hatch numbers must be increased or doom is inevitable for all the commercial, subsistence and recreational fishermen as well.

Please see to it that there are substantial decreases in high seas and lower Cook Inlet commercial catches so that there may be more fish for everyone in years to come.

With the future in mind and heart,
Sincerely,

Jim Huston, President
Willow Chamber of Commerce

Cc: Senator Lyda Green
Senator Charles Huggins
Representative Mark Newman
Bruce Knowles
Representative Bill Stoltz
Representative Wes Keller
Representative Carl Gatto

Willow Chamber of Commerce

Mail@willowchamber.org

P.O. Box 183

Willow, Alaska, 99688, USA

phone: (907) 495-6800

fax: (907) 495-6807

for

Action: 01/15/08

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 08-005(AM)**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY REQUESTING THE ALASKA STATE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME (1) RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF FISHERIES THAT SOCKEYE AND CHUM SALMON STOCKS OF THE SUSITNA (YENTNA) RIVERS AND FISH CREEK BE DESIGNATED STOCKS OF CONCERN"; (2) PREPARE A PLAN FOR SALMON ESCAPEMENT ENUMERATION; (3) ESTABLISH ESCAPEMENT GOALS FOR ALL SALMON SPECIES OF THE NORTHERN DISTRICT; AND (4) SUPPORT THE ENACTMENT OF THE SUSTAINABLE SALMON POLICY INTO STATE LAW.

WHEREAS, the commercial harvest of sockeye salmon from the Northern District of Cook Inlet (NCI) has declined from an average of 180,000 in the 1980's to an average of 26,000 sockeye since 2002; and

WHEREAS, the commercial harvest of Upper Cook Inlet chum salmon has declined from 880,000 annually in the 1980's to fewer than 100,000 salmon during recent years; and

WHEREAS, spawning escapements for Susitna River sockeye have fallen below the minimum goal in five of the past seven years; and

WHEREAS, Fish Creek sockeye escapement thresholds have not been achieved over half of the time over the past ten years; and

WHEREAS, there are no escapement targets for chum salmon in NCI; and

WHEREAS, sport fisheries have been subject to continuous restrictions such as the prohibition of harvesting of sockeye over the past four years; and

WHEREAS, Northern Cook Inlet set net fisheries have had one or more closed fishing periods in each of the past seven years (except

2003); and

WHEREAS, commercial drift net fishing periods have been restricted annually since 2001; and

WHEREAS, chronic inability to maintain both minimum spawning escapements and expected harvests has occurred despite continuous restrictions on the fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the State's Sustainable Salmon Policy falls short of its potential by being regarded as a set of recommendations rather than clear legislative direction and as such being too easy to set aside, as management decisions are made; and

WHEREAS, genetic stock identification studies are in mid-course and other Susitna Basin fishery investigations are also in progress, the number of issues cited herein indicate further action is in order; and

WHEREAS, closures, restrictions and related regulatory actions have had, and will continue to have, significant social and economic impacts on Alaskans who rely on these resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly requests that the Alaska State Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) recommend to the Board of Fisheries (with Governor's Office Support) that sockeye and chum salmon stocks of the Susitna (Yentna) Rivers and Fish Creek be designated "stocks of concern", specifically yield concerns, as mandated by the Sustainable Salmon Policy (SAAC 39.222); and

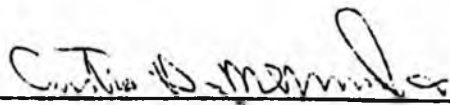
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly requests that the Legislature, with the support of the Governor, fund the development and application of technology that will assure acquisition of multi-species escapement information for Susitna (Yentna) River and Fish Creek salmon with emphasis on sockeye, coho, and chum in that priority. This includes providing on-going funding for enumerating coho salmon at the Deshka Weir; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly requests ADF&G to prepare a phased enumeration plan, with cost estimates showing the funds needed to add each species beyond sockeye to the project. The development of an all-species enumeration project plan and cost figures by phase will allow the Legislature and the Governor to decide the extent to which studies will be cost-effective given the current fiscal environment; and

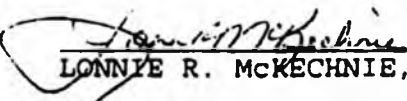
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly considers it essential that escapement goals ultimately be established for all salmon species of the Northern Cook Inlet. It is acknowledged that it could require as much as seven years of capturing escapement counts (per above) to gain sufficient knowledge in support of establishing those goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly requests that the ADF&G and the Governor support legislative action to enact into statute (and/or regulation as appropriate) a codified version of the Sustainable Salmon Policy.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 15 day
of January, 2008.


CURTIS D. MENARD, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, Acting Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Woods, Houston, Church, Bettine, and Kluberton

for

**GREATER WASILLA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
RESOLUTION #01-08**

A RESOLUTION OF THE GREATER WASILLA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REQUESTING THE STATE OF ALASKA, DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF FISHERIES THAT SOCKEYE AND CHUM SALMON STOCKS OF THE SUSITNA (YETNA) RIVERS AND FISH CREEK BE DESIGNATED "STOCKS OF CONCERN," AND PREPARE A PLAN FOR SALMON ESCAPEMENT ENUMERATION; AND ESTABLISH ESCAPEMENT GOALS FOR ALL SALMON SPECIES OF THE NORTHERN DISTRICT, AND SUPPORT THE ENACTMENT OF THE SUSTAINABLE SALMON POLICY INTO STATE LAW.

WHEREAS, the commercial harvest of sockeye salmon from the Northern District of Cook Inlet (NCI) has declined from an average of 180,000 in the 1980's to an average of 26,000 sockeye since 2002; and

WHEREAS, the commercial harvest of Upper Cook Inlet chum salmon has declined from 880,000 annually in the 1980's to fewer than 100,000 salmon during recent years; and

WHEREAS, spawning escapements for Susitna River sockeye have fallen below the minimum goal in five of the past seven years; and

WHEREAS, Fish Creek sockeye escapement thresholds have not been achieved over half of the time over the past ten years; and

WHEREAS, there are no escapement targets for chum salmon in NCI; and

WHEREAS, sport fisheries have been subject to continuous restrictions such as the prohibition of harvesting of sockeye over the past four years; and

WHEREAS, Northern Cook Inlet set net fisheries have had one or more closed fishing periods in each of the past seven years (except 2000); and

WHEREAS, commercial drift net fishing periods have been restricted annually since 2001; and

WHEREAS, chronic inability to maintain both minimum spawning escapements and expected harvests has occurred despite continuous restrictions on the fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the state's Sustainable Salmon Policy falls short of its potential by being regarded as a set of recommendations rather than clear legislative direction and as such being too easy to set aside as management decisions are made; and

WHEREAS, genetic stock identification studies are in midcourse and other Susitna Basin fishery investigations are also in progress, the number of issues cited herein indicate further action is in order; and

WHEREAS, closures, restrictions and related regulatory actions have had, and will continue to have, significant social and economic impacts on Alaskans who rely on these resources.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce requests the State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), recommend to the Board of Fisheries (with Governor's Office Support) that sockeye and chum salmon stocks of the Susitna (Yetna) Rivers and Fish Creek be designated "stocks of concern", specifically yield concerns, as mandated by the Sustainable Salmon Policy (5 AAC 39.222); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce requests the legislature, with the support of the Governor, fund the development and application of technology that will assure acquisition of multi-species escapement information for Susitna (Yetna) River and Fish Creek salmon with emphasis on sockeye,

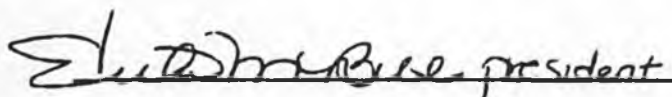
coho, and chum in that priority. This includes providing on-going funding for enumerating coho salmon at the Deshka Weir; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce requests ADF&G to prepare a phased enumeration plan, with cost estimates showing the funds needed to add each species beyond sockeye to the project. The development of an all-species enumeration project plan and cost figures by phase will allow the legislature and the Governor to decide the extent to which studies will be cost-effective given the current fiscal environment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce considers it essential that escapement goals ultimately be established for all salmon species of the Northern Cook Inlet. It is acknowledged that it could require as much as seven years of capturing escapement counts (per above) to gain sufficient knowledge in support of establishing those goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce requests the ADF&G and the Governor support legislative action to enact into statute (and/or regulation as appropriate) a codified version of the Sustainable Salmon Policy.

ADOPTED by the Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce on January 31, 2008.

 Erika Bills, President of the Board

 Cheryl Meliva, CEO

favor



415 E. Railroad Avenue (Historic Depot) • Wasilla, AK 99654
Email: info@wasillachamber.org

Telephone (907) 376-1299 • Fax (907) 378-2560
Home Page: www.wasillachamber.org

Voted "Alaska's Outstanding Local Chamber of Commerce ~ 1998, 2006"
"Home of the Iditarod" & "Home of the Iron Dog"

March 11, 2008



Senator Lyda Green
Senate President
600 East Railroad Ave. Ste 1
Wasilla, AK. 99654



Re: Senate Bill # 284

Dear Senator Green,



Please accept this letter as support for Senate Bill # 284. The Greater Wasilla Chamber Board of Directors unanimously supports the passage of this bill. We can provide a resolution supporting this bill at a later date if necessary. If you have any questions or require further information please feel free call me at 907-232-5899 or the Chamber office at 907-376-1299.



Thank you for your time,



Erika M Bills
Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce President



favor

Noel and Jean Woods
PO Box 827
Palmer, Alaska 99645
Mar. 11, 2008

Tel: (907) 745-3027
Fax: (907) 745-5019

Senate Resource Committee
Juneau, Alaska

Thirty years ago Sam McDowell and Noel appeared before the Board of Fisheries with charts that showed a deliberate prejudice against upper Cook Inlet personal use fishermen. (50% of Alaska's population) We were able to show that every time the escapement of salmon into streams of the Northern Cook Inlet did not meet escapement goals the board of fisheries would lower the goals. This has continued until today residents who wish the same opportunity to share in the harvest of thier food source have been denied thier right by regulation.

Jean and Noel have fished for salmon for personal use for 53 years in Northern Cook Inlet waters

Please pass SB 284

*Noel W. Woods
Jean H. Woods*



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Resource
committee name
 Committee on CSSB 284, dated 3-11-08
bill # / subject public hearing date

I support Bill 284 in the hopes that it will bring more balance & equality to the board of Fisheries and bring forth more effort on conservation designed to provide Alaska with future Salmon Resources

Signed: Russell E. Lacy Russell E. Lacy
Testifier
Myself
Representing (optional)
35950 Forerunner St Soldotna AK 99669
Address
260-4729
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Resource Committee
committee name

Committee on Senate Bill #284, dated 3/11/88
bill # / subject public hearing date

Like the idea that the Board of Fish would be representative of various user groups.
No problem with (1) & (3) as written
Concern about (2)

First, believe that personal use and subsistence should be represented. However, ~~do~~ believe that another user group should be included, that being Tourism.

With 3 user groups included in part (2) each could have one representative.

Signed:

Joe Connor
Testifier

self - Tourism & Lodge Owner
Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 1085, Sterling, AK 99672
Address

262-9496
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Senate Resource
committee name

Committee on

SB 284

bill #/subject

, dated

3-11-08

public hearing date

I support Senate Bill # 284, which ask for FAIR Representation of the make up of the Board of Fish members. This FRAMEWORK in the bill will better ensure the balance & FAIRNESS of the makeup of the board. Thank you for taking the time to read over this.

Signed:

Steve McClure

Testifier

myself

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 2263 Soldotna ALASKA

Address

262-2977

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 284, dated 3/11/08
bill #/subject public hearing date

My name is Mark Glassmaker and I would like to express my support for Bill 284 as I feel it will ~~also~~ establish more equal representation among user groups on the Alaska Board of Fisheries. I am a nineteen year Kenai River guide and have participated extensively in the past several board of fish upper Cook Inlet Fin fish meetings and have seen first hand how a board without assigned seats can favor one particular user group in allocative issues. Having ~~no~~ pre-determined seat assignments for Board members would help to ensure a more fair and equitable Board of Fish process.

Signed: [Signature]
Testifier

Self - Sport fishing
Representing (optional)

33361 Keystone Drive Sedotna, AK 99669
Address

907-262-0892
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on CSSB 284, dated 3/11/08
bill #/subject public hearing date

In my opinion we do need frame work in place that gives our Governor direction on how to choose Board of Fish board members that will be fair to all user groups. I also feel that the tourism industry is represented in this frame work. In the past Comm Fish has been heavily weighted to the detriment of Sport fish. We have complex issues on the World Famous Kenai River.

I will be supporting bill 284.

I am concerned about our current Governors relationship to Comm. Fish. The Sport Fishing Industry / Tourism Industry is growing and needs to be treated fairly.

Signed:

David Doyne
Testifier

Sport Fishing
Representing (optional)

3915 Clipper Cir, Kenai, Ak. 99611
Address

907-283-9026 call ~~at~~ 907-282-3503
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB284, dated 3/11/08
bill # / subject public hearing date

I am in favor of the said proposed changes to bill SB284. My concerns lie in appointing "3 members" who represent personal use or subsistence fishing interests. I would like to see a seat or two set aside especially for charter owners. Commercial fishing, personal use and subsistence interests all have guaranteed seats. Sport fishing interests are represented but no guarantee of a commercial sportfish interest.

I am in favor of SB284 ... that it will provide structure to appointment of future Board of Fisheries members.

Signed:

Aaron Cooper

Representing (optional)

PO 1447 Kenai AK 99611
Address

907-335-2248
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on 284 . dated 3/11/08
bill # / subject public hearing date

I support the concept of 284,

However after participating in several Board of fish meetings. I am concerned that the board members are asked to decide how to proceed on several very complex sport fishing issues. Members with no fishing experience have a very difficult time understanding how their actions impact a fishery. So I would encourage you to reevaluate the 3 sub/personal use seats, and substitute 2 personal use / subsistence and 1 tourism or charter operator seat. This could help the board be more balanced and more effective on sorting out complex fisheries such as the Kenai River.

Signed: Monte Roberts
Testifier

Sport fish Charter Operator
Representing (optional)

PO Box 1106
Address

907 262-8518
Phone number

March 10, 2008

**Senator Charlie Huggins, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Mail Stop 3100
Juneau AK 99801**

Re: CS 284 Board of Fisheries membership

Dear Senator Huggins and members of Senate Resources:

On behalf of Concerned Area M Fishermen (CAMF), I am writing to express our group's opposition to Senate Bill 284, or its committee substitute. CAMF is an organization representing salmon fishermen who fish the Alaska Peninsula. Our members reside throughout coastal Alaska, from Dutch Harbor to Petersburg. CAMF has been involved in many Board of Fisheries meetings over the past twenty years, and we certainly have been in the position of being dismayed by particular Board decisions.

However, we are strongly opposed to the concept of having "designated" seats for particular user groups on the Board of Fisheries. Whether one happens to like or dislike particular decisions the Board makes, in general we believe the current Board system works well. We believe the Board should be comprised of knowledgeable individuals who have the best interests of Alaska's resources in mind, without particular regard to who they "represent". We believe that the composition of the Board should be left to the discretion of the Governor of the State.

Further, in our experience there is not a long line of people standing in line asking to serve on the Board of Fisheries. It is a challenging and daunting task and one that consumes a significant amount of personal time. We believe if such a bill as SB 284 was

passed, it would further complicated the ability of the Governor to
appoint good people to the Board of Fisheries.

For these reasons, we do not support CS 284 .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Brown". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Steve Brown, President
35717 Walkabout Rd.
Homer, AK 99603

opposed

Petersburg Vessel Owners Association

P.O. Box 232

Petersburg, Alaska 99833

Phone (907) 772-9323

March 11, 2008

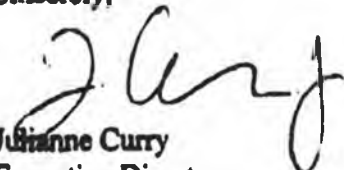
Senator Charlie Huggins, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Mail Stop 3100
Juneau AK 99801
Fax: 907.465.3265

RE: OPPOSE SB 284 BOARD OF FISH DESIGNATED SEATS

The Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) is a diverse group of commercial fishermen that participate in a variety of fisheries in Southeast and throughout the State of Alaska. PVOA opposes SB 284 which would designate seats on the Board of Fisheries. PVOA recognizes the importance of quality Board members. Appointments to the Board of Fish are made on the basis of interest in public affairs, good judgment, knowledge, and ability in the field of action of the board, and with a view to provide diversity of interests and points of view in the membership.

PVOA is a longstanding supporter of the Board of Fish and the nomination process and we oppose this legislation. The existing practice of Board nominations by the Governor and confirmation of nominations by the Legislature provides for sufficient review of candidates and their potential contribution to the Board of Fish which governs fisheries that are vital to coastal Alaska.

Sincerely,



Julianne Curry
Executive Director



Native Village of Eyak
110 Nicholoff Way ~ PO Box 1388 - Cordova, AK 99574
Phone: (907) 424-7738 ~ Fax: (907) 424-7739
www.nveyak.com

appeal

Senate Resources Committee
Attn: Senator Huggins, Chair
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 205
Juneau, AK 99801

11 March, 2008

Re: Senate Bill 284: "An Act relating to the membership of the Board of Fisheries; and providing for an effective date"

Although agreeing with some of the intentions of this Senate Bill, The Native Village of Eyak opposes SB284 as it is currently written. We request information and consultation on any revisions to the Bill before it is adopted to Law. This is an important issue which demands the fullest extent of Tribal and public involvement.

Our points of contention include:

1. Under no circumstances should the interests of the Personal Use and Subsistence Fisheries be combined into a single group. These are two very distinct and historically very opposing groups. It would be irresponsible to think that an individual with ties to the Personal Use fishery could fairly represent the interests of Subsistence fishermen, and vice versa. As an example, consider the issue of C&T determination for the Chitina Subdistrict dipnet fishery which caused heated debate between PU and Subsistence Users for the past decade of BoF meetings. Subsistence representation should remain at 3 seats to meet the subsistence priority outlined in the constitution. PU interests should be included for representation by the sport fishing seats, because these fisheries have much more in common under the current management system.
2. A large number of commercial and subsistence fishermen also possess a sport fishing guide license for a different fishery. While we agree with the intention of preventing conflicts of interest in representation, the proposed language could be too restrictive in determining eligibility. The current process of full disclosure and candidate review by the Governor and Legislature seems adequate to address these concerns.
3. Alaska is a small state, and everyone is closely related. It would be unduly restrictive to prevent a qualified and ethical candidate from being on the Board because a member of their immediate family has chosen to pursue employment in a different sector of the second largest industry in the State. As long as there remains full disclosure requirements, we see no need to restrict eligibility based on immediate family.

Please keep us apprised of further developments with SB284.

Regards,


Bruce Cain,
Executive Director

OPP



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

211 Fourth Street, Suite 110
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1172
(907) 586-2820
(907) 463-2545 Fax
E-Mail: ufa@ufa-fish.org
www.ufa-fish.org

March 11, 2008

Senator Charlie Huggins, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Mail Stop 3100
Juneau AK 99801

RE: Opposition to SB 284 regarding Board of Fisheries

Dear Senator Huggins and Committee Members,

The United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) Board of Directors recently met and discussed Senate Bill 284, and a new committee substitute that may be introduced. Both versions feature designated seats for Sport, Commercial, and Personal use / Subsistence users on the Board of Fisheries.

UFA opposes SB 284 and CSSB 284, and feels that these bills would unduly restrict interested and qualified members whose interests cross over between these categories from serving. Many commercial fishermen engage in charter operations, and many sport guides work part time as crew in commercial fisheries.

It is not clear what problem with the Board of Fisheries that the bill is intended to solve, but we do not feel that designation of members through these assigned seats will help ensure that board decisions are made fairly. UFA believes that such strict designations will make it even more difficult to find qualified individuals to serve on the board. We fear that such designated seats would only serve to add further divisiveness to the Board of Fisheries process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Vinsel
Executive Director

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

9369 North Douglas Hwy

Juneau, AK 99801

Phone 907-586-6652 or Cell 907-321-3765

Fax 907-523-1168

Website: <http://www.seafa.org>



Email: seafa@gci.net

*opposed
back*

March 10, 2008

Senate Resources Committee

Senator Huggins, Chair

Alaska State Legislature

State Capitol, Room 205

Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Oppose SB 284 Board of Fish Designated Seats

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFa) opposes SB 284 designating three seats each to the commercial, sport and personal use & subsistence sectors. Many things need to be considered in trying to re-designate the seats in these categories, is a charter operator considered commercial or sport, and how do you designate an individual that fits in multiple categories?

The important characteristics that should be considered for appointment to the Board of Fish are a person's character, integrity, personal ethics and knowledge that he or she brings to the process. The current process of nomination by the Governor and confirmation by the Legislature should provide sufficient review of a person's character to provide for a Board of Fish that will first and foremost provide for the protection of and the sustainability of the resource while providing fair and balanced allocation decisions. The very nature of the Board of Fish is such that someone will always be upset by some decision or another that is made by the Board of Fish because as in the legislature you cannot make everyone happy with every decision.

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance is a multi-gear group representing our members involved in the salmon, crab, shrimp and longline fisheries of Southeast Alaska.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hansen (email signature)

Kathy Hansen

Executive Director



opposed

Cordova District Fishermen United

2210A 155th Street, Cordova, AK 99574

Phone: (907) 544-1111 Fax: (907) 424-3430

Web: www.cdfu.com Email: cdfu@ak.net

March 10, 2008

Senate Resources Committee
Senator Huggins, Chair
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 205
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Oppose SB 284 Board of Fish Designated Seats

Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) opposes SB 284 designating three seats each to the commercial, sport and personal use & subsistence sectors. There are many considerations in a decision of this kind, including how to appropriately designate seats to ensure fair decisions are made for all user groups. Seat designation in a categorized system such as SB 284 describes is not a black and white issue, as many people fall across multiple categories. A sport fishermen, for example, may also keep some of the fish they catch thus falling into the category of personal use. This leads to an unfair representation across the board for all user groups.

Rather than simply categorizing appointed members into commercial, sport fish or personal use it is more important to ensure that appointed members are of good character, ethics and have a vast unbiased knowledge and experience of Alaska fisheries.

The current process that is undertaken by the Governor is fair and balanced and should not be changed.

Sincerely,

Rochelle van den Broek
Executive Director



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee
committee name

Committee on SB 384 / BOF Compensation dated 3/11/08
bill #/ subject public hearing date

I am opposed to Mrs bill for the following reasons

- 1- PU/substance users are a minority
 - * 30,000 Com/fishermen + 10,000 Cannery workers + Capital invested in Canneries, boats gear, etc.
 - * 200,000 Spat fishermen
 - VS
 - * 15,000 - 20,000 PU/fishermen

2- PU Fishing is done under a Spat fish license

This is a de facto reallocation of seats to urban Spat fishermen

This will not address the escapement issues on the Yetera/Big Lake Systems - they are due to degraded habitat & pressure species.

Signed: [Signature]
Testifier

Self/Commercial Fisherman
Representing (optional)

Box 3322 Soldotna, AK 99669
Address

907-394-4004
Phone number

**North Pacific Fisheries Association****P.O. Box 796
Homer, Alaska 99603**

March 19, 2008

**Senator Charlie Huggins, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Mail Stop 3100
Juneau AK 99801**

Re: CS 284 Board of Fisheries

Dear Senator Huggins:

The North Pacific Fisheries Association (NPFA) opposes SB 284 and the CS. The membership of NPFA consists of fishermen who live in Homer and fish commercially throughout the state. Our members have been involved in the Board of Fish process since the Board was formed. We do not always agree with decisions made by the Board, but we respect the process and continue to participate rather than want to change the process or the make-up of members because we didn't get some particular decision.

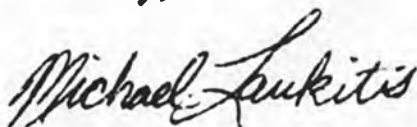
We are opposed to the concept of having "designated" seats for particular user groups on the Board of Fisheries. A good Board member makes decisions based on the best available science using the Board's allocation criteria. A Board member should not represent his/her "constituency." This would lead to a huge departure from how the Board process works. We believe the

Board should be comprised of knowledgeable individuals who have the best interests of Alaska's resources in mind, without particular regard to who they "represent". We believe that the composition of the Board should be left to the discretion of the Governor.

Furthermore, it is very difficult to find capable individuals who are even willing to serve on the Board. Folks who are only interested in one issue, one river, or one region wither under the press of information and the scope of understanding statewide issues. It is in all of our interests to find good people who want to serve in an open and unbiased professional manner – seeking to do more than that just politicizes the process.

For these reasons, we do not support CS 284 .

Sincerely,



Michael Laukitis
President, NPFA

[Contacts](#)
[Licenses/Permits](#)
[Regulations](#)
[News](#)
[Publications](#)

Fish & Game

find



ADF&G > Boards Home >

FAQ - Site Index

Boards Support

ADF&G - Section of

www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us

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[Board of Fisheries](#)
[Board of Game](#)
[Advisory Committees](#)
[Joint Boards](#)

Board of Fisheries

Board Members

- Member Addresses
- Resumes/Bios
- Meeting Photos
- Become a member
- BOF Committees

Meeting Information

- Meeting Calendar
- Long-Term Cycle
- Proposal Book
- Agenda Change Requests
- Call for Proposals
- Legal Notices
- Future Call for Proposals
- Future Schedule
- Joint Boards Page
- BOF/NPFMC
- Salmon Restructuring Committee

Meeting Summaries

- Summary of Actions
- Document Archive

Regulations, Policies & Info

- Link to Regulations
- Policies and Findings
- Frequently Used Policies

Board of Fisheries Forms

- Proposal Form
- Restructuring Form
- ACR Form
- Petition the Board

[New! Susitna sockeye Salmon Action Plan\(*PDF 150KB\)](#)
[Update on Restructuring Proposals](#)
[Board of Fisheries 2008-09 Call for Proposals Posted](#)
[Board of Fisheries Policy on Written Comments\(*PDF - 10KB\)2007/2008](#)
[Fishery Proposals Available\(*PDF - 1.53 MB\)](#)

Welcome to the Board of Fisheries!

The Alaska Board of Fisheries consists of seven members serving three-year terms. Members are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the legislature. Members are appointed on the basis of interest in public affairs, good judgment, knowledge, and ability in the field of action of the board, with a view to providing diversity of interest and points of view in the membership (see Alaska Statute 16.05.221).

The Board of Fisheries' main role is to conserve and develop the fishery resources of the state. This involves setting seasons, bag limits, methods and means for the state's subsistence, commercial, sport, guided sport, and personal use fisheries, and it also involves setting policy and direction for the management of the state's fishery resources. The board is charged with making allocative decisions, and the department is responsible for management based on those decisions.

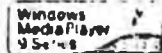
The Board of Fisheries meets four to six times per year in communities around the state to consider proposed changes to fisheries regulations around the state. The board uses the biological and socioeconomic information provided by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, public comment received from people inside and outside of the state, and guidance from the Alaska Department of Public Safety and Alaska Department of Law when creating regulations that are sound and enforceable.

[Sign up for our electronic mailing list](#)

Live Audio

CLICK HERE: [Audio Stream of the Board of Fisheries Meeting](#)

*Link will not function while the board is off the record



Quick Picks

Fisheries News



Board of Fisheries Chair,
Mel Morris

[Front Page](#)
[BOF Upcoming Meetings](#)

Sec. 16.05.221. Boards of fisheries and game.

(a) For purposes of the conservation and development of the fishery resources of the state, there is created the Board of Fisheries composed of seven members appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the legislature in joint session. The governor shall appoint each member on the basis of interest in public affairs, good judgment, knowledge, and ability in the field of action of the board, and with a view to providing diversity of interest and points of view in the membership. The appointed members shall be residents of the state and shall be appointed without regard to political affiliation or geographical location of residence. The commissioner is not a member of the Board of Fisheries, but shall be ex officio secretary.

(b) For purposes of the conservation and development of the game resources of the state, there is created a Board of Game composed of seven members appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the legislature in joint session. The governor shall appoint each member on the basis of interest in public affairs, good judgment, knowledge, and ability in the field of action of the board, and with a view to providing diversity of interest and points of view in the membership. The appointed members shall be residents of the state and shall be appointed without regard to political affiliation or geographical location of residence. The commissioner is not a member of the Board of Game, but shall be ex officio secretary.

(c) Members of the Board of Game serve staggered terms of three years and, except as provided in AS 39.05.080 (4), each member serves until a successor is appointed. An appointment to fill a vacancy in the membership of the Board of Game shall be made in the same manner as the original appointment and, except as provided in AS 39.05.080 (4), an appointment to fill a vacancy is for the balance of the unexpired term.

(d) Members of the Board of Fisheries serve staggered terms of three years. The terms of members of the board begin on July 1. Notwithstanding AS 39.05.080 (1), by April 1 of the calendar year in which the term expires, the governor shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy that will arise on the board due to expiration of the term of a member of the board and submit the name of the person to the legislature for confirmation. If a vacancy arises on the board, the governor shall, within 30 days after the vacancy arises, appoint a person to serve the balance of the unexpired term and submit the name of the person to the legislature for confirmation. A person appointed to fill the balance of an unexpired term shall serve on the board from the date of appointment until the earlier of the expiration of the term or the failure of the legislature to confirm the person under AS 39.05.080.



Native Village of Eyak
110 Nicholoff Way ~ PO Box 1388 ~ Cordova, AK 99574
Phone: (907) 424-7738 ~ Fax: (907) 424-7739
www.nveyak.com

Senate Resources Committee
Attn: Senator Huggins, Chair
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 205
Juneau, AK 99801

11 March, 2008

Re: Senate Bill 284: "An Act relating to the membership of the Board of Fisheries; and providing for an effective date"

Although agreeing with some of the intentions of this Senate Bill, The Native Village of Eyak opposes SB284 as it is currently written. We request information and consultation on any revisions to the Bill before it is adopted to Law. This is an important issue which demands the fullest extent of Tribal and public involvement.

Our points of contention include:

1. Under no circumstances should the interests of the Personal Use and Subsistence Fisheries be combined into a single group. These are two very distinct and historically very opposing groups. It would be irresponsible to think that an individual with ties to the Personal Use fishery could fairly represent the interests of Subsistence fishermen, and vice versa. As an example, consider the issue of C&T determination for the Chitina Subdistrict dipnet fishery which caused heated debate between PU and Subsistence Users for the past decade of BoF meetings. Subsistence representation should remain at 3 seats to meet the subsistence priority outlined in the constitution. PU interests should be included for representation by the sport fishing seats, because these fisheries have much more in common under the current management system.
2. A large number of commercial and subsistence fishermen also possess a sport fishing guide license for a different fishery. While we agree with the intention of preventing conflicts of interest in representation, the proposed language could be too restrictive in determining eligibility. The current process of full disclosure and candidate review by the Governor and Legislature seems adequate to address these concerns.
3. Alaska is a small state, and everyone is closely related. It would be unduly restrictive to prevent a qualified and ethical candidate from being on the Board because a member of their immediate family has chosen to pursue employment in a different sector of the second largest industry in the State. As long as there remains full disclosure requirements, we see no need to restrict eligibility based on immediate family.

Please keep us apprised of further developments with SB284.

Regards,


Bruce Cain,
Executive Director



415 E. Railroad Avenue (Historic Depot) • Wasilla, AK 99654
Email: info@wasillachamber.org

Telephone (907) 376-1299 • Fax (907) 373-2660
Home Page: www.wasillachamber.org

Voted "Alaska's Outstanding Local Chamber of Commerce ~ 1998, 2006"
"Home of the Iditarod" & "Home of the Iron Dog"

March 11, 2008

bp



Senator Lyda Green
Senate President
600 East Railroad Ave. Ste 1
Wasilla, AK. 99654



Re: Senate Bill # 284

Dear Senator Green,



Please accept this letter as support for Senate Bill # 284. The Greater Wasilla Chamber Board of Directors unanimously supports the passage of this bill. We can provide a resolution supporting this bill at a later date if necessary. If you have any questions or require further information please feel free call me at 907-232-5899 or the Chamber office at 907-376-1299.



Thank you for your time,



Erika M Bills
Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce President



opposed

Petersburg Vessel Owners Association

P.O. Box 232
Petersburg, Alaska 99833
Phone (907) 772-9323

March 11, 2008

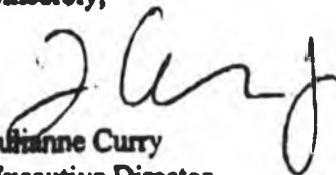
Senator Charlie Huggins, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Mail Stop 3100
Juneau AK 99801
Fax: 907.465.3265

RE: OPPOSE SB 284 BOARD OF FISH DESIGNATED SEATS

The Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) is a diverse group of commercial fishermen that participate in a variety of fisheries in Southeast and throughout the State of Alaska. PVOA opposes SB 284 which would designate seats on the Board of Fisheries. PVOA recognizes the importance of quality Board members. Appointments to the Board of Fish are made on the basis of interest in public affairs, good judgment, knowledge, and ability in the field of action of the board, and with a view to provide diversity of interests and points of view in the membership.

PVOA is a longstanding supporter of the Board of Fish and the nomination process and we oppose this legislation. The existing practice of Board nominations by the Governor and confirmation of nominations by the Legislature provides for sufficient review of candidates and their potential contribution to the Board of Fish which governs fisheries that are vital to coastal Alaska.

Sincerely,



Julianne Curry
Executive Director

Noel and Jean Woods
PO Box 827
Palmer, Alaska 99645
Mar. 11, 2008

Tel: (907) 745-3027
Fax: (907) 745-5019

Senate Resource Committee
Juneau, Alaska

Thirty years ago Sam McDowell and Noel appeared before the Board of Fisheries with charts that showed a deliberate prejudice against upper Cook Inlet personal use fishermen. (50% of Alaska's population) We were able to show that every time the escapement of salmon into streams of the Northern Cook Inlet did not meet escapement goals the board of fisheries would lower the goals. This has continued until today residents who wish the same opportunity to share in the harvest of thier food source have been denied thier right by regulation.

Jean and Noel have fished for salmon for personal use for 53 years in Northern Cook Inlet waters

Please pass SB 284

*Noel W. Woods
Jean H. Woods*

Sharon Long

From: Cheryl Sutton
Sent: Saturday, March 01, 2008 10:41 AM
To: lhscchs+gasline@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: Withdrawn Partners
Attachments: The Williams Company.withdrawn partners.2.29.08.doc.pdf; Loews.withdrawn partners.2.29.08.doc.pdf; MidAmerican.withdrawn partner.2.29.08.doc.pdf; NiSource.withdrawn partner.2.29.08.doc.pdf; PG&E withdrawn partner.2.29.08.doc.pdf; Sempra.withdrawn partners.2.29.08.doc.pdf

The attached letters have been sent to TransCanada's withdrawn partners.

Cheryl Sutton, Staff
Legislative Budget and Audit Committee
Representative Ralph Samuels, Chair
907-465-2705(phone)
907-465-5003 (fax)



LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & AUDIT COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVE RALPH SAMUELS, CHAIRMAN

February 29, 2008

Barry Hirsch
Senior Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel
Loews Corporation
667 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10065-8087

Dear Mr. Hirsch:

TransCanada has identified your company as a "withdrawn partner" of the Alaskan Northwest National Gas Transportation Company (ANNGTC). The withdrawn company is Texas Gas Alaska Corporation and the date of the withdrawal is 1981. TransCanada listed the current ultimate parent as Loews Corporation. This information is listed in a response from TransCanada to the State of Alaska that we enclosed with this letter.

Our first question is whether you would be willing to waive your rights under the ANNGTC partnership agreement?

Do you believe the corporate structure [see attached] used by TransCanada in its Alaska Gasline Inducement Act (AGIA) application violates any obligation to your company?

Thank you for your attention and response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Samuels".

Representative Ralph Samuels, Chair
Legislative Budget & Audit Committee

Enclosures

Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us

Session: Alaska State Capitol, Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182 • Phone (907) 465-2705 Fax (907) 465-5003
Interim: 716 W. 4th Ave., Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2133 • Phone (907) 269-0240 Fax (907) 269-0242

SB 284 Board of
Fisheries Membership

Senator Charlie Huggins, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Mail Stop 3100
Juneau AK 99801

Dear, Senator Huggins

I am completely opposed to SB 284. The Alaska State Legislature already has complete control on who is confirmed to the Board of Fish. Three out of seven seats are up for confirmation this spring. The current makeup of the Board of Fish is diverse and with three seats open the Alaska State Legislature will have the opportunity to influence the make up of the Board of Fish.

Social engineering designated seats on the Board of Fish and restricting access to all Alaskans the opportunity to serve on this board is not the answer. It goes against the very premise how and why the Board of Fish is to function. The Alaska State Legislature needs to confirm ethical, honest and intelligent Alaskans to the Board of Fish and let them do their task of gathering all available information, take public testimony and testimony from the State and Federal Departments and build a defensible record for their actions. If the Governor and the Alaska State Legislature does not like their performance they can be replaced.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this issue.

Michael Bowen
1233 Crescent Dr
Anchorage, AK 99508

Senator Charlie Huggins, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capital, Mail Stop 3100
Juneau, Alaska 99801

MAR 17 2008

March 13, 2008

Dear Senator Huggins:

I am writing to express my opposition to CSSB 284, regarding the makeup of the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Our commercial fisheries are extremely important to the state, especially in coastal communities like Cordova, where I live. To limit the Board to two designated commercial fishing seats is simply unfair and unwise. As the number of sport and subsistence users increase with the increase in Alaska's population, while commercial fishermen's numbers remain static, there must be continued support, and even defense, of commercial fisheries to help maintain this valuable balance in our state's social and economic makeup.

I feel strongly that the most ideal Board of Fisheries is one that includes people with broad experience among the different user groups, and is generally more inclusive than exclusive.

It is probably safe to say the people supporting this bill feel that commercial fishing "interests" have too much control on the board, and the people opposed to it are largely commercial fishermen who fear losing any more control, and subsequently, losing more access to the fisheries to the ever growing sport and subsistence sectors.

As a commercial fisherman of 30 years, I am very concerned about the further polarization of the Board that this measure would surely promote. I have, over many years of attending meetings of the Board, noticed how this polarization gets in the way of making sound decisions in the best interest of the state. This polarization is not unlike that in the legislature.

Please do not make the Board of Fisheries have "designated" seats. If this is not possible, our commercial fisheries simply must have more than two seats. They deserve it.

Sincerely, William Lindow

William Lindow
P.O. Box 1612
Cordova AK 99574

cc: Sen. Kookesh
Rep. Thomas

PO Box 401
Wrangell, AK 99929
March 12, 2008

MAR 17 2008

Senator Charlie Huggins, Chairperson
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Mail Stop 3100

Dear Senator Huggins,

My name is Brian Merritt and I have lived in Alaska for 40 years. I'm an avid sports and commercial fisherman. I am totally opposed to SB 284! This bill is way to constrictive as to who can serve on this board. The selection criteria weeds out the most qualified people in Alaska. I am greatly offended that crossover people can't serve on this board. Most of the leaders in this state are crossover people, I believe they should make up the boards majority. This state has progressed very successfully due to heavily involved citizens who do way more than one thing such as just subsistence fish. Keep in mind that subsistence users are looked out very well by the Federal Subsistence laws. The "sports fishermen" that are pushing this bill are mainly charter fishermen trying to hide behind the "sports fishermen" mentality.

I would hope that the Alaska Board of Fish could never be dominated by sport and subsistence users. One must keep in mind that commercial fishing is the largest private sector employer in the state. We need to remember this whenever we are setting up any board! Please vote no on this bill, it has the potential to severely damage Alaska!

Sincerely,

Brian Merritt





**North Pacific Fisheries Association
P.O. Box 796
Homer, Alaska 99603**

March 19, 2008

**Senator Charlie Huggins, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Mail Stop 3100
Juneau AK 99801**

Re: CS 284 Board of Fisheries

Dear Senator Huggins:

The North Pacific Fisheries Association (NPFA) opposes SB 284 and the CS. The membership of NPFA consists of fishermen who live in Homer and fish commercially throughout the state. Our members have been involved in the Board of Fish process since the Board was formed. We do not always agree with decisions made by the Board, but we respect the process and continue to participate rather than want to change the process or the make-up of members because we didn't get some particular decision.

We are opposed to the concept of having "designated" seats for particular user groups on the Board of Fisheries. A good Board member makes decisions based on the best available science using the Board's allocation criteria. A Board member should not represent his/her "constituency." This would lead to a huge departure from how the Board process works. We believe the



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Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee
committee name

Committee on SB 324 / BOF Compensation dated 3/11/08
bill #/ subject public hearing date

I am opposed to this bill for the following reasons

- 1- PU/subsistence users are a minority
 - * 30,000 Com/fishermen + 10,000 Cannery workers + Capital invested in Canneries, boats gear, etc.
 - * 200,000 Sport fishermen
 - VS
 - * 15,000 - 20,000 PU/fishermen

2- PU Fishing is done under a Sport fish license

This is a de facto reallocation of seats to urban Sport fishermen

This will not address the escapement issues on the Yetera/B3 Lake Systems - they are due to degraded habitat & invasive species.

Signed: [Signature]
Testifier

Representing (optional)

Address

Phone number

Self / Commercial Fisherman

Box 3322 Soldotna, AK 99669

907-394-4604



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Resource
committee name
 Committee on CSSB 284, dated 3-11-08
bill # / subject public hearing date

I support Bill 284 in the hopes that it will bring more balance & equality to the board of Fisheries and bring forth more effort on conservation designed to provide Alaska with future salmon resources

Signed: Russell E. Lacy Russell E. Lacy
Testifier
Myself
Representing (optional)
35950 Forerunner St Soldotna AK 99669
Address
260-4729
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Resource Committee
committee name

Committee on Senate Bill #284, dated 3/11/08
bill # / subject public hearing date

Like the idea that the Board of Fish would be representative of various user groups.
No problem with (1) & (3) as written
Concern about (2)

First, believe that personal use and subsistence should be represented. However, ~~to be~~ believe that another user group should be included, that being Tourism.

With 3 user groups included in part (2) each could have one representative.

Signed:

Joe Gunn
Testifier

self - Tourism & Lodge Owner
Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 1085, Sterling, AK 99672
Address

262-9496
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Resource
committee name
 Committee on SB 284, dated 3-11-08
bill # / subject public hearing date

I support Senate Bill #284, which ask for FAIR Representation of the make up of the Board of Fish members. This framework in the bill will better ensure the balance & fairness of the makeup of the board. Thank you for taking the time to read over this.

Signed: Steve McClure
Testifier
myself
Representing (optional)
P.O. Box 2263 Soldotna ALASKA
Address
262-2977
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 284, dated 3/11/08
bill #/subject public hearing date

My name is Mark Glassmaker and I would like to express my support for Bill 284 as I feel it will ~~now~~ establish more equal representation among user groups on the Alaska Board of Fisheries. I am a nineteen year Kenai River guide and have participated extensively in the past several board of fish upper Cook Inlet Fin fish meetings and have seen first hand how a board without assigned seats can favor one particular user group in allocation issues. Having ~~no~~ pre-determined seat assignments for Board members would help to ensure a more fair and equitable Board of Fish process.

Signed:

Testifier

Self - Sport fishing

Representing (optional)

33361 Keystone Drive Seldotna, AK 99669

Address

907-262-0892

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on CSSB 284, dated 3/11/08
bill # / subject public hearing date

In my opinion we do need frame work in place that gives our Governor direction on how to choose Board of Fish board members that will be fair to all user groups. I also feel that the Tourism Industry is represented in this frame work. In the past Comm Fish has been heavily weighted to the detriment of Sport Fish. We have complex issues on the World Famous Kenai River.

I will be supporting bill 284.

I am concerned about our current Governors relationship to Comm. Fish. The Sport Fishing Industry / Tourism Industry is growing and needs to be treated fairly.

Signed: Daniel Legend
Testifier

Sport Fishing
Representing (optional)

2915 Clipper Cir, Kenai, Ak. 99611
Address

907-283-9026 call # 907-283-3503
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature


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

Committee on SB284, dated 3/11/08
bill #/subject public hearing date

I am in favor of the said proposed changes to bill SB284. My concerns lie in appointing "3 members" who represent personal use or subsistence fishing interests. I would like to see a seat or two set aside especially for charter owners. Commercial fishing, personal use and subsistence interests all have guaranteed seats. Sport fishing interests are represented but no guarantee of a commercial sport fish interest.

I am in favor of SB284 in that it will provide structure to appointment of future Board of Fisheries members.

Signed:


Testifier

Aaron Cooper

Representing (optional)

PO 1447 Kenai AK 99611
Address

907-335-2248
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on 284, dated 3/11/08
bill # / subject public hearing date

I support the concept of 284,

However after participating in several Board of fish meetings. I am concerned that the board members are asked to decide how to proceed on several very complex sport fishing issues. Members with no ^{sport} fishing experience have a very difficult time understanding how their actions impact a fishery. So I would encourage you to reevaluate the 3 sub/personal use seats, and substitute 2 personal use / subsistence and 1 tourism or charter operator seat. This could help the board be more balanced and more effective on sorting out complex fisheries such as the Kenai River.

Signed: Monte Roberts
Testifier

Sport fish Charter Operator
Representing (optional)

PO Box 1106
Address

907 262-8518
Phone number

1. Gavel In & Call to order:

Note time – and members present

2. CSHB 267 Wildlife Violator Compact

**Representative Craig Johnson, Sponsor
Jeanne Ostnes, Staff to Rep. Johnson**

Invited Testimony

Offnets: for questions:

**Capt. Burke Waldron, AK Dept. of Public Safety
Kevin Saxby, Dept. of Law**

| conclude & move out bill |

Need motion for vs O

2. SB 284 Board of Fisheries: Membership

**Senator Lyda Green
Janey Wineinger, Staff to Senator Green**

After presentation of bill:

- 1. open public testimony**
- 2. set time limit if many participants online & signed in**
- 3. CLOSE public testimony when we get through all participants**
- 4. Return to committee discussion after hearing from public**

Reminder: Tomorrow we'll meet at our regular time, 3:30, to hear an ENSTAR presentation on several issues including contracts and storage.

And Friday, Gasline update by LB&A consultant, Steve Porter

Meeting Adjourned @ _____

SB 284 Board of Fisheries: Membership

March 19, 2008

[Heard & Held March 11, 2008; heard all who were signed up to speak]

Workdraft CSSB284 vs/V

SB 284 vs C (originally introduced)

1. Fiscal Notes

2. Sponsor Statement

3. Support

4. Opposition

5. Statutory authority, duties, schedule

SB 284 Board of Fisheries: Membership

March 19, 2008

[Heard & Held March 11, 2008; heard all who were signed up to speak]

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- 1. Fiscal Notes**
- 2. Sponsor Statement**
- 3. Support**
- 4. Opposition**
- 5. Statutory authority, duties, schedule**

SB 284 Board of Fisheries: Membership

March 11, 2008

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SB 284 Board of Fisheries: Membership

March 11, 2008

Workdraft CSSB284 vs/V

SB 284 vs C (originally introduced)

1. Fiscal Notes

2. Sponsor Statement

3. Support

4. Opposition

5. Statutory authority, duties, schedule

25-LS1500\V
Kane
3/5/08

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 284()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATOR GREEN

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the membership of the Board of Fisheries; and providing for an**
2 **effective date."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 *** Section 1. AS 16.05.221(a) is amended to read:**

5 (a) For purposes of the conservation and development of the fishery resources
6 of the state, there is created the Board of Fisheries composed of seven members
7 appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of
8 the legislature in joint session. The governor shall appoint each member on the basis
9 of interest in public affairs, good judgment, knowledge, and ability in the field of
10 action of the board [, AND WITH A VIEW TO PROVIDING DIVERSITY OF
11 INTEREST AND POINTS OF VIEW IN THE MEMBERSHIP]. The appointed
12 members shall be residents of the state and shall be appointed without regard to
13 political affiliation or geographical location of residence. A member of the board
14 may not be an immediate family member of another member of the board. The

1 commissioner is not a member of the Board of Fisheries, but shall be ex officio
2 secretary. The board consists of

3 (1) two members who represent commercial fishing interests and
4 who do not hold and do not have an immediate family member who holds

5 (A) a sport fishing operator license under AS 16.40.260; or

6 (B) a sport fishing guide license under AS 16.40.270;

7 (2) three members who represent personal use or subsistence
8 fishing interests and who

9 (A) do not hold and do not have an immediate family
10 member who holds

11 (i) a commercial fishing permit or crewmember
12 permit under AS 16.05.480;

13 (ii) a sport fishing operator license under
14 AS 16.40.260; or

15 (iii) a sport fishing guide license under AS 16.40.270;

16 or

17 (B) do not own or have an immediately family member who
18 owns a commercial fish processing business;

19 (3) two members who represent sport fishing interests and who

20 (A) do not hold and do not have an immediate family
21 member who holds a commercial fishing permit or crewmember permit
22 under AS 16.05.480; or

23 (B) do not own or have an immediate family member who
24 owns a commercial fish processing business.

25 * Sec. 2. AS 16.05.221 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

26 (e) In this section, "immediate family member" means

27 (1) the spouse or domestic partner of the member; or

28 (2) a parent, child, including a stepchild and an adoptive child, or
29 sibling of the member if the parent, child, or sibling resides with the member, is
30 financially dependent on the member, or shares a substantial financial interest with the
31 member.

1 * Sec. 3. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
2 read:

3 TRANSITION. The amendment to AS 16.05.221(a) made by this Act does not prevent
4 a person who is a member of the Board of Fisheries on the day before the effective date of this
5 Act from continuing to serve until the expiration of the member's term.

6 * Sec. 4. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 284()

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

BY

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): SENATOR GREEN

A BILL

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8 the legislature in joint session. The governor shall appoint each member on the basis
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10 action of the board [, AND WITH A VIEW TO PROVIDING DIVERSITY OF
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13 political affiliation or geographical location of residence. A member of the board
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(A) a sport fishing operator license under AS 16.40.260; or

(B) a sport fishing guide license under AS 16.40.270;

(2) three members who represent personal use or subsistence fishing interests and who

(A) do not hold and do not have an immediate family member who holds

(i) a commercial fishing permit or crewmember permit under AS 16.05.480;

(ii) a sport fishing operator license under AS 16.40.260; or

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or

(B) do not own or have an immediately family member who owns a commercial fish processing business;

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1 * Sec. 3. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
2 read:

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4 a person who is a member of the Board of Fisheries on the day before the effective date of this
5 Act from continuing to serve until the expiration of the member's term.

6 * Sec. 4. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

SENATE BILL NO. 284

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR GREEN

Introduced: 2/19/08

Referred: Resources, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the membership of the Board of Fisheries; and providing for an
2 effective date."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * Section 1. AS 16.05.221(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) For purposes of the conservation and development of the fishery resources
6 of the state, there is created the Board of Fisheries composed of nine [SEVEN]
7 members appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by a majority of the
8 members of the legislature in joint session. The governor shall appoint each member
9 on the basis of interest in public affairs, good judgment, knowledge, and ability in the
10 field of action of the board [, AND WITH A VIEW TO PROVIDING DIVERSITY
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13 political affiliation or geographical location of residence. The commissioner is not a
14 member of the Board of Fisheries, but shall be ex officio secretary. The board

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2 (1) three members who represent commercial fishing interests:

3 (2) three members who represent personal use and subsistence

4 fishing interests;

5 (3) three members who represent sport fishing interests.

6 * Sec. 2. The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
7 read:

8 TRANSITION. (a) The governor shall appoint two new members to the Board of
9 Fisheries within 30 days after the effective date of this Act. The two new members of the
10 board must meet the requirements for members of the board, and the addition of the two
11 members may not violate the provisions of AS 16.05.221(a), as amended by sec. 1 of this Act.

12 (b) A person who is a member of the Board of Fisheries on the day before the
13 effective date of this Act continues to serve until the expiration of the member's term.

14 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

SENATE BILL NO. 284

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR GREEN

Introduced: 2/19/08

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13 effective date of this Act continues to serve until the expiration of the member's term.

14 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: SB284
 () Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): SB284-DFG-BSS-03-07-08 Dept. Affected: Fish and Game
 Title: Board of Fisheries: Membership RDU: Administration and Support
 Component: F&G Boards & Advisory Committees
 Sponsor: Senator Lyda Green
 Requester: Senate Resources Committee Component Number: 2825

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services	18.9		18.9	18.9	18.9	18.9	18.9	18.9
Travel	24.0		24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0
Contractual	0.5		0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Supplies	0.5		0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING	43.9		43.9	43.9	43.9	43.9	43.9	43.9

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES								
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()								
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE	(Thousands of Dollars)						
	FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF	43.9		43.9	43.9	43.9	43.9	43.9
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other Interagency Receipts							
TOTAL	43.9		43.9	43.9	43.9	43.9	43.9

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: 00

POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)
 Passage of this bill will increase expenditures by \$43,900 per year.
 Personal Services is the combination of administrative support and honoraria for the additional Board members.
 Administrative support includes payroll, travel and accounting functions.
 The honorarium figure assumes 35 full days and 10 half days of meetings per year.
 Travel is calculated by the attendance at 6 meetings per year.
 Contractual and Supply costs would increase slightly.

Prepared by: Jim Marcotte, Executive Director, Board of Fisheries Phone 465-6099
 Division: Boards Support Section Date/Time: 3/7/08 4:00 PM
 Approved by: Tom Lawson, Director Date: 3/7/2008
Division of Administrative Services, Department of Fish and Game

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



Interim:
600 East Railroad Avenue
Wasilla, Alaska 99654
(907) 376-3370
(907) 376-3157 Fax

Senator_Lyda_Green@legis.state.ak.us

Session:
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-6600
Fax (907) 465-3805

Toll Free: 1-877-465-6601

SENATOR LYDA GREEN
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPONSOR STATEMENT

CSSB 284

*"An Act relating to the membership of the Board of Fisheries;
and providing for an effective date."*

CSSB 284 was introduced to provide a statutory board appointment framework and process. This framework will better ensure balance and fairness on the Board of Fisheries as well as provide a more focused effort on conservation measures designed to sustain Alaska's salmon resources.

The Board of Fisheries is currently comprised of seven members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the legislature. Members currently serve three-year terms and their main role is to conserve and develop the fishery resources of the state. Generally, members are chosen to reflect different points of view, interests and regions of the state (AS16.05.221).

The proposed committee substitute brings the number of Board members back to seven, from the nine proposed in the original bill, and statutorily requires that certain qualifications must be met in order to serve on the Board. There are 122 Boards and Commissions in Alaska, and the Board of Fisheries has almost no requirements or guidelines for appointments to the Board.

CSSB 284 puts into statute selection requirements that provide for fair and balanced representation on the Board of Fisheries for years to come, regardless of who may be governor or who may be in political leadership positions at the Department of Fish and Game.

I encourage your support of CSSB 284.

for

Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR
LYDA GREEN
Senate President

(907) 465-6000
Fax (907) 465-3805

INTERIM ADDRESS
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654
(907) 376-3370
Fax (907) 376-3157



State Capitol, Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

REPRESENTATIVE
JOHN HARRIS
Speaker of the House

(907) 465-4859
Fax (907) 465-3799

INTERIM ADDRESS
716 W. 4th Ave. #600
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 269-0129
Fax (907) 269-0128

February 1, 2008

The Honorable Sarah Palin
Governor
State of Alaska
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Governor Palin:

In the past decade the drainages in the Mat-Su valley have experienced historically low salmon runs and some species have not met escapement goals in five of the last seven years. For example, in 2005 only 36,921 sockeye returned to the Yentna River, a shortage of more than 50,000 fish at the lower end of the escapement goal, and more than 120,000 under the upper objective. Fish Creek (Big Lake system) is even in worse shape. Minimum escapement goals have not been achieved in the past four years, despite enhancement from hatchery fish.

The problem with not meeting escapement goals for Northern District bound salmon are two-fold; it is unacceptable biologically, and it presents serious challenges to local economies.

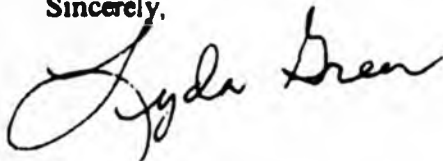
If adequate escapement goals are not met, the state may soon be facing both biological as well as economic problems in the Cook Inlet area. Without adequate escapement, salmon stocks may decline throughout enough of their historic range to induce actions by various groups that could be harmful to both local and state economic interests.

Although allocation issues exist between fishing groups, biological issues could lead to restrictions or curtailment of fishing activities across the board. If that were to happen, the economic benefits derived from both the commercial and sport fish effort may be lost. Such an outcome would be devastating to many of the Inlet's local economies and would almost certainly impact the state's economy as well.

We are, however, encouraged by the heightened awareness toward this issue by local businesses. The recent actions of the Mat-Su Borough and the Willow Chamber of Commerce highlight the importance of adequate salmon returns to our local economies.

We are committed to working with you, local fishing groups, local businesses impacted by returns or the lack thereof, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to find a meaningful solution to this growing problem. We must give our biologists the tools they need to discover the root causes of declining returns, as well as the resources necessary to rebuild our failing salmon stocks.

Sincerely,



Senator Lyda Green
President of the Senate



Representative John Harris
Speaker of the House

cc: Denby Lloyd, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game
Emil Notti, Commissioner, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic
Development
Mel Morris, Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries



Willow Chamber of Commerce

March 10, 2007

To Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
Board of Fisheries
Board Support Section
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Upon review of the action request from Board of Fisheries Chairman Mel Morris and through our member's own observations, the Willow Chamber of Commerce can make the following recommendations.

Because the single most important economic base for Willow based businesses is tourism and specifically recreation minded visitors, our Chamber of Commerce encourages wise protection of our recreational resources. Our fisheries are our most cherished resources. The value of a single fish to our community and our state is huge when caught by our visitors or by our own family members as our traditional food source. When an economist adds up the true value of a sport caught fish they would probably recognize a visitors air fare, car rental, gas purchases, hotel or bed and breakfast charges groceries or restaurant bills as well as fishing licenses and gear and guides fees. Because our Willow Chamber of Commerce is made up of businessmen and women who earn our living from the money spent in the pursuit of sport fish and game we urge the state to do whatever possible to ensure the quota of fish that reach our local streams and the upper Susitna Valley sustainable fisheries. Its spawning fish numbers and healthy hatch numbers must be increased or doom is inevitable for all the commercial, subsistence and recreational fisherman as well.

Please see to it that there are substantial decreases in high seas and lower Cook Inlet commercial catches so that there may be more fish for everyone in years to come.

With the future in mind and heart,
Sincerely,

Jim Huston, President
Willow Chamber of Commerce

Cc: Senator Lyda Green
Senator Charles Huggins
Representative Mark Newman
Bruce Knowles
Representative Bill Stoltz
Representative Wes Keller
Representative Carl Gusto

Willow Chamber of Commerce

Mail@willowchamber.org

P.O. Box 183

Willow, Alaska, 99688, USA

phone: (907) 495-6800

fax: (907) 495-6807

021

Action: 01/15/08

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 08-005 (AM)

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY REQUESTING THE ALASKA STATE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME (1) RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF FISHERIES THAT SOCKEYE AND CHUM SALMON STOCKS OF THE SUSITNA (YENTNA) RIVERS AND FISH CREEK BE DESIGNATED STOCKS OF CONCERN"; (2) PREPARE A PLAN FOR SALMON ESCAPEMENT ENUMERATION; (3) ESTABLISH ESCAPEMENT GOALS FOR ALL SALMON SPECIES OF THE NORTHERN DISTRICT; AND (4) SUPPORT THE ENACTMENT OF THE SUSTAINABLE SALMON POLICY INTO STATE LAW.

WHEREAS, the commercial harvest of sockeye salmon from the Northern District of Cook Inlet (NCI) has declined from an average of 180,000 in the 1980's to an average of 26,000 sockeye since 2002; and

WHEREAS, the commercial harvest of Upper Cook Inlet chum salmon has declined from 880,000 annually in the 1980's to fewer than 100,000 salmon during recent years; and

WHEREAS, spawning escapements for Susitna River sockeye have fallen below the minimum goal in five of the past seven years; and

WHEREAS, Fish Creek sockeye escapement thresholds have not been achieved over half of the time over the past ten years; and

WHEREAS, there are no escapement targets for chum salmon in NCI; and

WHEREAS, sport fisheries have been subject to continuous restrictions such as the prohibition of harvesting of sockeye over the past four years; and

WHEREAS, Northern Cook Inlet set net fisheries have had one or more closed fishing periods in each of the past seven years (except

2003); and

WHEREAS, commercial drift net fishing periods have been restricted annually since 2001; and

WHEREAS, chronic inability to maintain both minimum spawning escapements and expected harvests has occurred despite continuous restrictions on the fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the State's Sustainable Salmon Policy falls short of its potential by being regarded as a set of recommendations rather than clear legislative direction and as such being too easy to set aside, as management decisions are made; and

WHEREAS, genetic stock identification studies are in mid-course and other Susitna Basin fishery investigations are also in progress, the number of issues cited herein indicate further action is in order; and

WHEREAS, closures, restrictions and related regulatory actions have had, and will continue to have, significant social and economic impacts on Alaskans who rely on these resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly requests that the Alaska State Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) recommend to the Board of Fisheries (with Governor's Office Support) that sockeye and chum salmon stocks of the Susitna (Yentna) Rivers and Fish Creek be designated "stocks of concern", specifically yield concerns, as mandated by the Sustainable Salmon Policy (5AAC 39.222); and

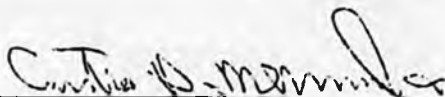
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly requests that the Legislature, with the support of the Governor, fund the development and application of technology that will assure acquisition of multi-species escapement information for Susitna (Yentna) River and Fish Creek salmon with emphasis on sockeye, coho, and chum in that priority. This includes providing on-going funding for enumerating coho salmon at the Deshka Weir; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly requests ADF&G to prepare a phased enumeration plan, with cost estimates showing the funds needed to add each species beyond sockeye to the project. The development of an all-species enumeration project plan and cost figures by phase will allow the Legislature and the Governor to decide the extent to which studies will be cost-effective given the current fiscal environment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly considers it essential that escapement goals ultimately be established for all salmon species of the Northern Cook Inlet. It is acknowledged that it could require as much as seven years of capturing escapement counts (per above) to gain sufficient knowledge in support of establishing those goals; and

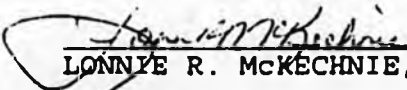
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly requests that the ADF&G and the Governor support legislative action to enact into statute (and/or regulation as appropriate) a codified version of the Sustainable Salmon Policy.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 15 day
of January, 2008.



CURTIS D. MENARD, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, Acting Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Woods, Houston, Church, Bettine, and Kluberton

for

**GREATER WASILLA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
RESOLUTION #01-08**

A RESOLUTION OF THE GREATER WASILLA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REQUESTING THE STATE OF ALASKA, DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF FISHERIES THAT SOCKEYE AND CHUM SALMON STOCKS OF THE SUSITNA (YETNA) RIVERS AND FISH CREEK BE DESIGNATED "STOCKS OF CONCERN," AND PREPARE A PLAN FOR SALMON ESCAPEMENT ENUMERATION; AND ESTABLISH ESCAPEMENT GOALS FOR ALL SALMON SPECIES OF THE NORTHERN DISTRICT, AND SUPPORT THE ENACTMENT OF THE SUSTAINABLE SALMON POLICY INTO STATE LAW.

WHEREAS, the commercial harvest of sockeye salmon from the Northern District of Cook Inlet (NCI) has declined from an average of 180,000 in the 1980's to an average of 26,000 sockeye since 2002; and

WHEREAS, the commercial harvest of Upper Cook Inlet chum salmon has declined from 880,000 annually in the 1980's to fewer than 100,000 salmon during recent years; and

WHEREAS, spawning escapements for Susitna River sockeye have fallen below the minimum goal in five of the past seven years; and

WHEREAS, Fish Creek sockeye escapement thresholds have not been achieved over half of the time over the past ten years; and

WHEREAS, there are no escapement targets for chum salmon in NCI; and

WHEREAS, sport fisheries have been subject to continuous restrictions such as the prohibition of harvesting of sockeye over the past four years; and

WHEREAS, Northern Cook Inlet set net fisheries have had one or more closed fishing periods in each of the past seven years (except 2000); and

WHEREAS, commercial drift net fishing periods have been restricted annually since 2001; and

WHEREAS, chronic inability to maintain both minimum spawning escapements and expected harvests has occurred despite continuous restrictions on the fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the state's Sustainable Salmon Policy falls short of its potential by being regarded as a set of recommendations rather than clear legislative direction and as such being too easy to set aside as management decisions are made; and

WHEREAS, genetic stock identification studies are in midcourse and other Susitna Basin fishery investigations are also in progress, the number of issues cited herein indicate further action is in order; and

WHEREAS, closures, restrictions and related regulatory actions have had, and will continue to have, significant social and economic impacts on Alaskans who rely on these resources.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce requests the State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), recommend to the Board of Fisheries (with Governor's Office Support) that sockeye and chum salmon stocks of the Susitna (Yetna) Rivers and Fish Creek be designated "stocks of concern", specifically yield concerns, as mandated by the Sustainable Salmon Policy (5 AAC 39.222); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce requests the legislature, with the support of the Governor, fund the development and application of technology that will assure acquisition of multi-species escapement information for Susitna (Yetna) River and Fish Creek salmon with emphasis on sockeye,

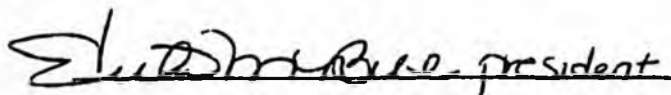
coho, and chum in that priority. This includes providing on-going funding for enumerating coho salmon at the Deshka Weir; and

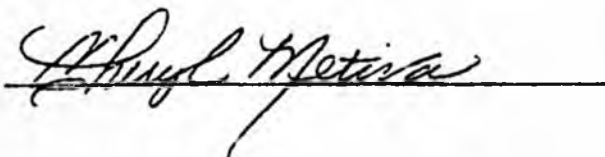
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce requests ADF&G to prepare a phased enumeration plan, with cost estimates showing the funds needed to add each species beyond sockeye to the project. The development of an all-species enumeration project plan and cost figures by phase will allow the legislature and the Governor to decide the extent to which studies will be cost-effective given the current fiscal environment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce considers it essential that escapement goals ultimately be established for all salmon species of the Northern Cook Inlet. It is acknowledged that it could require as much as seven years of capturing escapement counts (per above) to gain sufficient knowledge in support of establishing those goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce requests the ADF&G and the Governor support legislative action to enact into statute (and/or regulation as appropriate) a codified version of the Sustainable Salmon Policy.

ADOPTED by the Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce on January 31, 2008.

 _____ Erika Bills, President of the Board

 _____ Cheryl Metiva, CEO

ST

Noel and Jean Woods
PO Box 827
Palmer, Alaska 99645
Mar. 11, 2008

Tel: (907) 745-3027
Fax: (907) 745-5019

Senate Resource Committee
Juneau, Alaska

Thirty years ago Sam McDowell and Noel appeared before the Board of Fisheries with charts that showed a deliberate prejudice against upper Cook Inlet personal use fishermen. (50% of Alaska's population) We were able to show that every time the escapement of salmon into streams of the Northern Cook Inlet did not meet escapement goals the board of fisheries would lower the goals. This has continued until today residents who wish the same opportunity to share in the harvest of thier food source have been denied thier right by regulation.

Jean and Noel have fished for salmon for personal use for 53 years in Northern Cook Inlet waters

Please pass SB 284

Noel W. Woods
Jean H. Woods

for



415 E. Railroad Avenue (Historic Depot) • Wasilla, AK 99654
Email: info@wasillachamber.org

Telephone (907) 976-1299 • Fax (907) 979-2560
Home Page: www.wasillachamber.org

Voted "Alaska's Outstanding Local Chamber of Commerce ~ 1998, 2006"
"Home of the Iditarod" & "Home of the Iron Dog"

March 11, 2008

bp



Senator Lyda Green
Senate President
600 East Railroad Ave. Ste 1
Wasilla, AK. 99654



Re: Senate Bill # 284

Dear Senator Green,



Please accept this letter as support for Senate Bill # 284. The Greater Wasilla Chamber Board of Directors unanimously supports the passage of this bill. We can provide a resolution supporting this bill at a later date if necessary. If you have any questions or require further information please feel free call me at 907-232-5899 or the Chamber office at 907-376-1299.



Thank you for your time,



Erika M Bills
Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce President





Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Senate Resource
committee name

Committee on

CSSB 284

bill # / subject

, dated

3-11-08

public hearing date

I support Bill 284 in the hopes that it will bring more balance & equality to the board of Fisheries and bring forth more effort on conservation designed to provide Alaska with future salmon resources

Signed:

Russell E. Lacy Arnold E. Lacy
Testifier

Myself

Representing (optional)

35950 Forerunner St Soldotna AK 99669

Address

260-4729

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Resource Committee
committee name

Committee on Senate Bill #284, dated 3/11/08
bill # / subject public hearing date

Like the idea that the Board of Fish would be representative of various user groups.
No problem with (1) & (3) as written
Concern about (2)

First, believe that personal use and subsistence should be represented. However, ~~to be~~ believe that another user group should be included, that being Tourism.

With 3 user groups included in part (2) each could have one representative.

Signed:

Joe Gunnar
Testifier

self - Tourism & Lodge Owner
Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 1085, Sterling, AK 99672
Address

262-9496
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Senate Resource
committee name

Committee on

SB 284

bill #/subject

, dated

3-11-08

public hearing date

I support Senate Bill #284, which ask for FAIR Representation of the make up of the Board of Fish members. This FRAMEWORK in the bill will better ensure the balance & FAIRNESS OF the makeup of the board. Thank you for taking the time to read over this.

Signed:

Steve McClure

Testifier

myself

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 2263 Soldotna ALASKA

Address

262-2977

Phone number

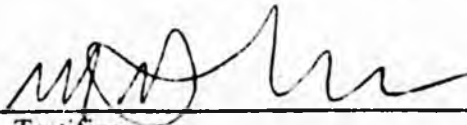


Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 284, dated 3/11/08
bill # / subject public hearing date

My name is Mark Glassmaker and I would like to express my support for Bill 284 as I feel it will ~~now~~ establish more equal representation among user groups on the Alaska Board of Fisheries. I am a nineteen year Kenai River guide and have participated extensively in the past several board of fish upper Cook Inlet Fin fish meetings and have seen first hand how a board without assigned seats can favor one particular user group in allocative issues. Having ~~no~~ pre-determined seat assignments for Board members would help to ensure a more fair and equitable Board of Fish process.

Signed: 
Testifier

Self - Sport fishing
Representing (optional)

33361 Keystone Drive Sewardna, AK 99669
Address

907-262-0892
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on CSSB 284, dated 2/11/08
bill # / subject public hearing date

In my opinion we do need frame work in place that gives our Governor direction on how to choose Board of Fish board members that will be fair to all user groups. I also feel that the tourism industry is represented in this frame work. In the past Comm Fish has been heavily weighted to the detriment of Sport Fish. We have complex issues on the World Famous Kenai River.

I will be supporting bill 284.

I am concerned about our current Governors relationship to Comm. Fish. The Sport Fishing Industry / Tourism Industry is growing and needs to be treated fairly.

Signed: David Boyce
Testifier

Sport Fishing
Representing (optional)

2915 Clipper Cir, Kenai, Ak. 99611
Address

907-283-9026 cell # 907-283-3503
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB284, dated 3/11/08
bill #/subject public hearing date

I am in favor of the said proposed changes to bill SB284. My concerns lie in appointing "3 members" who represent personal use or subsistence fishing interests. I would like to see a seat or two set aside especially for charter owners. Commercial fishing, personal use and subsistence interests all have guaranteed seats. Sport fishing interests are represented but no guarantee of a commercial sport fish interest.

I am in favor of SB284 in that it will provide structure to appointment of future Board of Fisheries members.

Signed:

Testifier

Aaron Cooper

Representing (optional)

PO 1447 Kenai AK 99611
Address

907-335-2248
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Resources
~~House~~ committee name
 Committee on 284, dated 3/11/08
 bill # / subject public hearing date

I support the concept of 284,

However after participating in several Board of fish meetings. I am concerned that the board members are asked to decide how to proceed on several very complex sport fishing issues. Members with no ^{sport} fishing experience have a very difficult time understanding how their actions impact a fishery. So I would encourage you to reevaluate the 3 sub/personal use seats, and substitute 2 personal use / subsistence and 1 tourism or charter operator seat. This could help the board be more balanced and more effective on sorting out complex fisheries such as the Kenai River.

Signed: Monte Roberts
 Testifier
Sport fish Charter Operator
 Representing (optional)
PO Box 1106
 Address
907 262-8518
 Phone number

Opposed

Petersburg Vessel Owners Association

P.O. Box 232

Petersburg, Alaska 99833

Phone (907) 772-9323

March 11, 2008

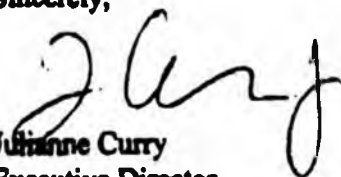
Senator Charlie Huggins, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Mail Stop 3100
Juneau AK 99801
Fax: 907.465.3265

RE: OPPOSE SB 284 BOARD OF FISH DESIGNATED SEATS

The Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) is a diverse group of commercial fishermen that participate in a variety of fisheries in Southeast and throughout the State of Alaska. PVOA opposes SB 284 which would designate seats on the Board of Fisheries. PVOA recognizes the importance of quality Board members. Appointments to the Board of Fish are made on the basis of interest in public affairs, good judgment, knowledge, and ability in the field of action of the board, and with a view to provide diversity of interests and points of view in the membership.

PVOA is a longstanding supporter of the Board of Fish and the nomination process and we oppose this legislation. The existing practice of Board nominations by the Governor and confirmation of nominations by the Legislature provides for sufficient review of candidates and their potential contribution to the Board of Fish which governs fisheries that are vital to coastal Alaska.

Sincerely,



Julianne Curry
Executive Director



Native Village of Eyak
110 Nicholoff Way ~ PO Box 1388 ~ Cordova, AK 99574
Phone: (907) 424-7738 ~ Fax: (907) 424-7739
www.nveyak.com

Senate Resources Committee
Attn: Senator Huggins, Chair
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 205
Juneau, AK 99801

11 March, 2008

Re: Senate Bill 284: "An Act relating to the membership of the Board of Fisheries; and providing for an effective date"

Although agreeing with some of the intentions of this Senate Bill, The Native Village of Eyak opposes SB284 as it is currently written. We request information and consultation on any revisions to the Bill before it is adopted to Law. This is an important issue which demands the fullest extent of Tribal and public involvement.

Our points of contention include:

1. Under no circumstances should the interests of the Personal Use and Subsistence Fisheries be combined into a single group. These are two very distinct and historically very opposing groups. It would be irresponsible to think that an individual with ties to the Personal Use fishery could fairly represent the interests of Subsistence fishermen, and vice versa. As an example, consider the issue of C&T determination for the Chitina Subdistrict dipnet fishery which caused heated debate between PU and Subsistence Users for the past decade of BoF meetings. Subsistence representation should remain at 3 seats to meet the subsistence priority outlined in the constitution. PU interests should be included for representation by the sport fishing seats, because these fisheries have much more in common under the current management system.
2. A large number of commercial and subsistence fishermen also possess a sport fishing guide license for a different fishery. While we agree with the intention of preventing conflicts of interest in representation, the proposed language could be too restrictive in determining eligibility. The current process of full disclosure and candidate review by the Governor and Legislature seems adequate to address these concerns.
3. Alaska is a small state, and everyone is closely related. It would be unduly restrictive to prevent a qualified and ethical candidate from being on the Board because a member of their immediate family has chosen to pursue employment in a different sector of the second largest industry in the State. As long as there remains full disclosure requirements, we see no need to restrict eligibility based on immediate family.

Please keep us apprised of further developments with SB284.

Regards,


Bruce Cain,
Executive Director



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

opp

211 Fourth Street, Suite 110
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1172
(907) 586-2820
(907) 463-2545 Fax
E-Mail: ufa@ufa-fish.org
www.ufa-fish.org

March 11, 2008

Senator Charlie Huggins, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Mail Stop 3100
Juneau AK 99801

RE: Opposition to SB 284 regarding Board of Fisheries

Dear Senator Huggins and Committee Members,

The United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) Board of Directors recently met and discussed Senate Bill 284, and a new committee substitute that may be introduced. Both versions feature designated seats for Sport, Commercial, and Personal use / Subsistence users on the Board of Fisheries.

UFA opposes SB 284 and CSSB 284, and feels that these bills would unduly restrict interested and qualified members whose interests cross over between these categories from serving. Many commercial fishermen engage in charter operations, and many sport guides work part time as crew in commercial fisheries.

It is not clear what problem with the Board of Fisheries that the bill is intended to solve, but we do not feel that designation of members through these assigned seats will help ensure that board decisions are made fairly. UFA believes that such strict designations will make it even more difficult to find qualified individuals to serve on the board. We fear that such designated seats would only serve to add further divisiveness to the Board of Fisheries process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Vinsel
Executive Director

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

9369 North Douglas Hwy

Juneau, AK 99801

Phone 907-586-6652 or Cell 907-321-3765

Fax 907-523-1168

Website: <http://www.seafa.org>



Email: seafa@gci.net

*opposed
seat.*

March 10, 2008

Senate Resources Committee
Senator Huggins, Chair
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 205
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Oppose SB 284 Board of Fish Designated Seats

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFA) opposes SB 284 designating three seats each to the commercial, sport and personal use & subsistence sectors. Many things need to be considered in trying to re-designate the seats in these categories, is a charter operator considered commercial or sport, and how do you designate an individual that fits in multiple categories?

The important characteristics that should be considered for appointment to the Board of Fish are a person's character, integrity, personal ethics and knowledge that he or she brings to the process. The current process of nomination by the Governor and confirmation by the Legislature should provide sufficient review of a person's character to provide for a Board of Fish that will first and foremost provide for the protection of and the sustainability of the resource while providing fair and balanced allocation decisions. The very nature of the Board of Fish is such that someone will always be upset by some decision or another that is made by the Board of Fish because as in the legislature you cannot make everyone happy with every decision.

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance is a multi-gear group representing our members involved in the salmon, crab, shrimp and longline fisheries of Southeast Alaska.

Sincerely,
Kathy Hansen (email signature)
Kathy Hansen
Executive Director



0PT
posed

Cordova District Fishermen United
PO Box 935 | 509 First Street | Cordova, AK 99574
phone: (907) 424 3447 | fax: (907) 424 3430
web: www.cdfu.org | email: cdfu@ak.net

March 10, 2008

Senate Resources Committee
Senator Huggins, Chair
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 205
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Oppose SB 284 Board of Fish Designated Seats

Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) opposes SB 284 designating three seats each to the commercial, sport and personal use & subsistence sectors. There are many considerations in a decision of this kind, including how to appropriately designate seats to ensure fair decisions are made for all user groups. Seat designation in a categorized system such as SB 284 describes is not a black and white issue, as many people fall across multiple categories. A sport fishermen, for example, may also keep some of the fish they catch thus falling into the category of personal use. This leads to an unfair representation across the board for all user groups.

Rather than simply categorizing appointed members into commercial, sport fish or personal use it is more important to ensure that appointed members are of good character, ethics and have a vast unbiased knowledge and experience of Alaska fisheries.

The current process that is undertaken by the Governor is fair and balanced and should not be changed.

Sincerely,

Rochelle van den Broek
Executive Director



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee
committee name

Committee on SB 224 / BOF Compensation dated 3/11/08
bill #/ subject public hearing date

I am opposed to this bill for the following reasons.

- 1- PU/substitute users are a minority
 - 30,000 Com/fishermen + 10,000 Cannery workers + Capital investment in Canneries, boats gear, etc.
 - * 200,000 Spout fishermen
 - VS
 - * 15,000 - 20,000 PU/fishermen

2- PU Fishing is done under a Spout fish license

This is a de facto reallocation of seats to urban Spout fishermen

This will not address the escapement issues on the Yetera/Boyerke Systems - they are due to degraded habitat of juvenile species.

Signed: [Signature]
Testifier

self / commercial Fisherman
Representing (optional)

Box 3322 Soldotna, AK 99669
Address

907-394-4004
Phone number



North Pacific Fisheries Association
P.O. Box 796
Homer, Alaska 99603

March 19, 2008

Senator Charlie Huggins, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Mail Stop 3100
Juneau AK 99801

Re: CS 284 Board of Fisheries

Dear Senator Huggins:

The North Pacific Fisheries Association (NPFA) opposes SB 284 and the CS. The membership of NPFA consists of fishermen who live in Homer and fish commercially throughout the state. Our members have been involved in the Board of Fish process since the Board was formed. We do not always agree with decisions made by the Board, but we respect the process and continue to participate rather than want to change the process or the make-up of members because we didn't get some particular decision.

We are opposed to the concept of having "designated" seats for particular user groups on the Board of Fisheries. A good Board member makes decisions based on the best available science using the Board's allocation criteria. A Board member should not represent his/her "constituency." This would lead to a huge departure from how the Board process works. We believe the

Board should be comprised of knowledgeable individuals who have the best interests of Alaska's resources in mind, without particular regard to who they "represent". We believe that the composition of the Board should be left to the discretion of the Governor.

Furthermore, it is very difficult to find capable individuals who are even willing to serve on the Board. Folks who are only interested in one issue, one river, or one region wither under the press of information and the scope of understanding statewide issues. It is in all of our interests to find good people who want to serve in an open and unbiased professional manner – seeking to do more than that just politicizes the process.

For these reasons, we do not support CS 284 .

Sincerely,



Michael Laukitis
President, NPFA



Boards Support

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- Joint Boards

Board of Fisheries

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New! Susitna sockeye Salmon Action Plan(*PDF 150KB)
 Update on Restructuring Proposals
 Board of Fisheries 2008-09 Call for Proposals Posted
 Board of Fisheries Policy on Written Comments(*PDF - 10KB)2007/2008
 Fishery Proposals Available(*PDF - 1.53 MB)

Welcome to the Board of Fisheries!

The Alaska Board of Fisheries consists of seven members serving three-year terms. Members are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the legislature. Members are appointed on the basis of interest in public affairs, good judgment, knowledge, and ability in the field of action of the board, with a view to providing diversity of interest and points of view in the membership (see Alaska Statute 16.05.221).

The Board of Fisheries' main role is to conserve and develop the fishery resources of the state. This involves setting seasons, bag limits, methods and means for the state's subsistence, commercial, sport, guided sport, and personal use fisheries, and it also involves setting policy and direction for the management of the state's fishery resources. The board is charged with making allocative decisions, and the department is responsible for management based on those decisions.

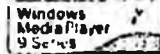
The Board of Fisheries meets four to six times per year in communities around the state to consider proposed changes to fisheries regulations around the state. The board uses the biological and socioeconomic information provided by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, public comment received from people inside and outside of the state, and guidance from the Alaska Department of Public Safety and Alaska Department of Law when creating regulations that are sound and enforceable.

Sign up for our electronic mailing list

Live Audio

CLICK HERE: Audio Stream of the Board of Fisheries Meeting.

*Link will not function while the board is off the record



Quick Picks

Go!

Fisheries News



Board of Fisheries Chair, Mel Morris

Front Page

BOF Upcoming Meetings

Sec. 16.05.221. Boards of fisheries and game.

(a) For purposes of the conservation and development of the fishery resources of the state, there is created the Board of Fisheries composed of seven members appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the legislature in joint session. The governor shall appoint each member on the basis of interest in public affairs, good judgment, knowledge, and ability in the field of action of the board, and with a view to providing diversity of interest and points of view in the membership. The appointed members shall be residents of the state and shall be appointed without regard to political affiliation or geographical location of residence. The commissioner is not a member of the Board of Fisheries, but shall be ex officio secretary.

(b) For purposes of the conservation and development of the game resources of the state, there is created a Board of Game composed of seven members appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the legislature in joint session. The governor shall appoint each member on the basis of interest in public affairs, good judgment, knowledge, and ability in the field of action of the board, and with a view to providing diversity of interest and points of view in the membership. The appointed members shall be residents of the state and shall be appointed without regard to political affiliation or geographical location of residence. The commissioner is not a member of the Board of Game, but shall be ex officio secretary.

(c) Members of the Board of Game serve staggered terms of three years and, except as provided in AS 39.05.080 (4), each member serves until a successor is appointed. An appointment to fill a vacancy in the membership of the Board of Game shall be made in the same manner as the original appointment and, except as provided in AS 39.05.080 (4), an appointment to fill a vacancy is for the balance of the unexpired term.

(d) Members of the Board of Fisheries serve staggered terms of three years. The terms of members of the board begin on July 1. Notwithstanding AS 39.05.080 (1), by April 1 of the calendar year in which the term expires, the governor shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy that will arise on the board due to expiration of the term of a member of the board and submit the name of the person to the legislature for confirmation. If a vacancy arises on the board, the governor shall, within 30 days after the vacancy arises, appoint a person to serve the balance of the unexpired term and submit the name of the person to the legislature for confirmation. A person appointed to fill the balance of an unexpired term shall serve on the board from the date of appointment until the earlier of the expiration of the term or the failure of the legislature to confirm the person under AS 39.05.080.

1

2

3

4

5

P.1
SB 284
oppose

Western Gulf of Alaska Fishermen

2900 Fritz Cove Road
Juneau, Ak 99801
Tel (907) 723-5257
Email jmchilders@gmail.com

March 14, 2008

Senator Charlie Higgins, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Mail Stop 3100
Juneau, Ak 99801

RE: SB 284

Dear Chairman Huggins and Committee Members:

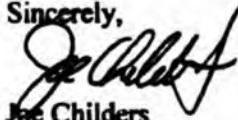
I write to you today on behalf the members of the *Western Gulf of Alaska Fishermen's Association (WGOAF)*. Our association is opposed to SB 284, which seeks to modify the Board of Fisheries membership. This bill is a bad idea and it appears to us that it is being promoted for all the wrong reasons.

The Board of Fisheries must have as its prime directive, the sustainability of all of our fishery resources. We have a very long list of fisheries that need to be managed, including but not limited to, groundfish such as cod, pollock, various rockfishes, flounders, soles, sablefish, halibut, and various crabs, shrimp, and urchins, geoducks, sea cucumbers, herring, eulachon, and of course salmon and several important fresh water species. These resources need active management in every area of the State, from Southeast to the end of the Aleutian Islands and North to the Arctic Ocean. The goal of the Board of Fisheries has always been and should continue to be about sustainable resource management, not about allocation.

Allocation is a luxury that is only possible when there is a large enough sustainable resource available to allocate. If allocation becomes more important than sustainability, the resource will suffer. Most of the rest of the world has chosen allocation over sustainability and as a result they have little or nothing left to allocate.

We oppose SB 284. We support sustainable fisheries management. We believe that if and only if fisheries are sustainably managed, will there be anything left to allocate.

Sincerely,



Joe Childers

Director, *Western Gulf of Alaska Fishermen's Association*

Approved to file
3-15-08

Western Gulf of Alaska Fishermen

1000 Fritz (over Road)
Juneau, AK 99801
Tel (907) 523-2227
Email jchilders@gmail.com

March 14, 2008

Senator Carlie Higgins, Chairman
Senate Fisheries Committee
Alaska State Capitol
State Capitol Mail Stop 110
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SB 284

Dear Chairman Higgins and Committee Members:

I write to you today on behalf of the members of the Western Gulf of Alaska Fishermen's Association (WGAFA). Our organization is opposed to SB 284 which would amend the Board of Fisheries membership. This bill is a bad idea and it appears to us that it is being promoted for all the wrong reasons.

The Board of Fisheries is the primary regulatory body for the state's fisheries. It is responsible for setting regulations, allocating fishing effort, and monitoring the health of the fishery. The Board is composed of representatives from the fishing industry, academia, and the general public. The current Board is a mix of these interests and has been successful in managing the state's fisheries in a sustainable and equitable manner. The proposed changes to the Board would remove the industry and academia from the Board and replace them with representatives from the general public. This would be a significant change and would likely result in a Board that is not representative of the fishing industry and its interests.

Although it is a well-intentioned effort to increase public participation in the management of the state's fisheries, the proposed changes to the Board would result in a Board that is not representative of the fishing industry and its interests. The fishing industry is a vital part of the state's economy and it is important that the Board of Fisheries be able to represent the interests of the fishing industry in a meaningful way.

We urge you to support sustainable fisheries management and to oppose SB 284. Only a Board of Fisheries that is representative of the fishing industry can ensure the long-term health and productivity of the state's fisheries.


Joe Childers

Director, Western Gulf of Alaska Fishermen's Association

United Cook Inlet Drift Association

43961 K-Beach Road, Suite E • Soldotna, Alaska 99669 • (907) 260-9436 • fax (907) 260-9438 •
ucida@acsalaska.net

Date: March 14, 2008
 Addressee: Senator Charlie Huggins
 RE: Board of Fisheries Membership – SB 284

oppose

Dear Senator Huggins,

We do not support SB 284 and its proposed designation of two commercial, two sport and three personal use individuals for the Board of Fisheries (BOF).

Commercial fisheries in Alaska that are regulated by the BOF are very broad and complex. Commercial fisheries in Alaska can be grouped into four broad categories: Herring, Groundfish, Shellfish and Salmon. The following briefly describes each category of commercial fishing:

- | | | |
|--|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. Herring – 2007 Statewide | 81,960,000 lbs | \$8,291,865 |
| 2. Groundfish – 2007 | 42,586,904 lbs | \$24,246,774 |
| ➤ includes pollock, cod, sablefish, rockfish, ling cod, atka mackerel, yellowfish sole, flathead sole, rock sole, Greenland turbot, Alaska place and arrowtooth flounder | | |
| 3. Shellfish – 2007 | 65,190,000 lbs | \$132,830,000 |
| ➤ includes parallel fisheries for king crab (5 species), tanner/snow crab, dungeness crab, hair crab, shrimp, hardshell clams, scallops, sea cucumbers, geoducks and sea urchins | | |
| 4. Salmon 2007 | 946,675,000 lbs | \$347,372,000 |
| ➤ Eleven regions, includes king, sockeye, chum, coho and pinks | | |

Commercial Industry totals – 2007:

Herring	81,960,000 lbs	\$ 8,291,865
Groundfish	45,586,904 lbs	\$ 24,246,774
Shellfish	65,190,000 lbs	\$132,830,000
Salmon	946,675,000 lbs	\$347,372,000
1,136,411,904 lbs		\$512,740,639

Approved to
File 3-15-08

The total fishery harvest is 250 billion pounds representing over 50 species throughout the state.

We seriously disagree with the fact that we will not have two commercially designated areas. We seriously disagree that (3) there is no need for use of designated areas would be capable of adequately addressing the complicated regulatory issues in the entire scope of commercial fisheries in Alaska.

Commercial fishing is the economic, social and cultural backbone of Alaska. The restructuring the HOF as proposed in 2002 is not only unnecessary but will put at risk significant economic individuals and jobs in Alaska. The restructuring on the HOF removes the requirement to all BCF members responsible for the resource users and gear types. I just don't know how designating HOF areas will help on Alaska fishing. 2002 was a great public law and we will continue to work with the state.

Sincerely,

Original copy

Roland Maw, PhD
UCIDA Executive Director

- Senator John Carls
- Senator John Carls
- Senator John Carls
- Senator Fred Dyer
- Senator John Egan
- Senator Kim Eason
- Senator Hollis French
- Senator Alan Friedman
- Senator Albert Kook
- Senator Donald Olson
- Senator Gene Therman
- Senator Joe Thomas
- Senator Carl Wickersham

**United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters**

P.O. Box 23378, Ketchikan, AK 99901 Phone & Fax (907) 247-2471 Email: usag@kpunet.net

March 13, 2008

Senator Charlie Huggins, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee
State Capitol, Mail Stop 3100
Juneau, AK 99801

Sent Via Fax to: 907-465-3265

Dear Senator Huggins,

The United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters (USAG) is an association of about 150 small business owners who catch salmon by drift gillnetting in Southeast Alaska and market salmon throughout the United States. Many of our members also participate in other fisheries such as crab, shrimp, dive and longline. USAG has been a strong supporter of the Board of Fisheries (BoF) and the procedures under which it operates. We believe one of the main reasons that Alaska is the model for good fisheries management throughout the United States is due to the Board of Fisheries and the public participation that its established procedures encourage. We believe the current CS SB 284 would result in many well qualified Alaskans becoming ineligible to serve on the BoF and therefore oppose this legislation.

The BoF is a statewide body with representation from all parts of Alaska that must make many controversial decisions concerning the variety of issues it deals with. Making changes to the eligibility standards for participation in this system which has proven over the years to give Alaska the finest fisheries resource management in the nation makes no sense to us. To exclude knowledgeable and experienced Alaskans who depend on our seafood resources for their livelihood or recreation is unacceptable. We also do not support calls for a "professional" BoF believing instead that our current layman board has demonstrated its ability to achieve the highest level of fisheries management.

The current BoF system has worked and continues to work. We do not think it should be changed.

Yours truly,

Kenneth Duckett
Executive Director

Conversation
w/ 7 (Bam)

→ Whole lot of angry ^{commercial} fishermen will
result

→ ADF & G - will have no opinion

Send to all members
L10 3-11-08



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

211 Fourth Street, Suite 110
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1172
(907) 586-2820
(907) 463-2545 Fax
E-Mail: ufa@ufa-fish.org
www.ufa-fish.org

March 11, 2008

Senator Charlie Huggins, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Mail Stop 3100
Juneau AK 99801

RE: Opposition to SB 284 regarding Board of Fisheries

Dear Senator Huggins and Committee Members,

The United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) Board of Directors recently met and discussed Senate Bill 284, and a new committee substitute that may be introduced. Both versions feature designated seats for Sport, Commercial, and Personal use / Subsistence users on the Board of Fisheries.

UFA opposes SB 284 and CSSB 284, and feels that these bills would unduly restrict interested and qualified members whose interests cross over between these categories from serving. Many commercial fishermen engage in charter operations, and many sport guides work part time as crew in commercial fisheries.

It is not clear what problem with the Board of Fisheries that the bill is intended to solve, but we do not feel that designation of members through these assigned seats will help ensure that board decisions are made fairly. UFA believes that such strict designations will make it even more difficult to find qualified individuals to serve on the board. We fear that such designated seats would only serve to add further divisiveness to the Board of Fisheries process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Vinsel
Executive Director

UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA



207 FISHING MARKET BUILDING 170
LARAMIE AVENUE, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
(907) 586-3330
(907) 586-3333 FAX
E-MAIL: ufa@alaska.net
WWW.UFA.ORG

March 11, 2004

Senator Charlie Huggins, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Mail Stop 1100
Juneau AK 99801

RE: Opposition to SB 284 regarding Board of Fisheries

Info - Not for packets

from Sport
Fish - for
Huggins, to know
understand

for Monday March to
mtg w/ P. Carter; E. Mulder

Dear Senator Huggins and
The United Fishermen of
Senate Bill 284 and a
Senate designated seat
Board of Fisheries.
IFA opposes SB 284 and
interested and pushed
activity. Many communit
work part time as crew
It is not clear what prop
we do not feel that designat
board decisions are made fairly. IFA believes that such a designat
more difficult to find qualified individuals to serve on the board. We would like
designated seats would only serve to add further to the process in the Board of Fisheries
process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Vinsel
Executive Director

Sen. Huggins

February 2008

SB284

Northern District Monitoring & Research Priorities

Highest Priority

Accurate adult escapement and production data on Susitna sockeye are accorded the highest priority.

1. Yentna River Salmon Escapement (Long-term Monitoring Program)

The Bendix Sonar, in concert with fish wheel sampling, provides the only long term escapement information for Susitna sockeye. Recent research indicates that the sonar consistently undercounts actual abundance but may be an effective index of abundance. This index is the basis for the current Yentna sockeye SEG. The sonar needs to be continued until something better is in place and the alternative has been calibrated to the Bendix counts.

2. Didson Yentna Sonar Counter (Current Project)

The more-advanced Didson sonar may prove to be an effective long term replacement for the old Bendix sonar system. Both systems need to be operated concurrently for several years and compared in order to relate historical and current data.

3. Genetic Sockeye Stock Composition of the Commercial Harvest (Current Project)

This new data is critical to effective sockeye management in UCI and genetic stock identification needs to be incorporated in a systematic annual sampling program. Modern genetic methods for the first time allow accounting of the origin of all fish harvested in the commercial fishery with 100% accuracy. Results have shown that historical assumptions and stock appor ionments were inaccurate, particularly with the failure to account for Susitna sockeye harvest in the East side set net fishery. Effects ripple through harvest and production estimates for all sockeye stocks in the inlet. In addition to regular post-season analysis and reconstruction of stock composition in the fisheries, this work should also include a trial application of genetic stock identification for in-season management in order to regulate harvest of northern district sockeye.

Priority

Priority projects would provide significant new information on sockeye numbers and production or extend useful data collected in current projects scheduled for completion.

1. Migration Routes & Timing of Susitna Sockeye through Upper Cook Inlet Fisheries (New Project)

This is a new project that is not currently proposed in the preliminary draft Susitna sockeye action plan. It includes additional genetic stock identification studies based on: 1) a retrospective genetic analysis of historical scale collections to accurately reconstruct historical runs, and 2) systematic test fisheries in the inlet statistically designed to collect time and area genetic samples. The retrospective analysis will reconstruct correct historical brood tables. Rather than waiting 5 or 7 years to compile an adequate picture one year at a time, the retrospective analysis can provide years of data in the near term. The systematic test fisheries are needed to explore effective alternatives for targeting or avoided specific stocks are needed because normal fisheries are limited in time and area. The project is a complement to existing genetic stock identification studies.

2. Major System Adult Weirs (Proposed Project in Action Plan)

Weirs in key production areas provide estimates of absolute abundance of significant populations. Weir counts provide useful points of reference to determine whether sonar

counts continue to be useful indices of escapement. Over time, weir counts can also provide population-specific escapement estimates. Differences in escapement patterns among populations will help identify limiting factors. Counts also provide useful recapture data for in-river abundance and distribution estimates. This project is best conducted in conjunction with the In-river Abundance and Spawner Distribution project.

3. In-river Sockeye Abundance and Spawner Distribution (Current Research Project)

This is a continuation of the current study. This work provides critical information on the whole population of Susitna sockeye rather than just the subpopulations being monitored in selected lakes. Without this more global view, we don't simply won't know whether intensively-monitored lake populations are representative of the entire population. Criticism of the technical merit of the mark-recapture portion of this study is unfounded. Regardless, the radiotelemetry data on spawner distribution provides useful information what portion of the run returns to any given area in any given year. This project is best conducted in conjunction with the major system weirs project.

4. Major System Sockeye Smolt Production (Proposed Project in Action Plan)

Estimates of smolt production concurrent with weir counts of adults in major sockeye systems will help distinguish the relative significance of freshwater and saltwater effects on production and the productive capacity of key systems. The smolt studies are a useful complement to the adult escapement estimates although the adult weir counts would be a higher priority in the face of funding limitations.

5. UCI Fisheries Model (New Project)

This project would build upon prototype models developed for UCI fisheries and incorporate them into fishery planning practice. Because northern district sockeye escapement is not counted until after fishing occurs, UCI commercial fisheries must be configured to meet northern district escapement goals in the absence of real-time in-season data on northern district run sizes and escapement. Fisheries must be planned and configured based on assumed movement and timing patterns from historical data. A fishery planning model is an effective tool for formalizing this analysis, explicitly weighing management tradeoffs, designing effective fishing strategies, defining fishery expectations, and documenting key assumptions that can then be evaluated with post-season data. A model is also an effective tool for evaluating the implications of new genetic and escapement data collected by other projects. The model is the means of applying and integrating the new information to get to the "so what" of how to meet escapement goals of northern district sockeye.

Other

A variety of additional projects are being proposed or considered. Many projects could provide information of some utility but other projects identified above will provide information of more direct application or more cost-effective returns on project investments. Other lower priority projects include:

1. Evaluation of Juvenile Sockeye Production from Susitna Watershed Lakes (Current Research Project)

The current project will need met the objective need for background limnology and habitat information from key sockeye lakes. The long term management application of additional mechanistic limnological and juvenile rearing research is limited. Additional information of a similar nature will provide diminishing returns and is of a lower priority than basic stock-specific escapement and harvest data. Portions of the current study of value for long term

management application are included in the major system adult weirs and smolt production studies identified above.

2. Additional Adult System Weirs (Proposed Project in Action Plan)

This project would provide more of the same type of information provided in the major system adult weir studies. This is labor intensive and costly work. The need is met by the major system studies.

3. Additional System Smolt Production (Proposed Project in Action Plan)

This project would provide more of the same type of information provided in the major system smolt production studies. This is labor intensive and costly work. The need is met by the major system studies.

4. Susitna River Fish Passage Restoration (Proposed Project in Action Plan)

Benefits of passage restoration will be limited by improvements affecting a limited local area (that do not affect a significant portion of the production area) or improvements that are temporary in nature (e.g. beaver dam removal). Rather than focusing on restoration and action-effectiveness monitoring of a few problem sites, a better approach for the long term would be a comprehensive inventory of the extent of potential problems throughout the drainage.

5. Fish Creek Sockeye Production

Intensive juvenile studies in Fish Creek might provide insight into the collapse of this sockeye population but might also just document what we already know (current production is poor). A better alternative might be a study focused on the effectiveness of remedial actions (discontinuation of hatchery releases, habitat improvements, etc.).

6. Abundance, Distribution, and Run Timing of Coho, Pink, Chum and Sockeye in Upper Cook Inlet

Tagging salmon from the Anchor Point test fishery with radiotags and subsequent aerial monitoring of freshwater escapement would be a very costly study relative to the information gained. This study will provide no direct information on movements in the inlet because radiotags are not detectable in salt water. Realistic sample sizes will impose serious limitations on statistical power to identify distribution and timing patterns. The study would also provide little or no information on a critical question of where and when fish would be subject to commercial harvest.

Alaska Fisheries Consultants ¹

LGL Alaska Research Associates Inc.

1101 East 76th Avenue, Suite B
Anchorage AK 99518
ph: 907.562.3339
Mike Link

R2 Resource Consultants

R2 Resource Consultants
2600 Cordova St.
Suite 211
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907)771-4090 phone
MaryLou Keefe

HDR

2525 C Street, Suite 305
Anchorage AK 99503-2632
Ph: (907) 644-2000

Interfluve

1020 Wasco Street, Suite I
Hood River OR 97031
ph: 541.386.9003
Greg Koonce

Natural Resources Consultants, Inc.

1900 West Nickerson Street, Suite 207
Seattle WA 98119 USA
ph: 206.285.3480
Greg Ruggerone

¹ *located or working in Alaska.*