

**HB**

**144**

<TARGET><BILL>HB 144</BILL><SUBJECT>HB  
144</SUBJECT><COMM>HRES27</COMM></TARGET>

**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 144(RES)**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Offered:  
Referred:**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES GARA, Neuman, Kawasaki, Kerttula, Petersen, Thompson, Johnson,  
Peggy Wilson, Gardner**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act requiring the Department of Natural Resources annually to deliver to the**  
2 **legislature and the governor a report on fishing stream access."**

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

4 **\* Section 1.** AS 38.04 is amended by adding a new section to article 4 to read:

5 **Sec. 38.04.205. Fishing stream access report.** (a) The department, in  
6 consultation with the commissioner of fish and game, shall annually, not later than the  
7 10th day of each regular legislative session, provide to the legislature and the  
8 governor, and post on the department's Internet website, an electronic report

9 (1) detailing the department's efforts during the previous year to  
10 maintain or enhance access to and along fishing streams;

11 (2) stating the department's objectives for enhancing and maintaining  
12 access to and along fishing streams by the public in the upcoming year.

13 (b) In this section, "fishing stream" means a stream with an appreciable sport,  
14 personal use dip net, commercial, or subsistence fish population.



*com #1*  
**AMENDMENT**

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

BY REPRESENTATIVE SEATON

TO: HB 144

- 1 Page 1, line 8:
- 2 Delete "a report"
- 3 Insert ", and post on the department's Internet website, an electronic report"

*↑  
an electronic report.*

HOUSE BILL NO. 144 *as amended.*

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE GARA

Introduced: 2/7/11  
Referred:

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act requiring the Department of Natural Resources annually to deliver to the  
2 legislature and the governor a report on fishing stream access."

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

4 \* Section 1. AS 38.04 is amended by adding a new section to article 4 to read:

5 Sec. 38.04.205. Fishing stream access report. (a) The department, in  
6 consultation with the commissioner of fish and game, shall annually, not later than the  
7 10th day of each regular legislative session, provide to the legislature and the governor  
8 a report

9 (1) detailing the department's efforts during the previous year to  
10 maintain or enhance access to and along fishing streams;

11 (2) stating the department's objectives for enhancing and maintaining  
12 access to and along fishing streams by the public in the upcoming year.

13 (b) In this section, "fishing stream" means a stream with an appreciable sport,  
14 personal use dip net, commercial, or subsistence fish population.

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE LES GARA

## **HB 144: Sponsor Statement Protecting Public Fishing Stream Access**

Alaska's rivers are a treasured resource for fishermen, boaters, hunters, hikers, and people of all walks of life. We need to protect the public's access to them. House Bill 114 aims to ensure future public access to Alaska's fishing streams by putting in place a mechanism for encouraging the Department of Natural Resources to identify areas of public access that are in jeopardy of loss. The program would be facilitated by the Department of Natural Resources and would be completely voluntary. It would not take land away from citizens who do not want to trade for other public land; rather, it would encourage DNR to look for areas to secure needed public access easements.

There are currently large stretches of private land on streams such as the Anchor River, Deep Creek, Parks Highway Streams, the Salcha River and others throughout the state. Today the public uses these streams, and has access to them. Once they're developed, we will never be able to afford to get them back.

Other states have waited too long to take steps like the ones proposed by this bill. In Montana, for example, fishermen have to pay for public access to some rivers. One hundred eighty miles of the Missouri River have lost public access, and that state now budgets \$300,000 per year to buy back parcels of riverbank land.

HB 144 will help ensure that unparalleled recreational opportunities in our vibrant river corridors remain accessible, for our own and for future generations. It provides that the state should take action by providing a plan to the legislature on an annual basis that assess those areas most at risk of loss.

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE LES GARA

## **HB 144: Sectional Analysis Requiring a DNR Report on Fishing Stream Access**

The bill's sections provide as follows:

**Section 1.** This section requires the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources to annually provide a report to the legislature and the governor detailing the efforts from the previous year, and objectives for the upcoming year, in maintaining and enhancing public access along fishing streams, where sport, personal use dip net, commercial, or subsistence fishing is conducted.

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Version HB144  
( ) Publish Date \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier (file name) HB144-DFG-SFD-02-17-11 Dept. Affected ADF&G  
Title Report on Fishing Stream Access Appropriation Sport Fisheries  
Allocation Sport Fisheries  
Sponsor Representative Gara  
Requester House Special Committee on Fisheries OMB Component Number 464

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

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

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2012	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Commodities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Capital Outlay	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>								
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES</b>								
---------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1037 GF/Mental Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other (please identify)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2011) cost 0.0

**POSITIONS**

Full-time	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Part-time	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Temporary	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)

Initial version.

Prepared by Charles O. Swanton, Director  
Division Sport Fisheries  
Approved by Kevin Brooks, Administrative Services Director  
Department of Fish and Game

Phone 907-465-8184  
Date/Time 2/17/2011 12:00PM  
Date 2/18/2011

**FISCAL NOTE**

**STATE OF ALASKA  
2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**BILL NO. HB144**

**Analysis**

The bill requires Department of Natural Resources to consult with the Commissioner of Fish & Game and annually report on fishing stream access. There is no fiscal impact to the Department of Fish & Game, Division of Sport Fisheries.

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bill Version           **HB144**            
 () Publish Date \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier (file name)           HB144-DNR-LATD-02-23-11           Dept. Affected           **Natural Resources**            
 Title           Report On Fishing Stream Access           Appropriation           **Resource Development**            
 Allocation           Land Acquisition and Title Defense            
 Sponsor           Rep. Gara            
 Requester           House FSH           OMB Component Number           2459          

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

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

	Appropriation Required		Information				
	FY 2012	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>							
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Commodities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Capital Outlay	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1037 GF/Mental Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other (please identify)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2011) cost \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITIONS**

Full-time	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Part-time	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Temporary	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)

Not applicable, initial version

Prepared by           Wyn Menefee, Acting Director            
 Division           Mining, Land & Water            
 Approved by           Daniel S. Sullivan            
          Department of Natural Resources          

Phone           269-8501            
 Date/Time           2/18/11 1:00 PM            
 Date           2/18/2011

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 144

**Analysis**

HB 144 would require the Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with the Department of Fish & Game, to provide an annual report to the legislature detailing the department's efforts during the previous year, and objectives in the upcoming year, to maintain and enhance access to and along fishing streams.

The only additional work would be to compile this information into the annual report. Costs associated with preparing the report and including it in the Division of Mining, Land & Water's annual report to the legislature could be addressed with existing staff and resources.

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

*Division of Sport Fish*

**FRANK MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR**

333 Raspberry Road  
Anchorage, AK 99518-1599  
PHONE: (907) 267-2326  
FAX: (907) 267-2464

Date January 27, 2006

To: Robin Willis

From : Jason Graham

Re: Access for Anchor, Montana, and Salcha Creeks

### **Anchor River**

Accessible: 16723 feet

Non-Accessible: 4542 feet

### **Montana Creek**

Accessible: 29063 feet

Non-Accessible: 17468 feet

### **Salcha Creek**

Accessible: 16181 feet

Non-Accessible: 16134 feet

---

*" . . . shall manage, protect, maintain, improve, and extend the fish, game and aquatic plant resources of the state in the interest of the economy and general well-being of the state"*



# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

### DIVISION OF SPORT FISH

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR

333 Raspberry Road  
Anchorage, AK 99518-1599  
PHONE: (907) 267-2342  
FAX: (907) 267-2464

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Robin Willis, Tina Cunning

FROM: Joe Giefer  
Habitat Biologist

DATE: January 23, 2006

SUBJECT: Montana Creek To-and-Along Easements

---

Location depicted on map: Montana Creek, USGS Quad TALKEETNA A-1 and TALKEETNA MOUNTAINS A-6, described as secs. 5, 7, and 8, T. 23 N., R.4 W., W.M., and secs. 11, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 32, and 33, T. 24 N., R. 4 W., Seward Meridian, Alaska.

The following distances are approximations based on the maps ADF&G has produced, they do not reflect distance's based on Federal, State, or Borough surveys or plats. On the lower reaches of Montana creek, there is approximately 29,063 feet of accessible shoreline and approximately 17,468 feet of non-accessible shoreline.

The private property depicted on the map without To & Along easements are older conveyances from the Federal Government directly to individual private citizens. As far as we know, these parcels are not subject to a To & Along reservation. In an effort to err on the side of caution, if it's not clear that there is access along the shoreline, ADF&G has assumed that there is not and has depicted it as such on our map. It is possible that some areas depicted as not having access do actually in fact have access, and this could be for a variety of reasons that cant be clarified until further research is done, particularly having some time spent on the ground looking at these areas on a site specific basis.

In secs. 11, 14, 15, 21, and 22, of T. 24 N., R. 4 W., both banks of Montana Creek are subject to a To & Along easement. Secs. 28, 32, and 33 of T. 24 N., R. 4 W., are composed of private parcels not subject to a To & Along reservation.

In T. 23 N., R. 4 W., both banks of Montana creek are subject to easements thru a small reach of State owned land in the N/E corner of sec. 5. In the S/W corner of sec. 5, the creek is subject to a To & Along on river-left, thru the extreme N/W corner of sec. 8, and on into sec. 7 where both banks are subject to a easement for a short distance, then again there is only a easement on river-left downriver to where Montana Creek flows into the Susitna River.

---

*"... shall manage, protect, maintain, improve, and extend the fish, game and aquatic plant resources of the state in the interest of the economy and general well-being of the state"*



# STATE OF ALASKA

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

### DIVISION OF SPORT FISH

333 Raspberry Road  
Anchorage, AK 99518-1599  
PHONE: (907) 267-2342  
FAX: (907) 267-2464

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Robin Willis, Tina Cuning

FROM: Joe Giefer  
Habitat Biologist

DATE: January 27, 2006

SUBJECT: Salcha River To-and-Along Easements

---

The location depicted on map is the Salcha River, USGS Quad BIG DELTA B-6, sections 21 and 22, T. 5 S., R.4 E., Fairbanks Meridian, Alaska.

In this particular stretch of the Salcha, the current path of the river is an approximation at best, there is no current aerial photography or surveyed hydrography to use as a reference when comparing the river corridor to the adjacent uplands. The private properties depicted on the map without "To & Along" easements are generally older conveyances from the Federal Government directly to individual private citizens. As far as we know, these parcels are not subject to a "To & Along" reservation. In an effort to err on the side of caution, if it is not clear that there is access along the shoreline, ADF&G has assumed that there is not access and has depicted it as such on our map. It is possible that some areas depicted as not having access do actually have access, and this could be for a variety of reasons that can not be clarified until further research is done, particularly by spending some time on the ground looking at these areas on a site specific basis.

The following distances are approximations based on the maps ADF&G has produced, they do not reflect distances based on Federal, State, or Borough surveys or plats. On the reaches depicted in the maps of the Salcha River, there is approximately 16,181 feet of accessible shoreline and approximately 16,134 feet of non-accessible shoreline. .

In sec. 22, there is a small tract of State owned land on both banks of the Salcha where the Richardson Highway crosses the river. These state owned tracts are subject to easements. There is also a boat launch on these same state owned tracts.

---

*" . . . shall manage, protect, maintain, improve, and extend the fish, game and aquatic plant resources of the state in the interest of the economy and general well-being of the state"*



---

In sec. 21, all the privately held land adjacent to the Salcha is subject to a To & Along easement. The west half of the northwest corner of sec. 21 is state owned land, immediately to the west of this tract is the confluence of the Tanana and the Salcha rivers.

# STATE OF ALASKA

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

### DIVISION OF SPORT FISH

333 Raspberry Road  
Anchorage, AK 99518-1599  
PHONE: (907) 267-2342  
FAX: (907) 267-2464

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Robin Willis, Tina Cunning

FROM: Joe Giefer  
Habitat Biologist

DATE: January 27, 2006

SUBJECT: Anchor River "To-and-Along" Easements (AS 38.05.127)

---

The location depicted on map is the Anchor River, from the Sterling Highway downstream to the mouth of the river. This area can be found on USGS quad Seldovia D-5, section 33 of T. 4 S., R. 15 W., and sections 5, 4, 3, 10, 11, of T. 5 S., R. 15 W., Seward Meridian, Alaska

The following distances are approximations based on the maps ADF&G has produced, they do not reflect distances based on Federal, State, or Borough surveys or plats. On the reaches depicted on the map of the Anchor River, there is approximately 16,723 feet of accessible shoreline and approximately 4,542 feet of non-accessible shoreline.

Mapping the Anchor River in this area is particularly problematic given its tendency to move and meander over time as it nears the coast. The river channel we are using as a template is from year 2000 satellite imagery that we digitized and placed over the parcel boundary information. The private properties depicted on the map without "To & Along" easements are generally older conveyances from the Federal Government directly to individual private citizens. As far as we know, these parcels are not subject to a "To & Along" reservation. In an effort to err on the side of caution, if it is not clear that there is access along the shoreline, ADF&G has assumed that there is not access and has depicted it as such on our map. It is possible that some areas depicted as not having access do actually have access, and this could be for a variety of reasons that can not be clarified until further research is done, particularly by spending some time on the ground looking at these areas on a site specific basis.

In section 33, T. 4 S., R. 15 W., from the mouth of the river upstream to section 5, T. 5 S., R. 15 W., there is a small peninsula shaped parcel on river-left subject to an easement, however it is not continuous upstream into the adjoining southern section. In this area there appears to be no "To & Along" on a short stretch of uplands on river-left, and approximately the last ½ mile of shoreline of river-right at the mouth. Continuing upstream, where the river flows through state land in sec. 5, T. 5

---

*"... shall manage, protect, maintain, improve, and extend the fish, game and aquatic plant resources of the state in the interest of the economy and general well-being of the state"*



S., R. 15 W., and continues east across sec. 4 of the same township/range both banks of the Anchor River are subject to an along easement, this is mostly state lands and access is assumed. The remaining area where access appears limited is a short distance from the highway downstream to where the river enters State land.

As you continue upstream where the river enters sections 10, 11, and into 14 of T. 5 S., R. 15 W., which is not depicted on map, uplands on river-right were conveyed from the United States to the Mental Health Trust. Lands on river-left were conveyed to the University and a small parcel has become part of the Mental Health Trust. The University and Mental Health Trust Lands have been inconsistently subject to provisions of Title 38 so shoreline access is unclear along these stretches of river.

3415 Wentworth St.  
Anchorage AK 99508

February 19, 2011

Dear Representative Gara:

I support increasing the amount and quality of publicly accessible land for fishing. The area's which are now publicly accessible are often overcrowded which leads to conflict between users, reduces the quality of the experience and results in the degradation of the land. For example, in the mid 1980's the Kenai River when the runs of salmon were heavy was crowded in the area of the old Sportsman Lodge and ferry crossing. However, a short walk either up or down stream would result in far fewer anglers. Now, during the same time periods, the river is often crowded on nearly every available space between the Kenai Lake and Jim's Landing for between June and September. This isn't isolated to this fishery.

If we were systematically to review opportunities to acquire land which has a high value for fishing through a process that insures land owners rights are not violated, it would both improve the access for Alaskans and the quality of their lives. I believe HB 144 would do that.

I have been involved as a volunteer in a number of aspects of resources in Alaska. I served for over 10 years on the Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee, approximately 5 years on the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council for Subsistence, and one term on the Board of Game. During that time access for the average Alaskan was a consistent issue. I am currently a member of the Alaska Fly Fishers and have served numerous terms as an officer of that organization. Again, AFF members have made many contributions to habitat restoration and to enhance our public fisheries. We often hear about the lack of access to fisheries which they can reach within a reasonable distance of their homes.

Based on my experience, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game does a very good job of maintaining and enhancing our fisheries. However with a growing population in Alaska, it becomes critical to do what we can to increase the amount of public lands available. We, as a state, have an obligation under Article 8 of our constitution to make the resources of Alaska available for the maximum use consistent with the public interest. Further the legislature has an obligation to make these resources reserved for to the people for common use.

HB 144, in my opinion, would be consistent with and assist in meeting this obligation.

Sincerely,

Bob Churchill

Representative Les Gara  
ATTN: Mindy O'Neill  
State Capitol Building, Ste 500  
Juneau, AK 99801

SUBJECT: Support for HB144

Dear Representative Gara,

I strongly support passage of HB144. This is legislation that is long overdue and I want to thank you for your efforts over the years to get this important piece of legislation passed.

Public access to our public waters is an important issue that many who use this resource take for granted until lost. I spent many years as a member and chair of a local fish and game advisory committee and attended many Board of Fisheries and Board of Game meetings. During this time access issues come up several times in submitted proposals and public testimony. Lost access was always a very contentious issue and was one that should have been foreseen prior to becoming an issue.

Your legislation is sorely needed to help prevent these problems from occurring and I ask the Alaska State Legislature to pass this important legislation, HB144, during this session.

Sincerely,

Willard E Stockwell  
PO Box 721  
Cooper Landing, AK 99572



PO Box 243963  
Anchorage, AK 99524-3963

February 17, 2011

Representative Les Gara  
State Capitol 500  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Gara:

I'm writing you today in support of HB 144, which would direct the Department of Natural Resources to report annually to the legislature on its efforts to maintain or enhance access to and along fishing streams as well as its objectives for enhancing and maintaining access to and along fishing streams by the public in the upcoming year.

As the owner of a licensed fly fishing guide service in Alaska, I believe that the Department of Natural Resources should play an active role in assisting the public to have access, wherever possible, to a wide variety of fishing opportunities. The bill would put in place a mechanism for voluntary land exchanges (or purchases) between the State and private owners along important recreational rivers. This would help us avoid the purchases of such lands for development, thus denying the public's use of them. Other efforts could involve working with riparian land owners to identify sections of bank access that could be utilized by the public either free or through a paid access corridor would certainly be worthwhile to pursue as well. "Enhancing access to fishing streams," might also mean identifying areas where people are trespassing on either public or private land to get access to various waterways, which would also provide valuable information on where the Department should direct efforts in opening or developing fishing opportunities to the public.

I would urge members of the House Fisheries Committee to support HB 144.

Sincerely,

Cecilia "Pudge" Kleinkauf



February 9, 2011

Representative Les Gara  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: HB144

Dear Representative Gara:

The Kenai River Sportfishing Association (KRSA) supports the legislative objective of House Bill 144, an act requiring the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, in conjunction with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, to annually deliver to the legislature and the governor a report on fishing stream access.

Alaska is home to some of the best sportfishing, personal use and subsistence opportunities in the world. HB144 provides the Legislature with a reporting mechanism to ensure monitoring of public access to important fishing streams in the state. Protecting and enhancing public access to the hunting, fishing and recreational uses along the state's waterways is of primary importance to many people and a wide variety of user groups.

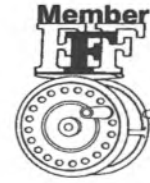
KRSA is a non-profit 501 ( c ) 3 conservation organization dedicated to ensuring the sustainability of the greatest sportfishing river in the world – the Kenai. Our goals are to conserve and rehabilitate fisheries habitat, promote predictable and meaningful sportfishing opportunity, encourage and foster fisheries research and provide public aquatic education. Over the past fifteen years we have raised and invested over \$10 million towards these goals.

We appreciate your efforts and those of your colleagues in regards to HB144.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ricky Gease".

Ricky Gease  
Executive Director



## ALASKA FLY FISHERS

Winners of the 1994 McKenzie Cup

February 21, 2011

Representative Les Gara  
State Capitol, Room 500  
Juneau, AK 99801

Reference: HB 144

Dear Representative Gara:

The Alaska Fly Fishers is a membership organization representing approximately 400 individuals interested in Fly Fishing conservation and education for the state of Alaska.

Alaska Fly Fishers supports enhancing and maintaining access to fishing streams. We support HB 144 as its intent is to enhance and maintain access to fishing streams by having the Department of Natural Resources report annually on their efforts in regards to stream access.

Access to fishing streams is an important part of the sport of fishing. Considering the importance of gathering fish and sport fishing to the residents of Alaska, this bill shines a bright light on enhancing and maintaining the critical component of stream access.

Thank you for your efforts to enhance and maintain access to Alaska's fishing streams.

Best regards,

ALASKA FLY FISHERS

Mark Huber  
President

cc: Alaska Fly Fishers Board of Directors

Representative Les Gara  
Alaska House of Representatives  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 500  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Representative Gara,

I am writing to support HB 144 - An Act requiring DNR to report on fishing stream access.

The Alaska Outdoor Council is a statewide organization of hunters, fishers, trappers and outdoor enthusiasts. Our membership of 50 member clubs and 10,000 individual members relies on access to public land to pursue their interests.

At statehood it would have been difficult for the average Alaskan to envision that the taking of fish would be limited to streams on less than 25% of the land in Alaska, yet, 50 years later, that's exactly what we're facing. As ANCSA transfers to private ownership are being completed, and restrictions on federal land are increasing, access to state land and waters is becoming critically important. The report to the public, through the legislature, that you are proposing in HB 144 would be beneficial to establish where Alaskans have access to waterways, and, just as importantly, where access is restricted.

We look forward to working with you and DNR to identify which waterbodies Alaskans can access to harvest wild food, and to preserve and enhance that access.

Thank you for introducing HB 144.

Rod Arno  
Executive Director  
Alaska Outdoor Council  
"Protecting your Hunting, Trapping, Fishing and Access Rights"  
310 K Street, Suite 200  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Phone: 907-841-6849 Email:  
[aoc@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org](mailto:aoc@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org)

Web site: [www.alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org](http://www.alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org)