

HCR

25

<TARGET><BILL>HCR 25</BILL><SUBJECT>HCR
25</SUBJECT><COMM>HFSH27</COMM></TARGET>

CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 25(FSH)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES NEUMAN, Johnson, Chenault, Stoltze, Olson, Fairclough, Feige, Thompson, Costello, Hawker, Saddler, Keller, Petersen, Lynn, Gara, Gatto, Millett, Muñoz, Pruitt, Tuck, Seaton

A RESOLUTION

1 **Celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS**, more than a century ago, hunters and anglers were among the first
4 conservationists to realize that the natural resources of the country were in peril and could not
5 be sustained without regulated harvests and habitat preservation; and

6 **WHEREAS** hunters and anglers have historically supported legislation to stop
7 excessive harvest of fish and wildlife, establish fish and game agencies to protect fish,
8 wildlife, and habitat, and assess special fishing and hunting license fees to help fund agency
9 efforts to conserve natural resources for future generations; and

10 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature recognizes that the primary authority to
11 protect and manage fish and wildlife in the state lies with the state's fish and wildlife agencies;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS**, when hunters and anglers realized that licensing fees were insufficient to
14 restore and sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations, they supported placing excise taxes
15 on firearms, ammunition, and archery, hunting, and fishing equipment to raise funds to
16 support fish and wildlife restoration and enhancement efforts by state agencies; and

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1 **WHEREAS** the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program in the United States
2 Fish and Wildlife Service, which began 75 years ago with the passage in 1937 of the Federal
3 Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act and later expanded with the passage in 1950 of the Federal
4 Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act, represents an effective "user pay, public benefit" system;
5 and

6 **WHEREAS**, since 1939, contributions to state fish and wildlife agencies by the
7 Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program have exceeded \$13,000,000,000, representing
8 the greatest single conservation effort in the history of the United States and the nation's
9 primary means of funding conservation; and

10 **WHEREAS** manufacturers of firearms, ammunition, and hunting, fishing, and boating
11 equipment have collected excise taxes in firearms, ammunition, archery equipment,
12 manufactured fishing tackle, electric trolling motors, marine electronics, and motorboat fuel
13 that have been distributed to the states through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;
14 and

15 **WHEREAS** manufacturers of firearms, ammunition, and hunting, fishing, and boating
16 equipment have supported wildlife and sport fish restoration programs and continue to exhibit
17 a spirit of cooperation with federal and state fish and wildlife agencies; and

18 **WHEREAS** the cooperative partnership between industry, hunters, anglers, boaters,
19 and recreational shooters, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and state natural
20 resource agencies is the most successful model for fish and wildlife management in the world
21 and has resulted in the restoration of fish and wildlife populations from Alaska to Hawaii;

22 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature, on the 75th anniversary of the
23 nation's greatest conservation story, recognizes the leading roles of hunters, anglers, boaters,
24 recreational shooters, industry, state fish and wildlife agencies, and the United States Fish and
25 Wildlife Service in restoring healthy populations of fish, wildlife, and other natural resources,
26 both game and nongame, to the abundance enjoyed today.

27 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the
28 Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
29 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; to Terry Holliday, President, Safari Club
30 International, Alaska Chapter; and to the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses
31 Executive Council.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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REPRESENTATIVE STEVE THOMPSON DISTRICT 10

FAX COVERSHEET

To: Leg. Legal

Fax Number: 465-2029

From: Jane Pierson

Date: 3/1/12 Number of pages including cover: 1

Re: Please go final on HCR25 version 27-LS1350\M with the following conceptual amendment

Tonight the House Fisheries Committee heard and passed from committee HCR25 with one conceptual amendment as follows:

Add the Alaska Chapter of SCI and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC) to the list of folks that a copy of this resolution should be sent.

Please make this amendment and go final on the bill.

Thank you.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Member:

House Finance Committee
Legislative Budget & Audit Committee

Chair:

House Budget Sub Committees on:
- Department of Administration
- Department of Labor and Workforce
Development



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Representative Mark Neuman

Rep.Mark.Neuman@legis.state.ak.us

Sponsor Statement

HCR 25, Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration Program

American hunters and anglers were some of the first conservationists to realize the importance of our natural resources and that without their support they would be in peril if not properly managed. They understood the necessity to regulate harvests and preserve habitat.

Throughout the history of the conservation movement, hunters and anglers have led the way in supporting legislation to stop excessive harvest of fish and wildlife, and establish federal and state fish and game agencies to protect fish, wildlife, and habitat.

The revenue generated from the purchases of hunting and fishing licenses fund agencies efforts to conserve natural resources for future generations.

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs began 75 years ago with the passage of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937. Thirteen years later in 1950, the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act created an effective "user pay - public benefit" system.

Since 1939, contributions to state fish and wildlife agencies by wildlife and sport fish restoration programs have exceeded \$13,000,000,000. This represents the greatest single conservation effort in the history of the United States and the nation's primary means of funding conservation.

The Alaska State Legislature, on the 75th anniversary of the nation's greatest conservation story, recognizes the leading roles of hunters, anglers, boaters, recreational shooters, industry, state fish and wildlife agencies, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in restoring healthy populations of fish, wildlife, and other natural resources, both game and nongame, to the abundance enjoyed today.

Version 27-LS1350\M

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version HCR 25
Fiscal Note Number _____
() Publish Date _____

Identifier (file name) HCR25-LEG-COU-2-29-12 Dept Affected Legislature
Title "Celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program." Appropriation Legislative Council
Allocation Session Expenses
Sponsor Reps Neuman, Johnson, Chenault, Stoltze, Olson...
Requester House Special Committee on Fisheries OMB Component Number 782

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	FY13 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY13 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants, Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FUND SOURCE		(Thousands of Dollars)						
1002	Federal Receipts							
1003	GF Match							
1004	GF							
1005	GF/Prgm (DGF)							
1037	GF/MH (UGF)							
1178	temp code (UGF)							
TOTAL		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS								
Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

CHANGE IN REVENUES								

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY12) operating costs _____ (separate supplemental appropriation required)
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY13) costs _____ (separate capital appropriation required)
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

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

Initial Version

Prepared by Jessica Geary, Finance Manager
Division Legislative Affairs Agency
Approved by Pamela Varni, Executive Director
Legislative Affairs Agency

Phone 465-6626
Date/Time 2/29/12 8:53am
Date 2/29/2012

FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

BILL NO. HCR 25

Analysis

This Legislation has zero fiscal impact on the Legislative Affairs Agency.



Alaska Department of Fish and Game

[ADF&G Home](#) » [Fishing](#) » [Sport](#) » [Boating and Angler Access](#)



Whittier Harbor boat ramp

Grant Program Overview

The Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) Act, often referred to as the Dingell-Johnson (D-J) Act or the Wallop-Breaux (W-B) Amendment, not only provides funding for sport fisheries management and research, but also funds projects to improve recreational power boating and sport fishing access. This legislation has created a model "user pay/user benefit" program through federal excise taxes and import duties placed on sport fishing equipment, recreational powerboats, and gasoline used in recreational boats. The tax revenue collected by the U.S. Treasury is transferred to the U.S. Department of

Fish and Wildlife Service, which is the agency responsible for administering the SFR program. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is the only department in state government that is allowed to receive and use SFR funds. The SFR program will cover up to 75% of the cost of an eligible project and requires a 25% non-federal match, which is often met through the sale of sport fishing licenses. To help control program costs, projects are often partnered with other state departments, as well as local governments.

The ADF&G Sport Fish Division has both regional and statewide staff who work with state and federal land managers and local governments to identify, facilitate design and construction, and fund capital improvements and maintenance of boating access sites. Projects are built to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines and include boat launches and parking areas, restrooms, transient moorage, fish cleaning facilities, and other fresh water and marine access site improvements.

Over the years, the Recreational Boating and Access Program has helped to open boating and angler access to many Alaskan waters, both fresh and marine. Over 160 capital improvement projects have been accomplished, which have provided new and improved access to sites throughout the state. Twice as big as Texas, yet with fewer roads than Delaware, Alaska presents unique recreational access challenges. Even so, if you've ever fished or boated in Alaska, chances are you used a facility constructed through the Division of Sport Fish Recreational Boating and Angler Access Program.

Funding Restrictions

According to federal aid regulations, SFR grants can be approved only if they primarily benefit the recreational boating and sport fishing public. These funds cannot be used for projects that primarily support subsistence, personal use, or commercial fishing groups. Subsistence and personal use fisheries are restricted to Alaska residents only and are therefore not open to the public in the federal sense. In addition, the "methods and means" used in subsistence, personal use, and commercial fisheries - gillnets, set nets, and dip nets - are not allowed in sport fisheries, and are thus not subject to the excise tax that supports the

Recreational Boating and Angler Access Program. Other users may use an SFR project, but such use cannot displace recreational boater and sport angler use.

Two Types of Projects: Recreational Boating and Angler Access (Non-Boating)

The Wallop-Breaux (W-B) Amendment to the SFR Act requires that a minimum of 15% of SFR funds allocated to Alaska must be used for recreational power boating access projects. However, there is no such requirement on the use of SFR funds for angler access projects. Funding requests for angler access projects compete directly with other Division of Sport Fish SFR programs, such as research, management, hatchery support, information and education, and habitat restoration. Since a large portion of boating access funds comes from federal taxes on fuel and recreational power boats, project proposals that primarily benefit non-motorized boats (canoes, kayaks, and rafts) or diesel-powered boats do not qualify as recreational boating related projects. However, these proposals may be considered for SFR angler access funding.

Recreational Boating Projects



SFR boating access funds must be used only for constructing, renovating, improving, or maintaining access for marine or freshwater trailerable (under 26 feet), gasoline-powered boats. Examples are boat launch ramps, transient docking facilities, fish cleaning tables, parking areas, restrooms, land acquisition and development for power boating use, and related support facilities.

» [Listing of eligible boating access projects](#)

Recreational Angler Access (Non-Boating) Projects



SFR non-boating funds can be used for acquiring land, and constructing, improving, or maintaining public works such as sportfishing-related parking and camping areas, trails, fishing piers or docks, fish cleaning tables, restrooms, and associated facilities that are not related to power boating use.

» [Listing of eligible angler access projects](#)

Project Identification

Recreational access needs are assessed and projects identified by the local Sport Fish Area Management Biologist (AMB) or Access Program staff. The AMB submits a list of project ideas annually to the Access Program Manager, who then reviews and researches the projects to ensure adherence to SFR regulations and Division of Sport Fish Access Program guidelines. Project ideas are ranked utilizing established criteria and are then prioritized based on project validity, need, and funding availability.

Additional Resources

- Information on ADA accessible facilities can be found at the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation website. (<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/access.htm>)
- Information about the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration program can be found on the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service website. (<http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/home.html>)
- Information pertaining to legal public access to the states land and water can be found here in the [Legal Access section](#) of the ADF&G website.
- [Accessible Fishing - Mobility Impaired Access Points](#) (PDF 113 kB)
- [Lake Maps Series](#)

Alaska Chapter SCI
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March 1, 2012

The Honorable Steve Thompson, Chair
Alaska State House
Special Committee on Fisheries
State Capitol, Room 428
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Thompson,

SCI Alaska Chapter is the leading hunter-conservationist organization in the world, as well as here in Alaska. It is our mission to promote conservation of species and the freedom to hunt. Our record here in Alaska clearly illustrates our commitment to that mission from leading the fight against anti-hunters at the ballot box to leading the wood bison restoration project, we are as our motto says, "First for Hunters".

We are writing today to express our support for HCR 25 regarding the commemoration of the Wildlife Restoration Act. This act was made possible by the tireless work of hunter-conservationists who requested that the hunting community be taxed to pay for wildlife. It would be well to remember that this request came during the Great Depression when many Americans were facing financial hardship. Despite that obstacle, hunters pursued and won the creation of the Wildlife Restoration Act agreeing to pay a tax in order to support wildlife conservation.

We ask you as you consider this legislation to remember that we hunters support the user pay system and feel that it is more than fitting the creation of that system be recognized by HCR 25. Please pass this resolution from your committee at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Terry C. Holliday'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Terry Holliday
President

cc: Rep. Mark Neuman

SCI's Top Gun Chapter