SB 205

<TARGET><BILL>SB 205</BILL><SUBJECT>SB 205</SUBJECT><COMM>SRES27</COMM></TARGET>

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATOR DONALD C. OLSON

Session
Alaska State Capitol, Rm. 508
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-3707
Fax: (907) 465-4821

Interim
716 W. 4th Ave. Ste 530
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 269-0254
Fax:(907)269-2031

Senator_Donny_Olson@legis.state.ak.us

Chair
Community & Regional Affairs
Member
Senate Finance Committee
Ethics Committee
Legislative Council
Northern Waters Task Force
Education Funding District Cost Factor
Finance Subcommittee Chair
Fish & Game
Health & Social Services
Public Safety
Finance Subcommittee Member
Environmental Conservation

SB 205 – CHINOOK RESEARCH & RESTORATION ENDOWMENT
SPONSOR STATEMENT

SB 205 creates the Alaska Chinook salmon research and restoration endowment fund. Grants from the fund would be issued to qualifying organizations. A 7-member board, including the Commissioner of Fish & Game and 6 public members from across the state, would administer the grants.

Chinook salmon, the state fish of Alaska, is an important staple food for Native villages of Alaska. Moreover, they are an economically important species for a number of commercial fisheries and a prized sport fishery resource. Nowhere else are wild Chinook salmon stocks more valued and essential to the basic way of life than in Alaska.

Chinook salmon populations in Alaska have undergone significant shifts in abundance during the past 40 years, yet little is known about the factors influencing these shifts. Eight of the 14 currently listed "stocks of concern" are Chinook salmon stocks.

Recent declines of salmon abundance have caused severe hardship in some areas and anxiety for the fishery-dependent communities of Alaska. Limited commercial fishing on Chinook salmon has occurred in recent years and earnings have deteriorated sharply. Poor Chinook salmon returns can exacerbate allocation tension and conflict between fishery user groups competing for a fully allocated fishery resource.

Over the past twenty-five years, there has been considerable variability in Yukon Chinook salmon population dynamics. Available harvest data show a thirty-six year period of sustained abundance early on, with significant declines during the past fifteen years.

To understand the trends and causes of variation in abundance of Chinook salmon, information concerning population biology, freshwater ecology, marine ecology, and population dynamics are needed to understand the variables controlling population abundance and trends.

Knowledge gaps remain across the State of Alaska indicating that a multi-disciplinary research effort is needed to investigate the role of physical habitat, climate induced environmental variability, and biological response in Chinook salmon populations if we are to meet the needs of Alaskans that depend upon this resource.

This legislation would create a stable, long-term source of funding to support high quality interdisciplinary research. The Alaska Chinook Salmon Research and Restoration Endowment Fund stakeholder board would, along with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, direct research monies to priority areas and topics based on an adopted Chinook Salmon Action Plan.

These funds may also be used to leverage additional funding by providing necessary matching funds.

With this legislation, Alaska can demonstrate we have the best-managed resources in the world. I urge your support.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version: **SB 205**
Fiscal Note Number:
() Publish Date:

Identifier (file name): SB205-DCCED-DCRA-03-09-12
Title: Chinook Research & Restoration Endowment
Sponsor: Senator Olson
Requester: Senate Resources

Dept. Affected: DCCED
Appropriation: Community and Regional Affairs
Allocation: Community and Regional Affairs
OMB Component Number: 2879

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				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	**FY13**	**FY13**	**FY14**	**FY15**	**FY16**	**FY17**	**FY18**
Personal Services							
Travel	26.5		26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5
Services	1.5		1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Commodities	1.5		0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Capital Outlay							
Grants, Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	**29.5**	**0.0**	**28.5**	**28.5**	**28.5**	**28.5**	**28.5**

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)	29.5		28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5
TOTAL		**29.5**	**0.0**	**28.5**	**28.5**	**28.5**	**28.5**	**28.5**

POSITIONS							
Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary	**0**		0	0	0	0	0

CHANGE IN REVENUES							

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY12) operating costs 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY13) costs 0.0 *(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: Scott Ruby — Phone: (907) 269-4569
Division: Community and Regional Affairs — Date/Time: 3/9/12 9:00am
Approved by: JoEllen Hanrahan, Director Administrative Services — Date: 3/9/2012
Commerce, Community and Economic Development

(Revised 1/17/2012 OMB)

STATE OF ALASKA **BILL NO.** SB 205
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Analysis

This bill establishes an endowment fund with the purpose of funding research and restoration projects for Chinook salmon stocks located in the state. Earnings from the fund may be used for block grants to Alaska organizations for projects, as matching funds for private and federal grants, and to reimburse the Departments of Revenue and Commerce for costs associated with program administration.

The bill also establishes a seven member board consisting of the Commissioner of Fish and Game and six public members from various regions of the state.

The Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development is responsible for administration of the board and disbursal of funds through grants or reimbursements. The Department will be required to adopt regulations enacting a block grant program outlined in the bill.

Travel includes costs for seven board members for two face to face meetings per year, and department staff board support and grant monitoring visits.

Services include the costs for board teleconferences.

Commodities costs include preparing and publishing the public notice for the regulations one-time, and preparing applications solicitations and reports on a yearly basis.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA cost ≠ codes
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version: **SB 205 \A**
Fiscal Note Number:
Publish Date:

Identifier (file name): SB205-DFG-CO-03-09-12
Title: CHINOOK RESEARCH & RESTORATION ENDOWMENT
Sponsor: SENATOR(S) OLSON, Wagoner, Hoffman, Stevens
Requester: Senate Resources Committee

Dept. Affected: ADF&G
Appropriation: Administration and Support
Allocation: Commissioner's Office
OMB Component Number: 2175

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				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	**FY13**	**FY13**	**FY14**	**FY15**	**FY16**	**FY17**	**FY18**
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**

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)

This is the intial fiscal note for SB 205.

Prepared by: Ben Mulligan, Legislative Liaison
Phone: 907-465-6137
Division: Commissioner's Office
Date/Time: 3/9/12 12:44PM
Approved by: Kevin Brooks, Administrative Services Director
Department of Fish and Game
Date: 3/9/2012

(Revised 8/17/2011 OMB)

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA **BILL NO.** SB 205 \A
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Analysis

Senate Bill 205 creates the Chinook Salmon Research and Restoration Endowment Fund and the Alaska Chinook Salmon Research and Restoration Endowment Fund Board. The endowment fund will provide the funding that the board will utilize to administer grants for Chinook salmon research and restoration.

The Department of Fish and Game anticipates no additional funding needed to carry out our duties as laid out in Senate Bill 205.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version **SB205**
Fiscal Note Number
() Publish Date

Identifier (file name) SB205-DOA-DOF-02-22-12
Title Chinook Research and Restoration Endowment
Sponsor Senator Olson
Requester Senate Resources

Dept. Affected Administration
Appropriation Centralized Administrative Services
Allocation Finance
OMB Component Number 59

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				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	**FY13**	**FY13**	**FY14**	**FY15**	**FY16**	**FY17**	**FY18**
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**

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)

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared by Scot Arehart, Director — Phone 465-3435
Division Division of Finance — Date/Time 2/22/2012 5:00pm
Approved by John Cramer, Deputy Commissioner — Date 2/23/2012
Department of Administration

(Revised 1/17/2012 OMB)

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA **BILL NO.** SB205
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Analysis

Establishing funds and accounts created by legislation such as this is performed in the normal course of business by the Division of Finance. Therfore a zero fiscal note is submitted.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version: **SB205**
Fiscal Note Number:
() Publish Date:

Identifier (file name): SB205-DOR-TRS-03-07-12
Dept. Affected: Revenue
Title: Alaska Chinook research & restoration endowment fund
Appropriation: Treasury and Taxation
Allocation: Treasury
Sponsor: Senators Olson, Wagoner, Hoffman, Stevens
Requester: Senate Resources Committee
OMB Component Number: 121

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				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	**FY13**	**FY13**	**FY14**	**FY15**	**FY16**	**FY17**	**FY18**
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services	13.0		13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants, Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	**13.0**	**0.0**	**13.0**	**13.0**	**13.0**	**13.0**	**13.0**

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)	13.0		13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0
TOTAL		**13.0**	**0.0**	**13.0**	**13.0**	**13.0**	**13.0**	**13.0**

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: Scott Jones — Phone: 465-2300
Division: Treasury — Date/Time: 3/7/12 12:00 AM
Approved by: Angela Rodell, Deputy Commissioner — Date: 3/7/2012

(Revised 1/17/2012 OMB)

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA **BILL NO.** SB205
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Analysis

This bill provides for the Chinook research and restoration endowment fund to be established as a separate account and managed by the Commissioner of Revenue. This fiscal notes assumes a fund balance of $50 million in order to estimate costs and therefore that total earnings of the fund for the previous fiscal year can be appropriated to the grant account in the general fund (as per Sec 37.14.660 (a) (3)). Services expenditures represent the incremental external management fees for managing this fund, based on an asset allocation of 41% fixed income, 27% domestic equity and 32% international equity. Note that this bill establishes that the grant fund , an account fund to be established in the general fund, will pay for the costs of establishing and managing the fund which will include the services expenditures above as well as its share of other Treasury costs as identified through the Treasury cost allocation plan.

YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

February 27, 2012

State Capitol, Room 411
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: Support for House Bill 332

Dear Representative Herron:

The Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) appreciates the opportunity to support House Bill 332 establishing the Alaska Chinook research and restoration endowment fund. YRDFA is an association of commercial and subsistence fishermen and women on the Yukon River in Alaska with a mission of promoting healthy, wild fisheries and cultures on the Yukon River. The region we represent is home to some of the world's most magnificent salmon resources, and the world's furthest migrating salmon runs on the Yukon River. These salmon provide a primary source of food and are essential to the continued viability of the subsistence way of life in Western Alaska. For many residents the commercial salmon harvest also provides the only means of income for those who live in the remote villages of the Yukon River. Salmon represents an essential part of the culture, diet and economy in our region.

The Chinook salmon which are such a critical foundation for cultures, communities and economies along the Yukon River have declined dramatically in recent years. Yukon River Chinook salmon runs declined to disaster levels from 1998 to 2002. After a brief improvement from 2003 to 2006, runs have declined since, with escapement goals to Canada not met in 2007, 2008, or 2010, and subsistence harvests restricted. Overall, "mean run size of Canadian-origin Chinook for the period 1998-2010 declined 45% compared to the period 1982-1997."[1]

Subsistence harvest opportunities have been severely reduced in recent years, and in 2008, 2009, and 2010 (2011 data not yet available) harvests were below the BOF-determined Amounts Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence (ANS). To protect king salmon, directed commercial fishing for king salmon was eliminated, commercial chum salmon fishing was restricted, and sale of king salmon caught in the chum salmon fishery was at times prohibited. Even when escapement goals have been met, subsequent returns from these escapements have been poor. While the direct cause is unknown, poor runs have low recruits-per-spawner.

Declines in Chinook salmon runs have had dramatic effects on Yukon River communities. Subsistence fisheries have been greatly reduced, disrupting the culturally important practices of going to fish camp in

[1] Spaeder, J. and M. Catalano, Compilation of Evidence for Long-term Decline and Periodic Low Returns of AYK Region Chinook Populations, Report to Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative Chinook Expert Panel, Oct. 15, 2011.

725 CHRISTENSEN DRIVE, SUITE 3-B • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501
TELEPHONE: 907-272-3141 • 1-877-99YUKON(9-8566)
FAX: 907-272-3142 • EMAIL:info@yukonsalmon.org
WWW.YUKONSALMON.ORG

the summer. The commercial Chinook salmon fishery—one of the only sources of cash income in many of these communities—has been virtually eliminated.

While we know that all of these reductions in harvest have been necessary to meet escapements and protect the Yukon River Chinook salmon stock, very little information is available to indicate the reason for these huge declines in run sizes. Theories on causation abound, but much additional research is needed to determine the cause and either reverse the decline or plan for future run sizes.

To investigate the causes of these declines it is critical that there is a dedicated and consistent source of funding for Chinook salmon research. This type of research needs to be well-coordinated and funded over an extended time-period. To study and understand the impacts and effects of population biology and dynamics, freshwater and marine ecology, physical habitat and the many other factors impacting Chinook salmon populations it is essential that long-term funding is dedicated to these purposes.

We are well aware that there have been recent efforts to work toward understanding the trends in variability and we are grateful for the federal funds that were made available to achieve that goal. However, there are extensive gaps in Alaska, and while these recent efforts contributed very valuable information, much more research is needed to understand and reverse these trends. In addition, recent efforts have been focused on only a portion of the state, and a statewide approach to this issue is important. A statewide effort, such as HB332, would be an important step towards providing Alaska's residents with a better understanding of our Chinook salmon stocks and the security of knowing that the State of Alaska is thoroughly engaged in investigating the current declines. It is critical that we take this kind of proactive approach to addressing our stock declines now.

There is no fish more iconic to Alaskans than the Chinook salmon. On the Yukon River this fish is not merely an icon, but a critical component of physical and cultural survival. It is vital and essential that the State of Alaska invest in understanding and recovering our Chinook salmon runs by establishing a dedicated research and restoration endowment fund via House Bill 332.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. If you have any questions or would like additional information please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jill Klein

Jill Klein
Executive Director

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 310
DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576
PHONE (907) 842-5257

February 29, 2012

RE: Letter of Support for the bill that creates the ALASKA CHINOOK SALMON RESEARCH AND RESTORATION ENDOWMENT FUND

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA), it is with great pleasure I provide a letter of support for the ALASKA CHINOOK SALMON RESEARCH AND RESTORATION ENDOWMENT FUND. BBNA is a Tribal consortium of 31 Bristol Bay Tribes. BBNA has much in common with its neighbors to the north and partners and supports its counterparts in the Arctic, Yukon, and Kuskokwim regions.

Chinook salmon is an important staple food for the Alaska Native people and others in the Western Alaska. They are also an economically important species for a number of commercial fisheries and a prized sport fishing resource. Chinook salmon stocks are highly valued and essential to the basic way of life in Western Alaska.

Chinook salmon populations have suffered significant fluctuations in abundance during the past 40 years, yet little is known about the factors influencing their populations. Eight of the 14 currently listed "stocks of concern" are Chinook salmon stocks.

A decline in Chinook salmon causes severe hardship and anxiety for the salmon-dependent people in Western Alaska. Limited commercial fishing on Chinook salmon has occurred in recent years and earnings have declined significantly. Poor Chinook salmon returns produce tension and conflict between fishery user groups competing for the same fishery resource.

The bill creates a stable, long-term source of funding for high quality interdisciplinary research such as the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative (AYK SSI). AYK SSI Research results and information is being utilized in a wide variety of ways to support sustainable salmon management. It analyses escapement goals and helps to gain better an understanding of marine ecosystems. It helps to provide fisheries managers with better forecasts and improved responses to changing environmental conditions.

BBNA fully endorses the Alaska Chinook Salmon Research and Restoration Endowment Fund. I respectfully request your support of the bill when it comes before your legislative body.

Sincerely,

Ralph Anderson
President & Chief Executive Officer
Bristol Bay Native Association

KAWERAK , INC. • P.O. Box 948 • Nome, AK 99762
TEL: (907) 443-5231 • FAX: (907) 443-4452

SERVING THE VILLAGES OF:
BREVIG MISSION
COUNCIL
DIOMEDE
ELIM
GAMBELL
GOLOVIN
KING ISLAND
KOYUK
MARY'S IGLOO
NOME
SAVOONGA
SHAKTOOLIK
SHISHMAREF
SOLOMON
STEBBINS
ST. MICHAEL
TELLER
UNALAKLEET
WALES
WHITE MOUNTAIN

February 6, 2012

Senator Donny Olson
Representative Neal Foster
Representative Reggie Joule

Dear Senator Olson, Representatives Foster and Joule:

On behalf of Kawerak Incorporated, I am writing to express our support for Senator Hoffman, Olson and Representative Herron's bill which would create the **ALASKA CHINOOK SALMON RESEARCH AND RESTORATION ENDOWMENT FUND (ACSRRF).**

I am enclosing a spread sheet which shows the return of Chinook and other salmon to the Seward Peninsula. Two years ago, we sought to have a Chinook and Chum disaster declared by the Department of Commerce for the stocks in the Norton Sound. We were not successful because while the Chinook return was way down, commercial fishermen in southern Norton Sound were able to offset their losses by fishing other stocks, therefore no economic loss occurred. Here in Northern Norton Sound, our commercial fisheries have been closed for so long; an economic disaster declaration is not possible, since a disaster is determined by the decline over the previous 5 years average fishing income.

This is not an "income" issue. Our stocks are so depressed that we wonder if the stocks themselves will survive. Yet there does not seem to be a sense of urgency on the part of the department to turn this situation around.

We fully support the funding and creation of the ACSRRF as a means to help ensure sustainable uses of wild salmon for future generations.

Sincerely,

KAWERAK INCORPORATED

Loretta Bullard
President

Fish numbers of surrounding rivers

Escapement Goal	Snake	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	As of 8/23/11	As of 10/6/11
1,600-2,500	Chums	2,201	2,146	2,967	4,106	8,147	1,244	891	6,973	4,323	4,323
	Pinks	2,856	126,917	13,813	74,028	4,634	145,761	769	51,099	6,997	7,011
	Silvers	489	474	2,948	4,776	1,781	5,206	50	2,243	83	343
	Kings	50	17	31	32	61	13	6	43*	1	1
	Sockeye	84	22	275	302	1,354	143	2	124*	7	14
Nome	Nome	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2011
2,900-4,300	Chums	1,957	3,903	5,584	5,677	7,034	2,607	1,565	5,906	3,442	3,582
3150?	Pinks	11,402	1,051,146	285,759	578,555	24,395	1,186,554	16,490	165,931	14,312	14,403
	Silvers	548	2,283	5,848	8,308	2,437	4,605	1,370	4,114	453	1,833
	Kings	12	51	69	43	13	28	30	9*	8	12
Eldorado	Eldorado	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2011
6,000-9,200	Chums	3,591	3,277	10,369	42,105	21,312	6,746	4,943	21,211	16,227	16,227
	Pinks	173	60,866	12,356	222,348	833	244,641	1,119	48,136	489	489
	Silvers	115	1,151	689	55	2	38	2	2*	1	1
	Kings	29	25	32	41	14	36	31	23*	3	3
Niukuik	Niukuik	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2011
>23,000	Chums	20,018	10,770	25,598	29,199	50,994	12,078	15,879	45,561	23,496	23,607
10,500	Pinks	75,855	975,895	270,424	1,371,919	43,617	669,234	24,204	434,205	15,338	15,425
2,400-7,200	Silvers	1,282	2,064	2,727	11,169	3,498	13,779	6,861	9,042	1,616	2,405
	Kings	179	141	41	39	30	33	204	15*	18	18
Pilgrim	Pilgrim	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2011
No Goal	Chums	15,200	10,239	9,685	45,361	35,334	24,550	5,427	25,379	38,963	41,740
	Pinks	14,100	50,760	13,218	17,701	3,616	92,471	483	29,239	3,337	3,364
	Silvers	677	1,102	304	973	605	260	18	272*	39	269
	Kings	1,016	925	216	275	501	137	52	44*	40	44
	Sockeye	42,729	85,417	55,951	52,323	43,342	20,452	953	1,654*	8,404	8,449
North River	North River	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2011
No Goal	Chums	9,859	10,036	11,984	5,385	8,046	9,502	9,798	16,131	18,140	19,898
25,000	Pinks	280,212	1,162,978	1,670,934	2,169,890	583,320	241,798	190,291	150,807	123,334	150,807
550-1,100	Silvers	5,837	11,187	19,189	9,835	19,944	15,648	22,276	7,608	1,662	3,624
1,200-2,600	Kings	1,452	1,125	1,015	906	1,948	903	2,355	1,256	864	864
Kwiniuk	Kwiniuk	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2011
11,500-23,000	Chums	12,123	10,362	12,083	39,519	27,756	9,483	8,739	71,403	31,595	31,604
8,400	Pinks	22,329	3,054,684	341,048	1,347,090	54,255	1,444,213	42,962	634,169	29,936	30,023
650-1,300	Silvers	5,490	11,240	12,950	22,341	9,429	10,462	8,677	8,058	2,178	3,288
	Kings	744	663	342	195	258	237	444	138	57	57

Raymond Watson, Chairperson
Myron P. Naneng, Sr., President

Association of Village Council Presidents
Office of Administration
PO Box 219 • Bethel AK 99559
Phone (907) 543-7300 • Fax: (907) 543-3369

Alakanuk
Andreafsky
Aniak
Atmautluak
Bethel
Bill Moore's Sl.
Chefornak
Chevak
Chuathbaluk
Chuloonawick
Crooked Creek
Eek
Emmonak
Georgetown
Goodnews Bay
Hamilton
Hooper Bay
Lower Kalskag
Upper Kalskag
Kasigluk
Kipnuk
Kongiganak
Kotlik
Kwethluk
Lime Village
Marshall
Mekoryuk
Mtn. Village
Napaimiut
Napakiak
Napaskiak
Newtok
Nightmute
Nunakauyaq
Nunam Iqua
Nunapitchuk
Ohogamiut
Oscarville
Paimiut
Pilot Station
Pitka's Point
Platinum
Quinhagak
Red Devil
Russian Mission
Scammon Bay
Sleetmute
St. Mary's
Tuntutuliak
Tununak
Umkumiut

February 29, 2012

Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Sent via e-mail

Dear Senator Lyman Hoffman, Senator Donny Olson, Representative Bryce Edgmon, and Representative Bob Herron:

On behalf of the Association of Village Council President, a tribal consortium consisting of 56 federally-recognized Indian Tribes in the Lower Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers, I am writing to express our support for House Bill 332: Alaska Chinook Salmon Research and Restoration Endowment Fund (ACSRRF).

In our region, we have seen a precipitous decline in the abundance of Chinook salmon in both the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. In the Lower Yukon River state salmon fisheries management districts of Y-1, Y-2, and Y-3, an economically vibrant commercial fishery existed until 1998 when salmon populations dropped to near non-existence. This Chinook salmon-directed fishery supported up to seven salmon processors and employed hundreds of local residents paying out the necessary dollars to provide the much needed income to pay bills and feed their families. Today, only one processor operates on the entire Lower Yukon River. This once-economically vibrant fishery is near complete extinction.

Within the last several years, fishermen have not been allowed to sell incidentally-harvested Chinook salmon in the legitimate commercial fisheries in Y1,2 & 3. We have seen a decline in the commercial fishermen participation to near fifty-percent of historical averages. This is compounded by high gasoline and transportation costs. More importantly, subsistence fisheries are near non-existence. Recent publications by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game indicate that subsistence fishermen, in more recent times, have not achieved their statutory *Amounts Necessary for Subsistence* for Chinook salmon on the Yukon River. Moreover, the early symptoms of the Yukon River are starting to appear on the Kuskokwim River.

Since the crash of 1998, the runs on the Kuskokwim River have been sporadic. In some years, we have seen evidence of *Ichthyophonus Hoferi,* a fish disease more common to herring populations in our Chinook salmon runs. In more recent years, several Chinook salmon spawning streams are failing to meet their regulatory established escapement goals, and we are seeing a decline in sizes.

The bottom line is we do not know nor understand what is happening to our precious resource. Further, this phenomenon is not only limited to our region. Chinook salmon populations around Alaska have undergone shifts in abundance during the past 40 years, yet little is known about the factors influencing these shifts. Eight of the 14 currently listed "stocks of concern" are Chinook salmon stocks, as defined by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in 5AAC 39.222.

While we know that reductions in harvest have been necessary to meet escapements and protect the Chinook salmon stocks, very little information is available to indicate the reason for these changes in run sizes. Theories on causation abound, but additional research is needed to determine the cause and either reverse the decline or plan for future run sizes.

To investigate the causes of these declines, it is critical that there is a dedicated and consistent source of funding for Chinook salmon research. This will allow a thorough study of the impacts and effects of population biology and dynamics, freshwater and marine ecology, physical habitat and the many other factors impacting Chinook salmon populations.

There is no fish more iconic to Alaskans than the Chinook salmon. This fish is not merely an icon, but a critical component of physical and cultural survival of Alaskans. It is vital and essential that the State of Alaska invest in understanding and recovering our Chinook salmon runs.

We fully support the funding and creation of ACSRRF as a means to help ensure sustainable uses of wild salmon for future generations.

Sincerely,
Raymond Watson, Chairman
Association of Village Council Presidents

Myron P. Naneng Sr., President

CC: Mr. Rob Earl, Mr. Tim Grussendorf, Mr. David Scott, Mr. Mike Nizich

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Advisory Committees by Region

ARCTIC *Map *(473K)*

Arctic
Kotzebue
Lower Kobuk
Noatak/Kivalina
Northern Norton Sound
Northern Seward Peninsula
St Lawrence Island
Southern Norton Sound
Upper Kobuk

INTERIOR *Map *(438K)*
Central
Delta
Eagle
Fairbanks
Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk and Holy Cross (G.A.S.H.)
Koyukuk
Lake Minchumina
McGrath
Middle Nenana River
Middle Yukon River
Minto/Nenana
Ruby
Tanana/Rampart/Manly
Upper Tanana/Forty Mile
Yukon Flats

SOUTHCENTRAL *Map *(347K)*
Anchorage
Central Peninsula
Cooper Landing
Copper Basin
Copper River/Prince Wm. Sd

Denali
Homer
Kenai/Soldotna
Kodiak
Matanuska Valley
Mt. Yenlo
Paxson
Seldovia
Seward
Susitna Valley
Tok Cutoff/Nabesna Road
Tyonek
Valdez
Whittier

SOUTHEAST *Map *(268K)*
Angoon
Craig
East Prince of Wales Island
Edna Bay
Elfin Cove
Hydaburg
Hyder
Icy Straits
Juneau-Douglas
Kake
Ketchikan
Klawock
Klukwan
Pelican
Petersburg
Port Alexander
Saxman
Sitka
Sumner Strait
Tenakee Springs
Upper Lynn Canal
Wrangell
Yakutat

SOUTHWEST *Map *(354K)*
Chignik
False Pass
King Cove
Lake Iliamna
Lower Bristol Bay
Lower Kuskokwim
Naknek/Kvichak
Nelson Lagoon
Nushagak
Sand Point
Togiak
Unalaska/Dutch Harbor

WESTERN *Map *(428K)*
Central Bering Sea
Lower Kuskokwim
Central Kuskokwim
Lower Yukon
Stony-Holitna

Article 2
Regional Fish and Game Councils

Section

5 AAC 96.200. Establishment of a regional fish and game council system

A system of regional fish and game councils is established to provide a regional forum for the collection and expression of opinions and recommendations on matters relating to fish and wildlife resources, to assist the boards in deliberations concerning regulations, and to provide for public participation in the regulatory process to help adequately protect subsistence uses.

History: In effect before 1982; am 6/2/82, Register 82; am 10/9/83, Register 88

Authority: AS 16.05.260

5 AAC 96.210. Fish and game resource management regions

(a) For the purposes of conservation and management of the fish and wildlife resources of the state, the following fish and game resource management regions are created:

(1) Southeast Alaska, consisting of all lands and waters of Game Management Units 1 - 5, that part of Unit 6 east of Cape Suckling, and adjacent marine waters;

(2) Southcentral Alaska, consisting of all lands and waters of Game Management Units 6 west of Cape Suckling, 7, 9A, 11, 13 - 16, and adjacent marine waters;

(3) Southwest Alaska, consisting of all lands and waters of Game Management Units 8, 9B - E, 10, 17, and adjacent marine waters;

(4) Western Alaska, consisting of all lands and waters of Game Management Unit 18 and that portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage in Game Management Unit 19 downstream from, and including, the George River drainage and the Hoholitna River drainage, and adjacent marine waters;

(5) Arctic Alaska, consisting of all lands and waters of Game Management Units 22, 23, 26, and adjacent marine waters; and

(6) Interior Alaska, consisting of all lands and waters of Game Management Units 12, 20, 21, 24, 25, and that portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage in Unit 19 upstream from the George River drainage and the Hoholitna River drainage.

(b) The Game Management Units listed in (a) of this section are described in 5 AAC 90.010.

(c) A board will, in its discretion, temporarily change the boundaries of regions for individual resource issues.

History: In effect before 1982; am 6/2/82, Register 82; am 10/9/83, Register 88

Authority: AS 16.05.260

5 AAC 96.220. Regional fish and game councils

The joint board will establish a council within each region described in 5 AAC 96.210. Each council will consist of the chairmen, or their designees, of the active committees established within the region. Any committee member who is a member of a council must be a resident of the region.

History: In effect before 1983; am 10/9/83, Register 88; am 9/22/85, Register 95

Authority: AS 16.05.260

5 AAC 96.230. Qualifications for membership

Repealed 10/9/83.

5 AAC 96.240. Non-voting members

Repealed 10/9/83.

5 AAC 96.245. Non-voting member

Each regional council may establish two seats for non-voting members if necessary to perform the functions set out in 5 AAC 96.250.

History: Eff. 9/22/85, Register 95

Authority: AS 16.05.260

5 AAC 96.250. Functions of regional fish and game councils

(a) Each council is authorized to:

(1) hold public meetings on fish and wildlife matters;

(2) elect officers;

(3) in consultation with the local fish and game advisory committees in its region and with the department, review, evaluate, and make a recommendation to a board on any existing or proposed regulation, policy, or management plan, or any other matter relating to the use of fish and wildlife, including any matter related to fish and wildlife habitat, within its region;

(4) perform other duties specified by a board; and

(5) submit to the joint board, the department, and the Secretary of Interior of the United States, by November 15 of each year, an annual report, containing:

(A) an identification of current and anticipated subsistence uses of fish and wildlife populations within the region, and other fish and wildlife uses that the council identifies;

(B) an evaluation of current and anticipated subsistence needs for use of fish and wildlife populations within the region, and of other fish and wildlife needs that the council identifies;

(C) a recommended strategy for the management of fish and wildlife populations within the region to accommodate the identified fish and wildlife uses and needs; and

(D) recommendations concerning policies, standards, guidelines, and regulations to implement the strategy.

(b) A council shall provide a forum for, and assist its local fish and game advisory committees in, obtaining the opinions and recommendations of people interested in fish and wildlife matters so as to achieve the greatest possible local participation in the decision-making process. If differences of opinion exist among the committees, the council shall attempt to develop areas of compromise and to reach a regional consensus on matters of controversy.

(c) A council will, in its discretion, present recommendations concerning the conservation, regulation, management, and use of fish and wildlife resources within its region, along with the evidence upon which the recommendations are based, to the appropriate board.

(d) A council may make recommendations to the joint board on the creation, consolidation, distribution, or operation of the committee system.

History: In effect before 1982; am 6/2/82, Register 82; am 10/9/83, Register 88; am 9/22/85, Register 95

Authority: AS 16.05.260

5 AAC 96.260. Uniform rules of operation

(a) **Rules.** Every action taken by a council must comply with the uniform rules of operation for committees set out in 5 AAC 96.060(j) , (k), (m), and (q) - (s). The rules in (b) - (d) of this section supersede the corresponding rules in 5 AAC 96.060(c) , (e), (*o*), and (t).

(b) **Responsibilities.** A council shall perform the functions described in 5 AAC 96.250 in accordance with the provisions of 5 AAC 96 and 97.

(c) **Membership.** Membership on a council is as provided in 5 AAC 96.220.

(d) **Meetings.** Each council shall hold regular meetings at times appropriate to the process described in 5 AAC 96.610. The chairman or a majority of a council's members may call a special meeting at which any interested person may submit statements to the council on any matter related to the purposes for which the meeting is called. Council meetings are public meetings under AS 44.62.310 and 44.62.312 and must be advertised in the region. The council shall allow public testimony at every council meeting.

(e) **Recommendations.** A council must convey any recommendation to the appropriate board in writing and with a justification or explanation before the start of the board meeting.

History: In effect before 1982; am 6/2/82, Register 82; am 10/9/83, Register 88; am 9/26/90, Register 115

Authority: AS 16.05.260

Editor's note: An amendment to 5 AAC 96.260(e) was adopted jointly by the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game in 1990, took effect 9/26/90, and should have appeared in Register 115, October 1990. The amendment, however, was inadvertently omitted when Register 115 was published, and did not appear in print until Register 122, July 1992.

5 AAC 96.270. Report of activities

Repealed 10/9/83.

5 AAC 96.280. Attendance at meetings

When adequate funding exists, the chairman, or his designee, shall attend regulatory meetings of the boards. Each council shall cooperate with other councils on matters of mutual interest and concern, and will, in its discretion, hold joint meetings, authorized by the boards, to accomplish this purpose.

History: In effect before 1983; am 10/9/83, Register 88

Authority: AS 16.05.260

Article 3
Administration of Local Fish and Game Committees

Section

5 AAC 96.400. Operation of local fish and game advisory committee system

Repealed 10/9/83.

5 AAC 96.410. Distribution of local fish and game advisory committees

The joint board will, to the extent feasible, establish and locate committees to allow an opportunity for all citizens of the state to participate in the regulatory system.

Adopted

27-LS1312\D.1
Kirsch
3/16/12

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE SENATE BY SENATOR WAGONER

TO: CSSB 205( ), Draft Version "D"

Page 4, line 2:

Delete "Palm Point near Katalla"

Insert "Cape Suckling"

Page 4, lines 7 - 8:

Delete ", Kanak Island, Wingham Island, and Kayak Island"

Page 4, lines 12 - 13:

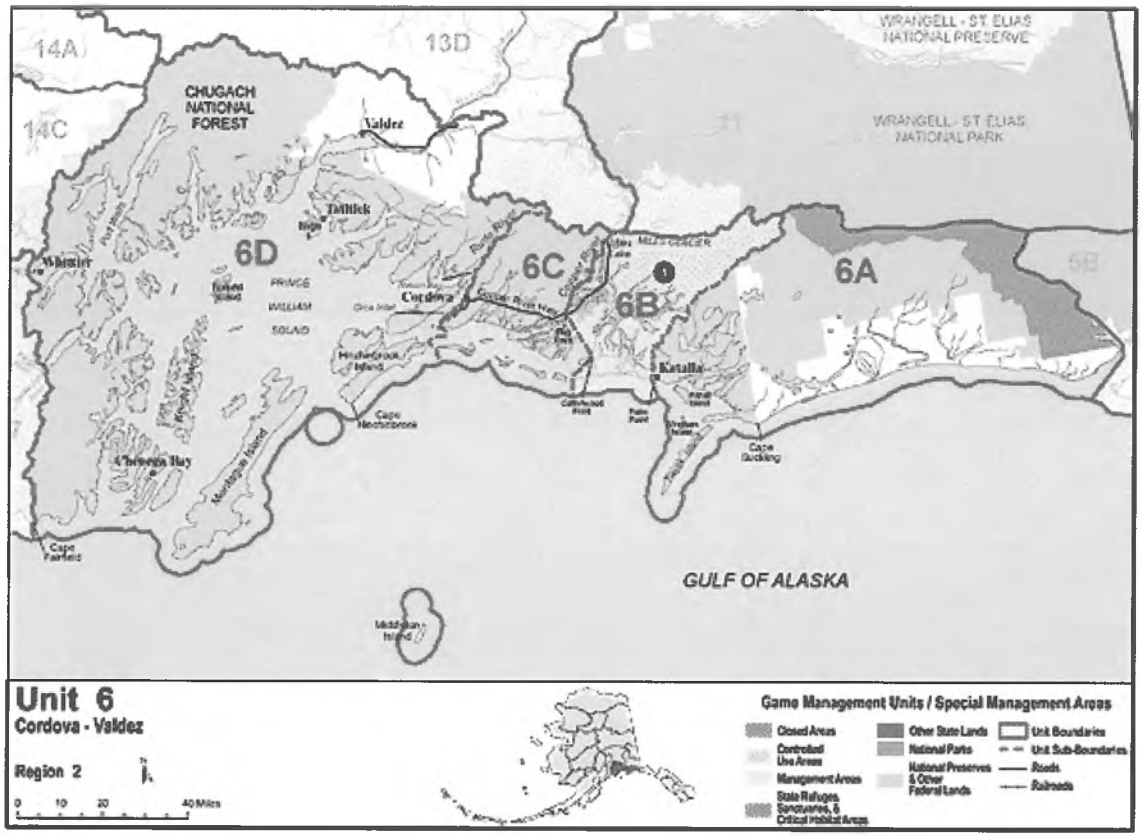
Delete "Palm Point near Katalla"

Insert "Cape Suckling"

Page 6, lines 12 - 13:

Delete "based on the dependence of Alaska residents on the stocks"

Insert "taking into consideration the use of the stocks by Alaska residents"


14A
13D
14C
CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST
Valdez
WRANGELL - ST ELIAS NATIONAL PRESERVE
WRANGELL - ST ELIAS NATIONAL PARK
Tatitlek
6D
6C
6B
6A
5B
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND
Cordova
Katalla
Cape Hinchinbrook
Cape Suckling
Cape Fairfield
GULF OF ALASKA
Unit 6
Cordova - Valdez
Region 2
0 10 20 40 Miles
Game Management Units / Special Management Areas
Closed Areas
Controlled Use Areas
Management Areas
State Refuges, Sanctuaries, & Critical Habitat Areas
Other State Lands
National Parks
National Preserves & Other Federal Lands
Unit Boundaries
Unit Sub-Boundaries
Roads
Railroads

Stock Status of Chinook Salmon in Alaska

Alaska State Senate Finance, Fish & Game Sub-Committee Briefing Report

prepared by the
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Long-term Abundance Trends of Chinook Salmon Stocks in Alaska

- Prior to 2007 there was no consistent statewide trend in abundance, with some areas in Alaska experiencing above average abundance while other areas experiencing below average abundance.
- From 2007-2011 there was a consistent statewide trend in abundance, with all areas in Alaska experiencing below average abundance.

Run abundance (annual catch plus escapement) of most Chinook salmon stocks in Alaska is currently below the long term average. Although patterns of Chinook salmon abundance differ over time between areas of Alaska, between 2007 and 2011 all stocks experienced a coherent and marked decrease in run abundance. Figures 1 through 5 depict summaries of long term run abundance of 21 major Chinook salmon stocks in five geographic areas of Alaska, with recent run abundances by stock in tables 1 through 5.

Prior to 2007, there appeared to be no coherent statewide pattern in run abundance of Chinook salmon. Chinook salmon stocks in the southeast Alaska and Prince William Sound area had steadily increasing abundance through 1997, with stable abundance during 1998 through 2006 (Figure 1). This is in contrast to the pattern of abundance seen in the Cook Inlet area where abundance peaked during 1987 through 1989 and 2003 through 2006 (Figure 2). The Kodiak and Chignik area showed high and steady abundance of Chinook salmon between 1983 and 2004 (Figure 3), whereas the Bristol Bay, North Peninsula, Kuskokwim Bay area showed repeated peaks in abundance during 1981 through 1983, 1994, 1998, and 2004 through 2006 (Figure 4). The Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) area showed peaks in abundance during 1994 through 1997 and again in 2004 through 2006 (Figure 5). This information lead us to believe that production trends of Chinook salmon differed by geographic area depending on the nearshore habitats of ocean basins that juvenile Chinook salmon first enter as smolt (i.e., northern and eastern Bering Sea; and, western, central, and eastern Gulf of Alaska).

Although declines in abundance of some stocks of Chinook salmon began in earlier years, from 2007 through 2011 declines in abundance to below average were seen throughout the state (Figures 1-5 and Tables 1-5). Some stocks of Chinook salmon increased abundance during 2010 and 2011, however these runs were still below the long term average. We believe that poor nearshore ocean conditions that persisted from 2000 through 2005 throughout the Bering Sea and

Gulf of Alaska, resulted in poor survival rates and below average run abundances returning to Alaska rivers during 2007-2011.

There are indications that survival rate of Chinook salmon may be improving. An abundance index is calculated for Chinook salmon stocks from southeast Alaska south to Canada and the Lower 48 as part of the Pacific Salmon Treaty process. This abundance index is indicating that survival rate of southeast Alaska stocks is improving and should result in increases in Chinook salmon abundance in the next few years. We are unsure if this pattern of improving survival rates will be experienced by stocks in regions north and west of southeast Alaska.

Escapement Goal Management of Chinook Salmon Stocks in Alaska

There are currently 70 established escapement goals for Chinook salmon in Alaska. Using a variety of assessment methods, ADF&G monitors the performance of Chinook salmon escapements against these goals to assess the health of Chinook stocks and ensure sustainability in future years. Figures 6 through 10 summarize results of escapement assessments statewide and for each commercial fisheries division region, compared to goals. Using available data from the last decade, it is apparent that success in meeting established escapement goals has declined in all regions (escapement data for many Chinook stocks in Central and Westward regions is not yet available for 2011). When comparing the time periods 2001-2006 versus 2007-2011, average success at meeting escapement goals has declined from 91% to 69% in southeast region (11 established goals); from 89% to 51% in central region (29 established goals); from 70% to 57% in AYK region (26 established goals); and from 92% to 56% in westward region (4 established goals). Statewide, performance between the two time periods has declined from 83% to 58% success in achieving goals.

Chinook Salmon Stocks of Concern

Where salmon escapements chronically fail to meet expectations for harvestable yield or spawning escapements, the department may recommend, and the Board of Fisheries may adopt a stock of concern designation for those under-performing stocks. The sustainable salmon fisheries policy (5 AAC 39.222) provides specific definitions for stocks of concern. Yield concerns arise from a chronic inability to maintain expected yields or harvestable surpluses above escapement needs. Management concerns are precipitated by a chronic failure to maintain escapements within the bounds, or above the lower bound of the established goal. When salmon stocks are identified as a specific concern, a plan is developed by the department to address those concerns, with specific management and research actions aimed at reducing exploitation, improving assessment, and initiating programs to better understand and address the decline. There are currently nine Chinook stocks of concern designated by the Alaska Board of Fisheries between 2000 and 2010, summarized in the table below. Five stocks are designated management concerns

and four are yield concerns. All but two have recently been established during the 2010/2011 board cycle. Summaries of action plans for each stock of concern are in tables 6 through 11.

Statewide summary of Chinook salmon stocks of concern in Alaska.

Region	System	Year Designated	Level of Concern	Year Last Reviewed
Central	Chuitna River	2010	Management	2010
	Theodore River	2010	Management	2010
	Lewis River	2010	Management	2010
	Alexander Creek	2010	Management	2010
	Willow Creek	2010	Yield	2010
	Goose Creek	2010	Yield	2010
Westward	Karluk River	2010	Management	2010
Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim	Yukon River	2000	Yield	2009
	Norton Sound Sub-district 5 & 6	2003	Yield	2009

Managing Alaska's Chinook Salmon Fisheries for Sustained Yield

Management for Sustained Yields of Chinook salmon

As mandated by the Alaska Constitution, Alaska Statute, and policies for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries and statewide escapement goals, ADF&G achieves sustained yields by managing directed salmon fisheries for scientifically based escapement goals and by protecting salmon habitats in Alaska waters. Because the migratory pathways of Chinook salmon take them offshore of state waters, ADF&G also advocates for reductions in bycatch of Chinook salmon in groundfish fisheries and protection of salmon habitats in the federal waters through the various federal Fishery Management Plans that are under North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) direction as mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Measures to specifically account for Chinook salmon mortalities in groundfish fisheries, such as census sampling and genetic stock identification, provide valuable information for more accurately assessing Chinook run strengths in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. Accounting for age-specific Chinook salmon mortalities as by-catch provides a more complete picture of stock productivity, a key to effective management for sustained yield.

Review of Bycatch Measures in the Bering Sea

In April 2009, the NPFMC approved a Chinook salmon bycatch hard cap for each Bering Sea pollock fishery season which, if reached, would require all directed pollock fishing to cease for that season. This action was implemented by the NMFS in January 2011. The hard cap is 60,000 Chinook salmon if an incentive plan is in place and 47,591 Chinook salmon if there is no incentive plan in place. The action was intended to reduce Chinook salmon bycatch under any

condition of pollock and salmon abundance, on an individual vessel level, by combining the hard cap with a system of penalties implemented through the incentive plans. The action also includes requirements for at least 100% observer coverage on all pollock vessels, and a 'census' approach to sampling, to account for all salmon bycatch. Bycatch of Chinook salmon in the 2011 pollock fishery was 25,500 fish, well below either of these hard caps and well below peak levels of bycatch taken by the pollock fishery during 2005 (67,361 fish) through 2007 (121,757 fish). Bycatch of Chinook salmon in the Bering Sea pollock fishery since 2001 is shown in Table 12.

Review of Bycatch Measures in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA)

In June 2011, the NPFMC took final action to establish a hard cap for the Central and Western GOA pollock fisheries of 25,000 Chinook salmon. A provision was made for NMFS to implement the new limits as soon as possible; thus, they will first be effective in mid-2012. Additional provisions of the NPFMC motion ensure observer coverage on all vessels fishing for pollock no later than 2013, and require full retention of salmon taken in the pollock trawl fishery, in order to allow for a robust sampling protocol and genetic stock identification of Chinook salmon bycatch. Although not yet implemented, bycatch of Chinook salmon during the 2011 pollock fishery was 13,832 fish, well below the hard cap of 25,000 fish. The NPFMC is also working on measures to cap Chinook salmon bycatch in non-pollock groundfish fisheries in the GOA. Bycatch of Chinook salmon in the GOA pollock fishery since 2001 is shown in Table 13.

Collaborative Chinook Salmon Marine Research

Biologists in the AYK region are actively involved in collaborative research studies with NOAA with two specific objectives:

1) Develop a preseason forecast model for Yukon River salmon stocks that incorporates information on juvenile status.
2) Evaluate changes in marine survival of juvenile Yukon River salmon stocks and potential contributors to recent declines of Yukon Chinook salmon related to migratory behavior, freshwater life history strategies, diet, energetic condition, and size selective mortality.

This work is being accomplished by utilizing methodologies developed by NOAA, integrating existing NOAA data with ADF&G data, and building upon previous efforts to address issues affecting AYK fishery management. NOAA provides support for this research through staff time during juvenile salmon surveys and laboratory analyses, logistics, and administrative support. ADF&G provides support for this research through staff time of an AYK research fishery biologist who actively participates in this collaborative work. Funds for operation of the northern Bering Shelf juvenile salmon surveys and laboratory analyses are currently provided by grant funding that will expire after the 2013 research season. Long-term monitoring is necessary for this research to be effective, particularly for preseason forecast model development and utilization. Stock-specific juvenile distribution and mortality mechanisms in the first year of

Chinook salmon marine life represent an important information gap in understanding declines in productivity and will likely provide critical information for improving forecast capabilities.

Salmon Fishery Enhancement Program in Alaska

In 1971, the State of Alaska initiated its modern salmon fishery enhancement program in response to severely depressed salmon fisheries. Protection of wild stocks has been foremost since the inception of the program and statutes, regulations and policies are in place to provide for this priority. Today there are 35 active salmon hatcheries and research facilities in the State of Alaska, and the success of the program is illustrated by hatchery produced fish providing approximately 27% of the annual common property harvest of salmon over the past ten years, while having little or no demonstrable detrimental effects on natural salmon production.

Alaska's modern salmon fishery enhancement program is stakeholder-driven, with provisions for planning and oversight by representatives of regional user groups. The state is divided into several Salmon Planning Regions and all salmon fishery enhancement efforts in Alaska are guided by Regional Comprehensive Salmon Plans, which are prepared by each region's Regional Planning Teams. The first step in developing a fishery enhancement program is the drafting of a Regional Comprehensive Salmon Plan. This ensures that enhancement activities are developed and supported locally, utilizing local and traditional knowledge, and based on meeting the needs of the region. These plans also document enhancement efforts, set production goals, and identify potential for new projects.

An example of this stakeholder-driven planning process can be seen happening currently in the Norton Sound area. The Norton Sound/Bering Strait Regional Planning Team (RPT), at its January 23, 2012, meeting in Nome, initiated the process of updating their Regional Comprehensive Salmon Plan (CSP) which was approved in 1996. The process will include updating the 1996 plans proposed projects with the results of those projects; soliciting public input regarding new desired production levels and proposed projects by area through correspondence and public meetings; assimilating the public input into an updated draft plan and providing that to the public for review and comment; and providing the completed draft to the Commissioner of ADF&G for review, and finally approval. Following the approval of the updated CSP, stakeholders within the region desiring to provide for additional harvest will have a suite of preferred projects to work with, and a roadmap to guide fishery enhancement activities.

Although not the only option, hatcheries are one of the most effective salmon fishery enhancement tools, and there are several models of operation. Regardless of the model, the development and operation of a non-governmental salmon hatchery requires a PNP Hatchery Permit issued by the ADF&G. The permit application process is rigorous and includes an RPT review and a public hearing. After a hatchery is permitted, fish transport permits are required and annual management plans must be approved by the department.

It is also important to note that PNP hatcheries are self supporting. Funding for the construction and operation of a hatchery may be provided by several sources (grants, loans, salmon enhancement taxes, or others), but most funding comes from the cost recovery harvest of returning fish produced by the hatchery.

Alternatively, small scale, experimental, salmon fishery enhancement projects may be permitted through fish resource permits (FRP) rather than full scale hatchery permits. However, fish produced in this way may not be harvested by the producer for cost recovery.

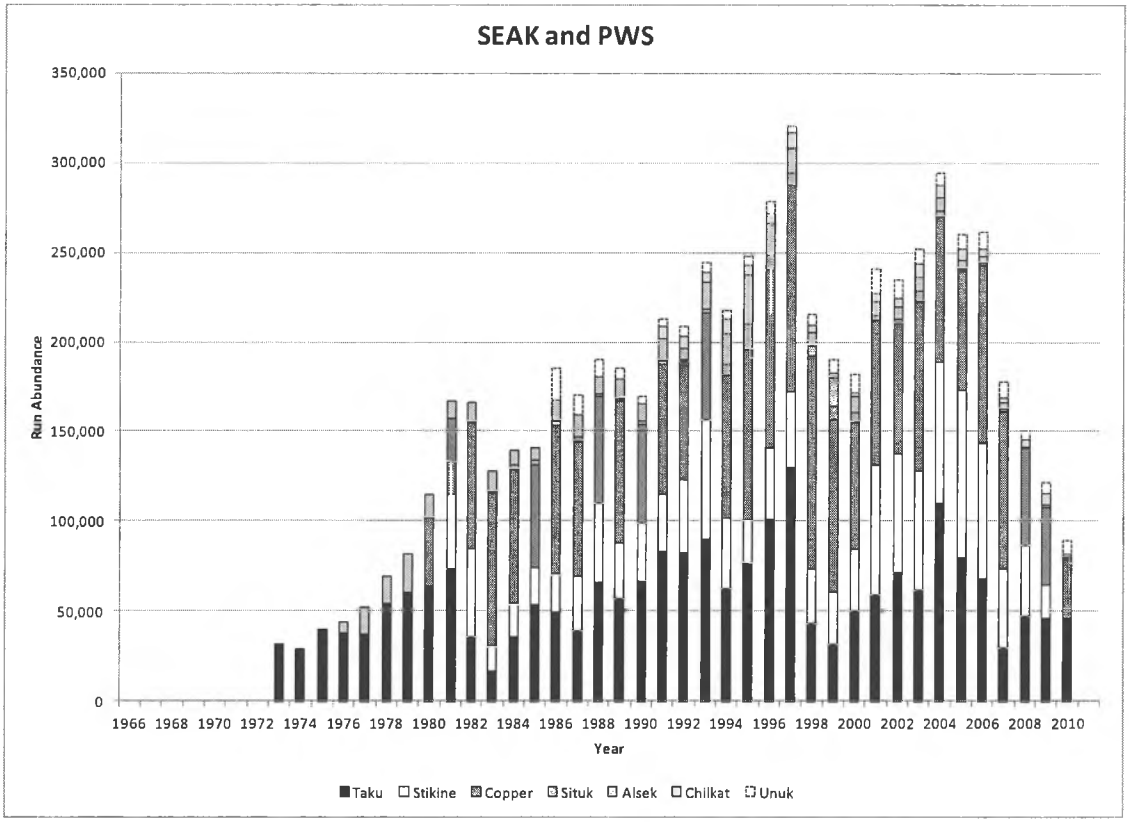


Figure 1. Run abundance of 7 Chinook salmon stocks in the southeast and Prince William Sound area of Alaska, 1973-2010.

Table 1. Run abundance of Chinook salmon in the Taku, Stikine, Copper, Situk, Alsek, Chilkat, and Unuk rivers, 2001-2010 and the long term average.

Year	Taku	Stikine	Copper	Situk	Alsek	Chilkat	Unuk
2001	59,202	71,799	81,155	2,345	7,542	5,272	13,306
2002	71,142	65,790	72,974	3,031	6,646	4,423	10,254
2003	61,945	65,708	94,505	6,343	7,093	8,117	7,732
2004	110,142	78,695	80,559	3,214	7,962	6,423	7,480
2005	79,624	93,311	66,357	1,187	5,319	5,824	8,141
2006	68,288	74,832	99,877	1,440	3,070	3,868	9,980
2007	29,450	44,035	87,770	1,222	3,716	2,879	8,635
2008	47,603	39,004	53,880	1,044		3,900	4,830
2009	46,183	18,277	43,006	1,753		6,309	5,890
2010	45,796		33,136	421		2,292	7,832
2011							
Long term average	58,351	42,476	74,089	3,511	11,049	5,260	7,640

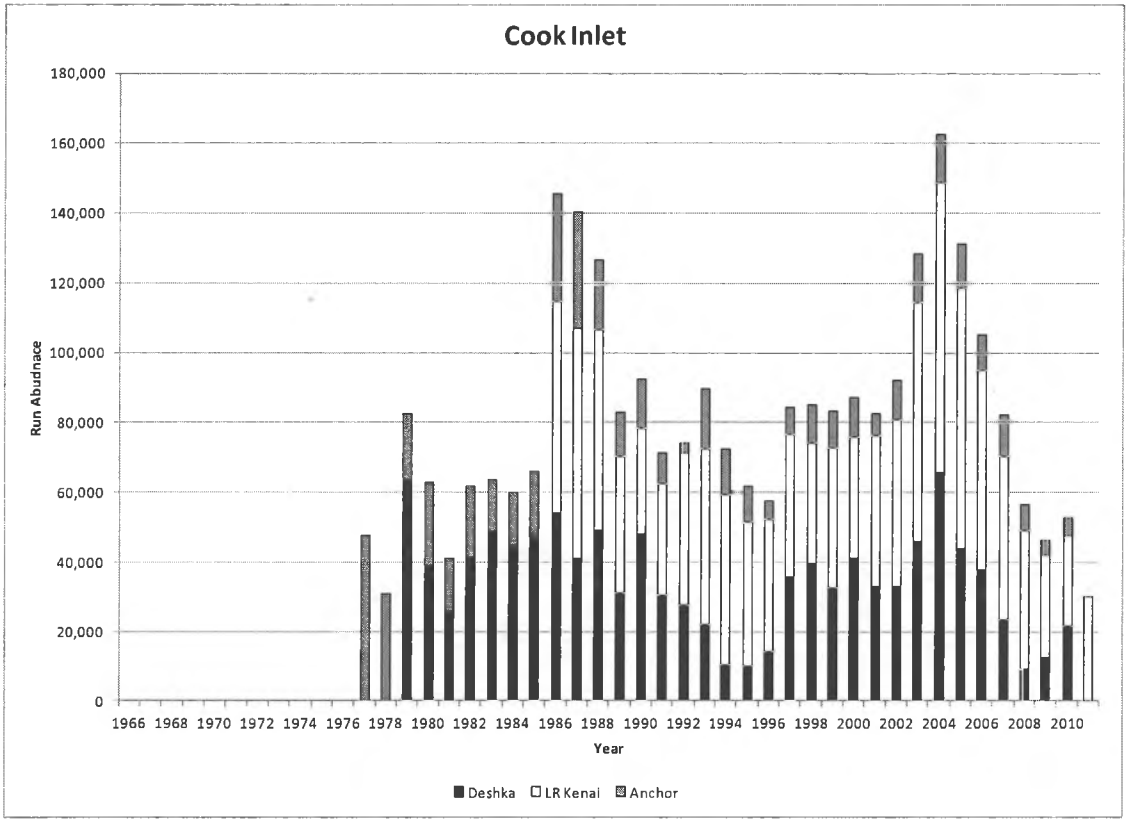


Figure 2. Run abundance of 3 Chinook salmon stocks in the Cook Inlet area of Alaska, 1977-2011.

Table 2. Run abundance of Chinook salmon in the Deshka, late run Kenai, and Anchor rivers, 2001-2011 and the long term average.

Year	Deshka	late run Kenai	Anchor
2001	32,973	43,310	6,276
2002	33,043	47,940	11,018
2003	45,862	68,390	14,183
2004	65,709	83,150	13,577
2005	43,765	74,940	12,588
2006	37,675	57,120	10,339
2007	23,290	47,140	11,703
2008	9,320	39,720	7,418
2009	12,364	29,740	4,192
2010	21,604	26,230	4,813
2011		30,160	
Long term average	35,127	46,383	15,007

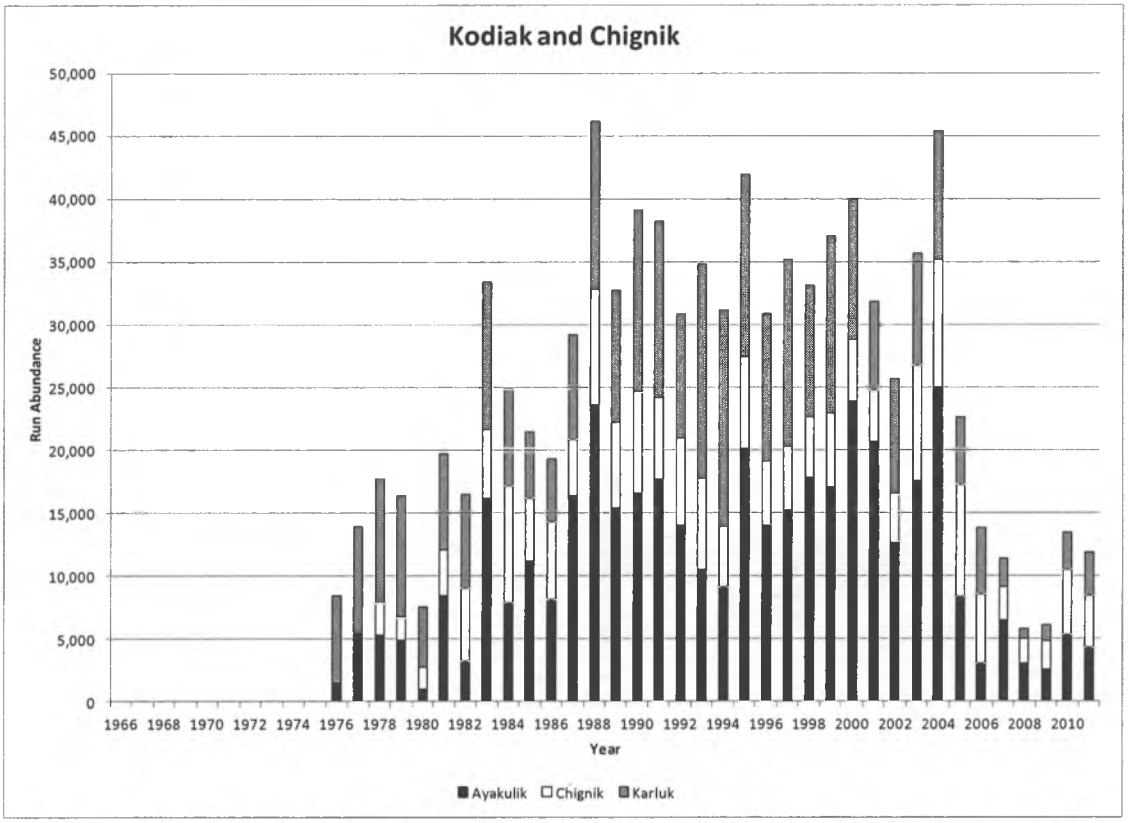


Figure 3. Run abundance of 3 Chinook salmon stocks in the Kodiak and Chignik area of Alaska, 1976-2011.

Table 3. Run abundance of Chinook salmon in the Ayakulik, Karluk, and Chignik rivers, 2001-2011 and the long term average.

Year	Ayakulik	Karluk	Chignik
2001	20,656	7,065	4,134
2002	12,637	9,087	3,948
2003	17,557	8,891	9,246
2004	24,988	10,183	10,177
2005	8,342	5,406	8,928
2006	3,110	5,270	5,476
2007	6,535	2,217	2,641
2008	3,071	849	1,938
2009	2,615	1,306	2,176
2010	5,366	2,917	5,159
2011	4,378	3,420	4,110
Long term average	11,510	8,960	5,488

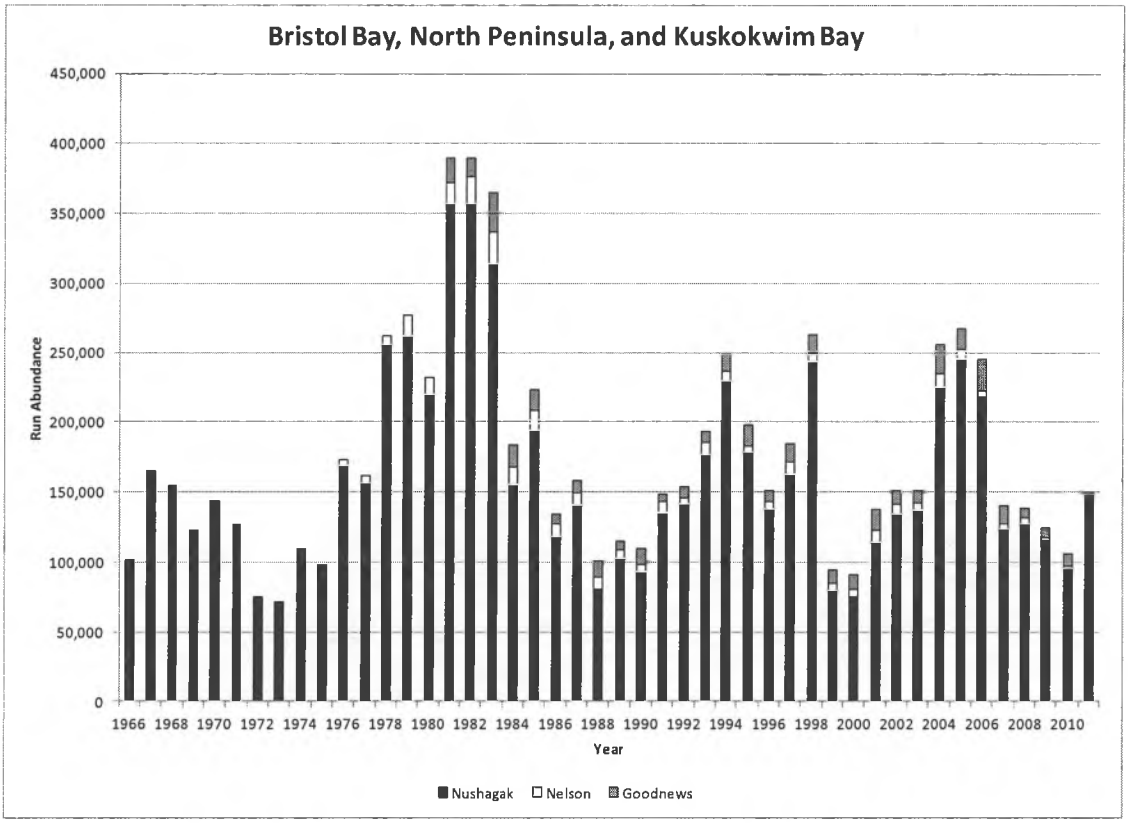


Figure 4. Run abundance of 3 Chinook salmon stocks in the Bristol Bay, North Peninsula, and Kuskokwim Bay area of Alaska, 1966-2011.

Table 4. Run abundance of Chinook salmon in the Nushagak, Nelson, and Goodnews rivers, 2001-2011.

Year	Nushagak	Nelson	Goodnews
2001	113,367	9,252	14,720
2002	133,552	8,062	8,939
2003	136,008	6,236	8,526
2004	223,925	10,680	21,058
2005	244,082	7,880	14,941
2006	218,005	4,721	22,335
2007	123,139	3,864	13,814
2008	126,402	5,493	6,371
2009	115,767	1,823	7,130
2010	94,228	2,929	9,167
2011	147,792	1,903	
Long term average	160,019	8,659	12,135

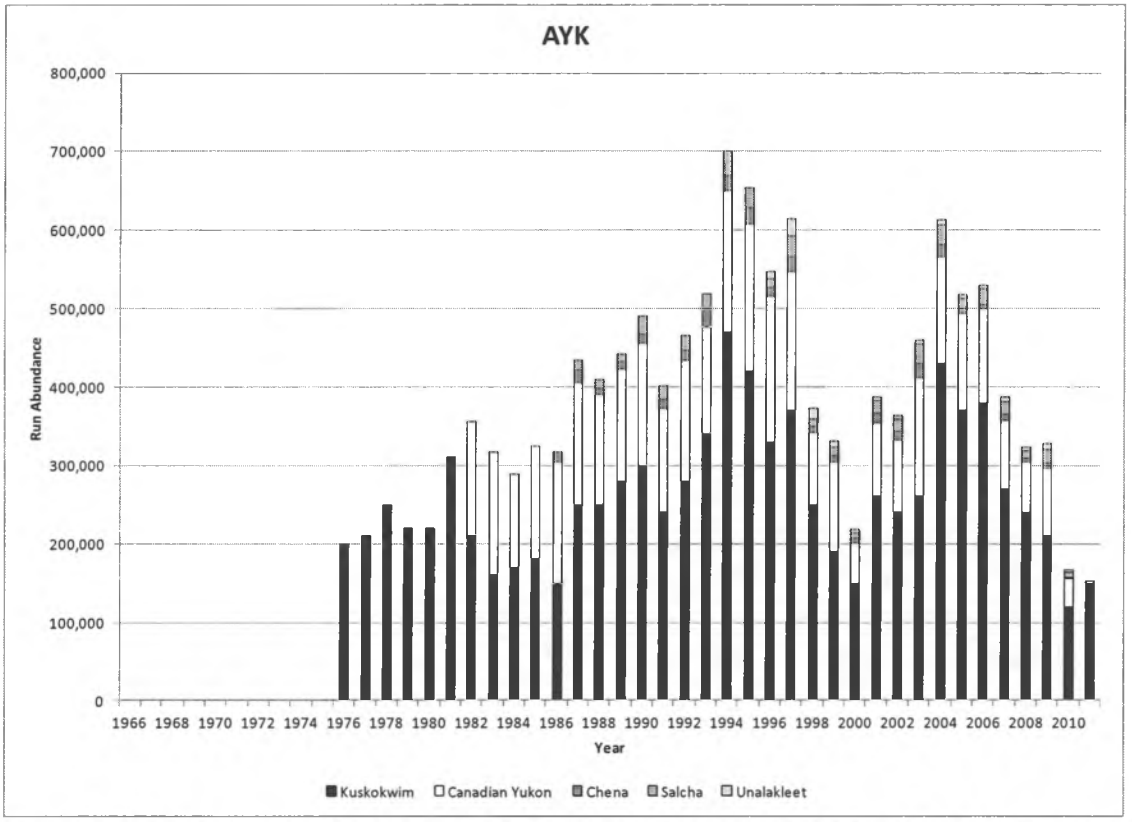


Figure 5. Run abundance of 5 Chinook salmon stocks in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim area of Alaska, 1976-2011.

Table 5. Run abundance of Chinook salmon in the Kuskokwim, Canadian Yukon, Chena, Salcha, and Unalakleet rivers, 2001-2011.

Year	Kuskokwim	Canadian Yukon	Chena	Salcha	Unalakleet
2001	260,000	94,390	11,962	15,814	5,908
2002	240,000	92,730	11,228	14,544	6,167
2003	260,000	152,800	17,304	23,928	5,805
2004	430,000	135,700	15,925	25,259	5,392
2005	370,000	124,000	7,611	11,452	4,566
2006	380,000	119,600	5,781	20,380	4,552
2007	270,000	87,670	8,433	14,576	6,453
2008	240,000	63,730	5,618	9,304	4,020
2009	210,000	86,650	6,971	16,345	7,808
2010	120,000	35,390	2,414	6,278	3,218
2011	150,000				3,048
Long term average	260,000	128,427	11,611	16,164	7,144

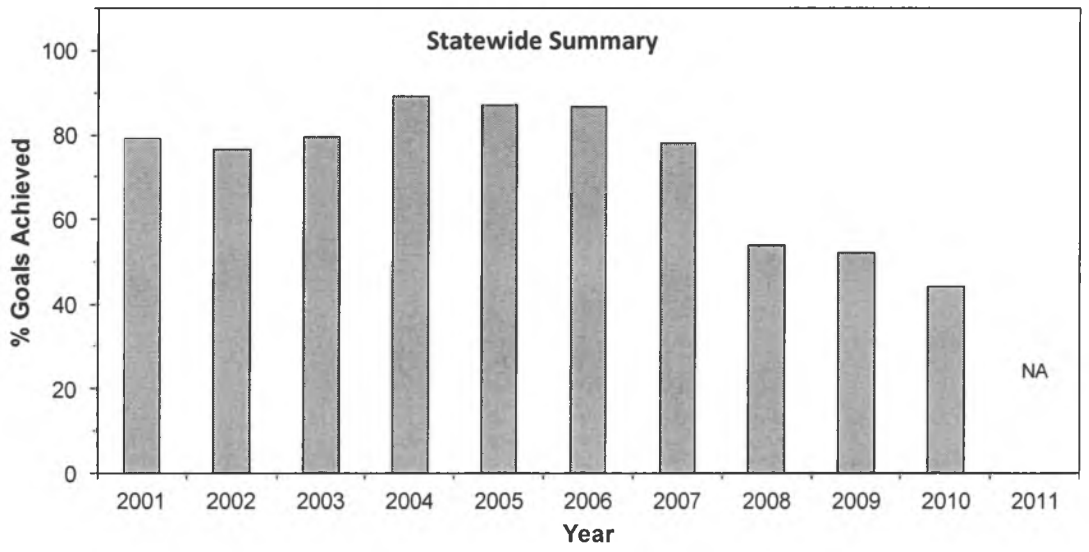


Figure 6: Percent of Chinook salmon escapement goals achieved (i.e. met or exceeded) statewide between 2001 and 2011. The number of Chinook salmon escapement goals throughout Alaska was 66 from 2001 to 2004, 68 in 2005 and 2006, 71 from 2007 to 2009 and 70 in 2010 and 2011. NA = estimates of escapement are not available for all Chinook salmon stocks with goals at this time.

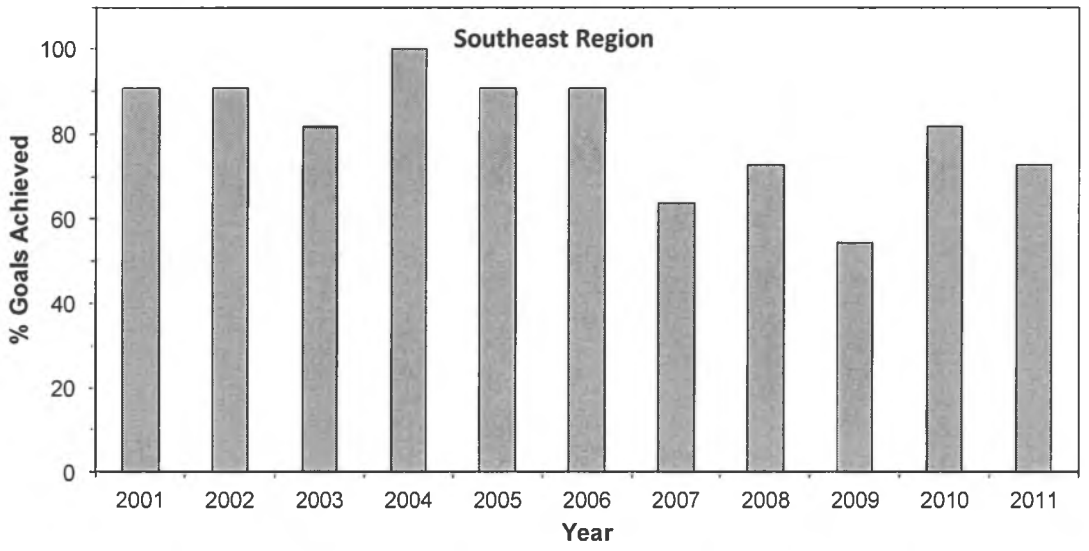


Figure 7: Percent of Chinook salmon escapement goals achieved (i.e. met or exceeded) in Southeast Region between 2001 and 2011. Southeast Region has had 11 Chinook salmon escapement goals since 2001.

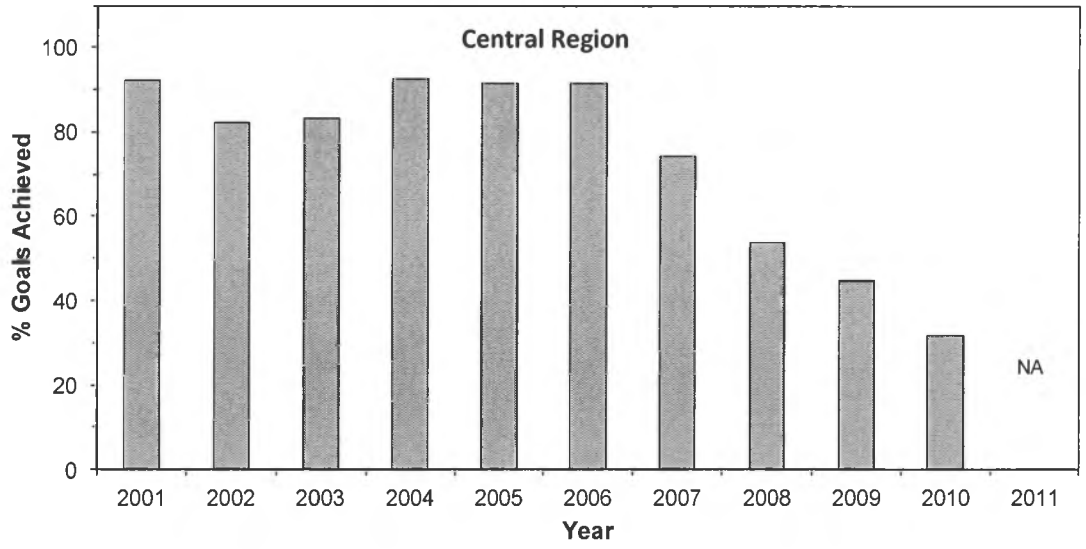


Figure 8: Percent of Chinook salmon escapement goals achieved (i.e. met or exceeded) in Central Region between 2001 and 2011. The number of Chinook salmon escapement goals in Central Region increased from 28 in 2001 to 29 in 2007. NA = estimates of escapement are not available for all Chinook salmon stocks with goals at this time.

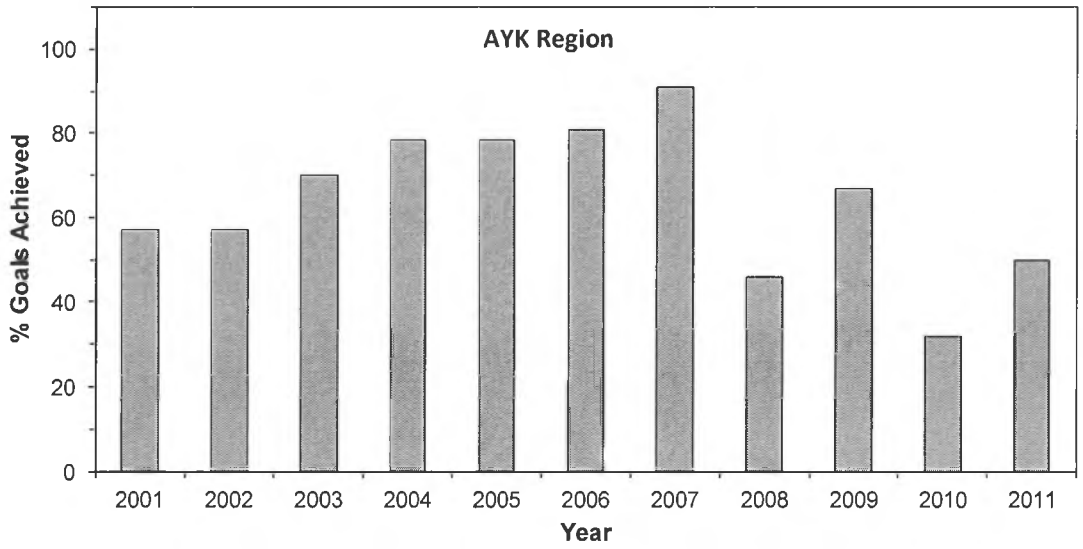


Figure 9: Percent of Chinook salmon escapement goals achieved (i.e. met or exceeded) in Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Region between 2001 and 2011. The number of Chinook salmon escapement goals in Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Region was 23 from 2001 to 2004, 25 in 2005 and 2006, 27 from 2007 to 2009 and 26 in 2010 and 2011.

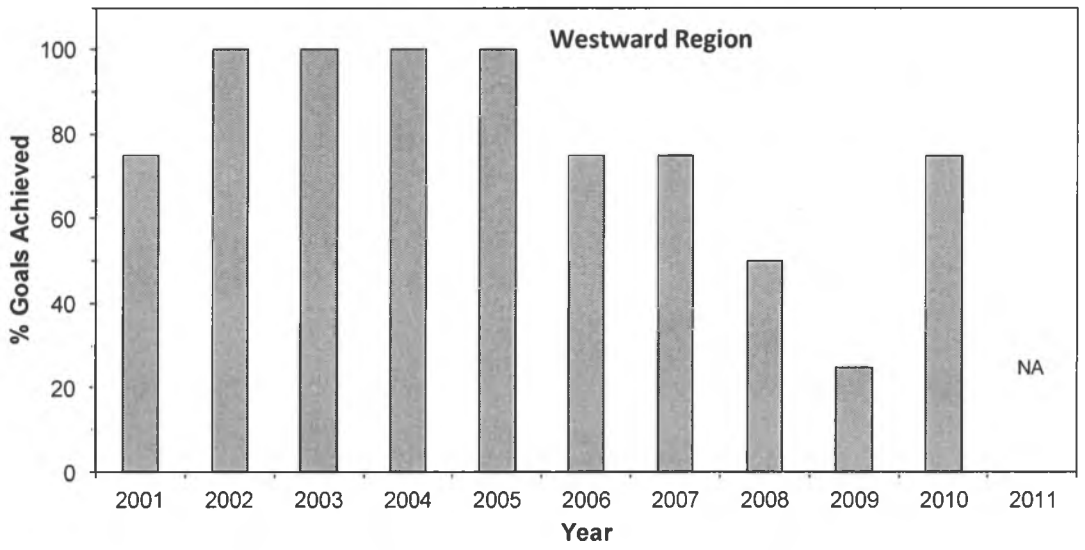


Figure 10: Percent of Chinook salmon escapement goals achieved (i.e. met or exceeded) in Westward Region between 2001 and 2011. Westward Region has had 4 Chinook salmon escapement goals since 2001. NA = estimates of escapement are not available for all Chinook salmon stocks with goals at this time.

Table 6. **Action Plan to address Chuitna, Lewis, and Theodore Rivers Chinook Stocks of Concern**

Escapement Summary

Chuitna River

- Escapement goal not achieved 2007-2010
- Average escapement 1979-2009; 1900 fish
- Average escapement 2007-2010; 900 fish

Theodore River

- Escapement goal not achieved 2007-2010
- Average escapement 1979-2005; 1090 fish
- Average escapement 2006-2010; 470 fish

Lewis River

- Escapement goal not achieved 2007-2010
- Average escapement 1979-2005; 560 fish
- Average escapement 2006-2010; 126 fish

Management Objectives

- Reduce commercial, sport, and subsistence harvest of Chinook salmon and reduce catch-and-release mortality of sport-caught Chinook salmon.

Research Objectives

- Develop West Cook Inlet King salmon genetic baseline
- Continue aerial escapement surveys
- Installation of weirs on Chuitna and Theodore Rivers
- Marine harvest sampling in Northern Cook Inlet for genetic stock identification

Table 7. **Action Plan to address Alexander Creek Chinook Stock of Concern**

Escapement Summary

- Escapement goal not achieved 2006-2010
- Average escapement 1979-1999; 3700 fish
- Average escapement 2001-2010; 1300 fish

Management Objectives

- Reduce Northern Pike abundance
- Reduce subsistence and commercial harvest of Chinook salmon

Research Objectives

- Long-term Northern Pike suppression
- Northern Pike Radio-telemetry studies
- Salmonid monitoring to determine success of pike suppression
- Aerial survey escapement monitoring
- Marine harvest sampling for genetic stock identification

Table 8. **Action Plan to address Willow and Goose Creeks Chinook Stock of Concern**

Escapement Summary

Willow Creek

- Escapement goal not achieved 2007-2010
- Average escapement 1979-2009; 2300 fish
- Average escapement 2007-2010; 1200 fish

Goose Creek

- Escapement goal not achieved 2007-2010
- Average escapement 1979-2009; 405 fish
- Average escapement 2007-2010; 91 fish

Management Objectives

- Reduce commercial, sport, and subsistence harvest of Chinook salmon

Research Objectives

- Include samples from Willow and Goose Creeks in Chinook salmon genetic baseline
- Continue aerial survey escapement estimates
- Monitor contribution of hatchery fish to Willow Creek escapements
- Marine harvest sampling for genetic stock identification

Table 9. **Action Plan to address Karluk Lake Chinook Stock of Concern**

Escapement Summary

- Escapement goal not achieved 2007-2011
- Average escapement 1976-1999; 9,130 fish
- Average escapement 2000-2009; 4,430 fish

Management Objectives

- Prohibit retention of commercially caught Chinook salmon > 28 inches in Inner and Outer Karluk and Ayakulik Sections, and adjacent sections
- In-season sport and subsistence restrictions by EO authority when runs are weak.

Research Objectives

- Maintain adult counting weir on Karluk River
- Opportunistically sample length, weight, and age of Chinook salmon smolts at sockeye smolt weir
- Fund king salmon smolt weir for quantitative estimates of smolt abundance
- Complete king salmon genetic baseline for Westward Region including Karluk Lake
- Develop watershed model for Karluk Lake watershed to estimate carrying capacity for Chinook salmon and escapements most likely to produce MSY

Table 10. **Action Plan to address Yukon River Chinook Stock of Concern**

Escapement Summary

- There are multiple escapement goals for the aggregate Yukon River Chinook run. Six escapement goals in Alaska (East and West Fork Andreavsky, Anvik, Nulato, Chena, Salcha) have generally been met over the past decade.
- Objectives for mainstem Chinook salmon passing into Canada have been met in two of the last five years, however, only with severe restrictions to subsistence and commercial harvest

Management Objectives

- Restrict or eliminate directed commercial fishing during weak runs
- Restrict subsistence fishing during weak runs
- Reduce exploitation of largest and oldest Chinook

Research Objectives

- Continued operation of test fishery, sonar projects, fish wheels, and weirs for abundance estimation
- Continued in-season genetic analyses to assess run components
- Collaborative near-shore marine research with NOAA
    - Develop a preseason forecast model for Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks that incorporates information on juvenile status. This research may have application to other Yukon salmon species
    - Evaluate changes in marine survival of juvenile Yukon River salmon stocks and potential contributors to recent declines of Yukon Chinook salmon related to: migratory behavior, freshwater life history strategies, diet, energetic condition, and size selective mortality.

Table 11. **Action Plan to address Norton Sound Sub-districts 5 and 6 Chinook Stocks of Concern**

Escapement Summary

- Escapements for these sub-districts are assessed with a peak aerial survey on the Shaktoolik River (sub-district 5) and a counting tower on the North River (sub-district 6), a tributary to the Unalakleet River
- Escapement goals for Shaktoolik Chinook have rarely been met during the past decade, however, aerial survey assessments are often viewed as incomplete due to poor visibility, abundant pink salmon, or survey timing in advance of peak spawning.
- Goals for the Unalakleet (N. River tower) have been met in 50% of years in the last decade, however this has sometimes been aided by subsistence harvest restrictions

Management Objectives

- Open directed pink and chum commercial fishery only if impacts to Chinook are minimized, and not before July 1.
- Restrict subsistence and sport harvest of Chinook salmon during weak runs

Research Objectives

- Analyze data from two year radio-telemetry study to determine reliability of North River as an indicator for drainage wide escapement.
- Continue operation of floating weir on Unalakleet River to assess escapement to mainstem
- Continue building Chinook genetic baselines for determining stock proportions in marine harvest.

Table 12. Bycatch of Chinook salmon in the pollock-directed fisheries of the Bering Sea, 2001-2011 and the long term average (1991-2011).

Year	Chinook salmon bycatch
2001	33,444
2002	34,495
2003	45,586
2004	51,696
2005	67,361
2006	82,696
2007	121,757
2008	21,482
2009	12,407
2010	9,694
2011	25,500
Long term average	39,924

Table 13. Bycatch of Chinook salmon in the pollock-directed fisheries of the Gulf of Alaska, 2001-2011 and the long term average (1991-2011).

Year	Chinook salmon bycatch
2001	9,531
2002	5,161
2003	4,400
2004	13,152
2005	27,927
2006	15,944
2007	35,177
2008	10,696
2009	3,195
2010	44,779
2011	13,832
Long term average	14,574

STATE OF ALASKA

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

P.O. BOX 115526
JUNEAU, AK 99811-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-4100
FAX: (907) 465-2332

March 13, 2012

The Honorable Donald Olson
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 508
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Olson:

I am writing in response to the letter dated February 28, 2012 from the Senate Finance subcommittee for the Department of Fish and Game regarding statewide Chinook salmon stocks.

After significant declines in Chinook salmon runs statewide during 2008 through 2010, the department moved to address gaps in our understanding of patterns and trends in production in Chinook salmon stocks around the state. To that end the department initiated a comprehensive analysis of Chinook salmon production data to determine if there are patterns in survival, growth, and/or maturation rates that might help explain why declines occurred and to help in development of a statewide outlook and forecast of Chinook salmon runs for the future. This effort is being conducted by department scientists in collaboration with a similar effort directed at Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) Chinook salmon stocks by the AYK Sustainable Salmon Initiative.

Another ongoing effort in the AYK region is the update of the Comprehensive Salmon Plan by the Norton Sound/Bering Strait Regional Planning Team. This stakeholder-driven program ensures that any enhancement activities are developed and supported locally, utilizing local and traditional knowledge, and based on meeting the needs of the region. The resultant plan will document enhancement efforts, set production goals, and identify potential new projects. Development of additional planning teams could be an option in other areas of the region.

Department staff put together the attached report to address questions raised in your letter. As requested, this report provides a review of Chinook salmon stocks of concern, and presents the associated action plan. Like you, I recognize the importance of the resource to Alaskans. For that reason, in addition to funding for Chinook management already in the department's base budget, we have proposed several items in the FY13 operating and capital budget that will bolster our efforts in this area:

FY13 Operating Budget

Match for Southeast Chinook Salmon Work	$500.0
Pacific Salmon Treaty Chinook Technical Committee Support	$190.0
Tanana River Sonar Project (one-time equipment plus operating costs)	$590.0

FY13 Capital Budget

Kenai River King Salmon Sonar Assessment Program	$1,813.0
Upper Cook Inlet ESSN Chinook Salmon Harvest Patterns	$789.0

You also expressed concern about bycatch measures to protect Chinook salmon while at sea. Through the State of Alaska's seat on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (council) we have been successful in securing a cap on the bycatch of Chinook salmon in Gulf of Alaska pollock trawl fisheries and have also begun evaluation of Chinook salmon bycatch control in non-pollock trawl fisheries in the Gulf. The council also continues work on measures to control chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock trawl fishery.

Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock trawl fishery has been reduced from recent highs but remains a concern to many Alaskans. We are currently gathering additional data on the location and seasonality of stocks of greatest concern in the bycatch and the council will receive reports this month on how the cap and incentive plans operated in the first year. Further refinements to the Chinook salmon bycatch control measures to better protect stocks of concern may be necessary as a result of improved data on bycatch and fishery performance.

If you have further questions or require additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Cora Campbell

Cora Campbell
Commissioner

Attachment: Stock Status of Chinook Salmon in Alaska

cc: Members, Senate Finance Subcommittee for the Department of Fish and Game
Jeff Regnart, Director, Division of Commercial Fisheries
Charlie Swanton, Director, Division of Sport Fish
Kevin Brooks, Director, Division of Administrative Services
Ben Mulligan, Legislative Liaison, Office of the Commissioner

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATOR DONALD C. OLSON

Session
Alaska State Capitol, Rm. 508
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-3707
Fax: (907) 465-4821

Interim
716 W. 4th Ave. Ste 530
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 269-0254
Fax:(907)269-2031

Senator_Donny_Olson@legis.state.ak.us

Chair
Community & Regional Affairs
Member
Senate Finance Committee
Ethics Committee
Legislative Council
Northern Waters Task Force
Education Funding District Cost Factor
Finance Subcommittee Chair
Fish & Game
Health & Social Services
Public Safety
Finance Subcommittee Member
Environmental Conservation

TO: Senator Joe Paskvan, Co-Chair Senate Resources
Senator Tom Wagoner, Co-Chair Senate Resources

FROM: Senator Donald Olson

DATE: March 5, 2012

RE: SB 205 Hearing Request

Chinook salmon are an important staple food of Alaska Native Villages, an economically important species for a number of commercial fisheries, and a prized sport fish.

The state fish of Alaska has undergone significant shifts in abundance during the past 40 years, yet little is known about the factors influencing these shifts. Eight of the 14 "stocks of concern" are Chinook salmon stocks.

SB 205 would create an endowment fund administered by a 7-member board consisting of the Commissioner of the Department of Fish & Game and six members from across the state. Grants from the fund would only be issued to qualifying organizations.

This legislation would create a stable, long-term source of funding to support high quality interdisciplinary research.

I would appreciate your hearing this bill at your earliest convenience.

Please direct questions to my staff, David Scott.

WORK DRAFT WORK DRAFT WORK DRAFT

27-LS1312\D
Kirsch
3/12/12

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 205( )

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS OLSON, Wagoner, Hoffman, Stevens

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act establishing the Alaska Chinook research and restoration endowment fund and relating to grants from the fund."

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

*** Section 1.** AS 37.14 is amended by adding new sections to read:

Article 7A. Alaska Chinook Salmon Research and Restoration Endowment Fund.

Sec. 37.14.650. Fund established. (a) The Alaska Chinook salmon research and restoration endowment fund is established as a separate endowment trust fund of the state consisting of

(1) appropriations to the fund;

(2) donations to the fund; and

(3) income earned on investments of fund assets appropriated by the legislature to the fund.

(b) The commissioner of revenue shall manage the fund as an endowment, with the goal that the purchasing power of the fund will not diminish over time

New Text Underlined [DELETED TEXT BRACKETED]

without regard to additional contributions that may be made to the fund. The commissioner shall invest the assets of the fund in a manner likely to yield at least a five percent real rate of return over time. The commissioner may comingle the assets of the fund with other public funds for purposes of investment.

(c) In carrying out the investment duties for the fund, the commissioner of revenue has the powers and duties set out in AS 37.10.071. The commissioner shall

(1) provide annual reports to the board on the condition and investment performance of the fund;

(2) maintain records for all donations to the fund; the records must reflect, for each donation, the amount of the donation, the date of the donation, and the donor's intent, if any, with respect to how the donation is to be used; and

(3) monitor use of money by the board.

(d) Nothing in this section creates a dedicated fund.

Sec. 37.14.655. Grant account established. The Alaska Chinook salmon research and restoration grant account is established as an account in the general fund.

Sec. 37.14.660. Appropriations to the grant account. (a) As soon as practicable after July 1 of each year, the commissioner of revenue shall identify as available for appropriation to the Alaska Chinook salmon research and restoration grant account, from which the board may award grants, and for other allowed expenses, the greater of

(1) five percent of the average of the market values of the fund on June 30 for the immediately preceding three fiscal years;

(2) one-half of the earnings of the fund as averaged annually over the immediately preceding three fiscal years; and

(3) if the principal of the fund is valued at over $50,000,000 based on the market value of the fund on June 30 for the immediately preceding fiscal year, the total earnings of the fund for that fiscal year.

(b) The legislature may appropriate funds to the grant account

(1) from

(A) the fund in the amount calculated under (a)(1) of this section; or

(B) the earnings of the fund under (a)(2) or (3) of this section; and

(2) from any other source.

Sec. 37.14.665. Use of the grant account. (a) Appropriations to the grant account established by AS 37.14.655 may be used for

(1) grants for research and restoration projects for Chinook salmon stocks located in the state, including block grants to Alaska organizations identifying and administering research and restoration projects for Chinook salmon stocks, if the project is consistent with a research and restoration plan adopted by the organization and the plan has been approved by the Department of Fish and Game;

(2) reimbursement of the Department of Revenue for the costs of establishing and managing the fund;

(3) reimbursement of the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development for the costs of establishing, maintaining, and administering the board and the grant program;

(4) matching funds for private and federal grants; and

(5) solicitation of contributions for purposes consistent with establishment of the fund.

(b) The board may expend private donations for Chinook salmon research and restorations projects and other uses consistent with the purposes of the fund and in conformity with the donor's restrictions.

Sec. 37.14.670. Board established. The Alaska Chinook Salmon Research and Restoration Endowment Fund Board is established in the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

Sec. 37.14.675. Board members. The board consists of the following members appointed by the governor:

(1) the commissioner of fish and game or the commissioner's designee; and

(2) six public members, one residing in each of the following regions who is engaged in subsistence, personal, commercial, or sport use of Chinook salmon stocks in the region:

(A) Southeast Alaska, consisting of all land and water between (Palm Point near Katalla) and Dixon Entrance that are Gulf of Alaska or mainland drainages; the Guyot Hills; islands in Stephens Passage and Lynn Canal; Coronation Island, Kuiu Island, Kupreanof Island, Mitkof Island, Zarembo Island, Kashevarof Island, Woronkofski Island, Etolin Island, Wrangell Island, Deer Island, Admiralty Island, Baranof Island, Chichagof Island, Yakobi Island, Inian Island, Lemesurier Island, Pleasant Island, (Kanak Island, Wingham Island, and Kayak Island) and adjacent marine water and land within three miles of the coastline;

(B) Southcentral Alaska, consisting of all land and water in those drainages south and east of the Alaska Range that drain into the Gulf of Alaska, Cook Inlet, and Prince William Sound between (Palm Point near Katalla) and Cook Inlet; the drainage between Redoubt Creek and the northern boundary of Katmai National Preserve that flows into Shelikof Strait; the Chitina drainage east to the Canadian border; the drainages into the Delta River upstream from Falls Creek and Black Rapids Glacier; and adjacent marine water and land within three miles of the coastline;

(C) Southwest Alaska, consisting of all land and water between Kennedy Entrance and Cape Newenham that drain into Bristol Bay and the Bering Sea; the Alaska Peninsula; Hagemeister Island, Walrus Island, Kodiak Island, Barren Island, Pribilof Island, Unimak Island, and Aleutian Islands; and adjacent marine water and land within three miles of the coastline;

(D) Western Alaska, consisting of all land and water between Cape Newenham and the Pastolik River near Kotlik that drain into the Bering Sea from the Yukon River downstream from a straight line drawn between Lower Kalskag and Kotlik; the George River drainage; the Kuskokwim River drainage downstream from the George River drainage; the Holitna River drainage; the Hoholitna River drainage; and adjacent marine water and land within three miles of the coastline;

(E) Arctic Alaska, consisting of all land and water between the Pastolik River near Kotlik and Harrison Bay west of the Ilkillik River drainage

that drain into the Arctic Ocean, the Chukchi Sea, Kotzebue Sound, or Norton Sound; Saint Lawrence Island and adjacent islands; and the adjacent marine water and land within three miles of the coastline;

(F) Interior Alaska, consisting of all land and water of the Kuskokwim River drainage upstream from the George River drainage; all drainages into the east bank of the Robertson River; White River drainage to the Canadian border; Tozitna River drainage; Yukon River drainage upstream from the Tozitna River drainage; Hamlin Creek drainage; all drainages into the south bank of the Yukon River upstream from and including the Charley River drainage; the Ladue River drainage; Fortymile River drainage; Tanana River drainage north of the Alaska Range; and the Koyukuk River drainage.

Sec. 37.14.680. Duties of the board. (a) The Alaska Chinook Salmon Research and Restoration Endowment Fund Board shall administer the grant program.

(b) The board shall

(1) within 90 days after the appointment of the seventh board member, adopt bylaws governing the board's operation and identify an organization incorporated in Alaska to support the board in performing its duties;

(2) monitor approved projects for compliance with specific grant conditions;

(3) keep electronic recordings of each meeting of the board to be made available on request; and

(4) adopt regulations creating a process for soliciting, awarding, and monitoring research and restoration grants and ensuring peer review for grant projects; the board shall consider the process and structure of the North Pacific Research Board in adopting its regulations.

(c) On February 1 of each year following the calendar year grants are first awarded, the board shall prepare and submit a report to the governor and make the report available to the legislature. The report must include, for the last calendar year,

(1) the number of applicants and the number and type of grants awarded;

(2) the dollar amount of grants awarded;

(3) the research and restoration projects funded and the results of those projects;

(4) the expense to administer the fund, the grants, and the board; and

(5) private contributions, if any, to the fund and how those contributions were used.

Sec. 37.14.685. Review of grants. (a) When reviewing grant applications, the board shall give weight to the following factors:

(1) whether the Chinook salmon stocks targeted in the grant application provide a significant commercial, subsistence, sport, or personal use fishery for Alaska residents;

(2) the importance of the Chinook salmon stocks targeted in the grant application and the fisheries those stocks support, based on the dependence of Alaska residents on the stocks for nutritional, economic, social, and cultural well-being;

(3) whether the applicant has experience in administering research or restoration projects for Chinook salmon;

(4) recommendations of state agencies or organizations involved in Chinook salmon management in the state.

(b) The board shall give priority to grant applications for research or restoration projects targeting Chinook salmon stocks that, within the preceding 10 years,

(1) were listed by the Department of Fish and Game as stocks of concern; ? numbers too low to be listed ?

(2) were the subject of a state or federal fisheries disaster declaration;

(3) were closed or significantly restricted for commercial, sport, or personal use, or restricted for subsistence uses; or

(4) declined significantly from historic yield levels.

Sec. 37.14.695. Definitions. In AS 37.14.650 - 37.14.695,

(1) "board" means the Alaska Chinook Salmon Research and Restoration Endowment Fund Board established under ~~AS 37.14.670~~;

(2) "Chinook salmon" means Alaska king salmon of the genus Oncorhynchus, species tshawytscha;

latin

(3) "fund" means the Alaska Chinook salmon research and restoration endowment fund established under AS 37.14.650;

(4) "grant account" means the Alaska Chinook salmon research and restoration grant account established under AS 37.14.655.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Senator Joe Paskvan

Chair, Labor and Commerce
Vice Chair, Health and Social Services
Member, Transportation
Member, State Affairs
Member, Joint Armed Services

Senate District E
Fairbanks and Fort Wainwright

State Capitol Building, Room 7
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Phone (907) 465-3709
Fax (907) 465-4714
sen.joe.paskvan@legis.state.ak.us
http://paskvan.aksenate.org/

Explanation of Changes - CSSB 208\B vs. SB 208\M

- Page 7, line 11:
  - Delete "of a political subdivision"

- Page 7, line 16, following "with":
  - Insert ", or while providing services to,"

- Page 7, lines 17-20:
  - Delete "Any benefits related to injury or death provided by a responding political subdivision to an emergency responder, or the heirs and assigns of an emergency responder, must be included in the true and full value of assistance provided for the purposes of reimbursement under AS 26.23.530."

- Page 8, line 26, following "subdivision":
  - Insert "or of a contractor under contract with a responding political subdivision or a member of a volunteer fire department registered with the state fire marshal that provides services to the responding political subdivision,"

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATOR DONALD C. OLSON

Session
Alaska State Capitol, Rm. 508
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-3707
Fax: (907) 465-4821

Interim
716 W. 4th Ave. Ste 530
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 269-0254
Fax:(907)269-2031

Senator_Donny_Olson@legis.state.ak.us

Chair
Community & Regional Affairs
Member
Senate Finance Committee
Ethics Committee
Legislative Council
Northern Waters Task Force
Education Funding District Cost Factor
Finance Subcommittee Chair
Fish & Game
Health & Social Services
Public Safety
Finance Subcommittee Member
Environmental Conservation

SB 205: CHINOOK RESEARCH & RESTORATION ENDOWMENT

Changes from Original Bill (version M) to Blank CS (version D)

P.3, line 29: deleted "from" and inserted "residing in"

P.3 line 30: inserted after "regions": "who is engaged in subsistence, personal, commercial or sport use of Chinook salmon stocks in the region"

P. 4, line 26 Deleted "Paimiut" and Inserted "Kotlik"

P.4, line 27 After "the George River drainage;" Inserted "the Holitna River drainage;"

P. 5, line 16 inserted after "operation": "and identify an organization incorporated in Alaska to support the board in performing its duties"

P. 5, line 22: deleted "the award of grants similar to the structure and process employed by the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative for"

P.5, line 24: inserted: "the board shall consider the process and structure of the North Pacific Research Board in adopting its regulations"

P. 6, line 9: inserted after "subsistence": "sport"

P. 6, line 12: deleted "based on the number of Alaska residents dependent on the stocks" and inserted: "based on the dependence of Alaska residents on the stocks"

P. 6, line 14: deleted "and" and inserted "or"

P. 6, line 18: deleted "and" and inserted "or"

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATOR DONALD C. OLSON

Session
Alaska State Capitol, Rm. 508
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-3707
Fax: (907) 465-4821

Interim
716 W. 4th Ave. Ste 530
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 269-0254
Fax:(907)269-2031

Senator_Donny_Olson@legis.state.ak.us

Chair
Community & Regional Affairs
Member
Senate Finance Committee
Ethics Committee
Legislative Council
Northern Waters Task Force
Education Funding District Cost Factor
Finance Subcommittee Chair
Fish & Game
Health & Social Services
Public Safety
Finance Subcommittee Member
Environmental Conservation

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

SB 205 version D – ALASKA CHINOOK SALMON RESEARCH AND RESTORATION ENDOWMENT FUND

Section 37.14.650 Establishes the Alaska Chinook salmon research and restoration fund (hereafter: "the Fund") in the Dept. of Revenue. The Fund includes appropriations and donations to the Fund, and income earned on investments of Fund assets. Commissioner of Revenue manages the Fund sustainably, with a goal of 5% real rate of return. Nothing in this section creates a dedicated fund.

Section 37.14.655 Establishes the Alaska Chinook salmon research and restoration grant account (hereafter: "the Grant Account") in the general fund.

Section 37.14.660 After July 1 each year, the Commissioner of Revenue identifies as available for appropriation to the grant account established under the previous section the greater of: 5% of the Fund averaged over the 3 preceding years; ½ the Fund's earnings averaged over the 3 preceding years; or, if the Fund is valued at over $50,000,000, the total earnings of the Fund for that year. The legislature may then appropriate to the Grant Account amounts from any of the 3 preceding calculations or from any other source.

Section 37.14.665 Appropriations to the Grant Account may be used for: grants for research and restoration projects for Alaska Chinook salmon stocks; reimbursement to the Dept. of Revenue for the costs of establishing or managing the Fund; reimbursement to DCCED for the costs of establishing and administering the Board and the grant program; matching funds for private and federal grants; and solicitation of contributions for purposes consistent with establishment of the Fund. The Board may also expend private donations for uses consistent with purposes of the Fund.

Section 37.14.670 Establishes the Alaska Chinook Salmon Research and Restoration Endowment Fund Board (before and hereafter: "the Board") in DCCED.

Section 37.14.675 Board members appointed by the Governor include: the Commissioner of Fish & Game; six public members, one each residing in Alaska's Southeast, Southcentral, Southwest, Western, Arctic, and Interior regions, who are engaged in subsistence, personal, commercial, or sport use of Chinook salmon.

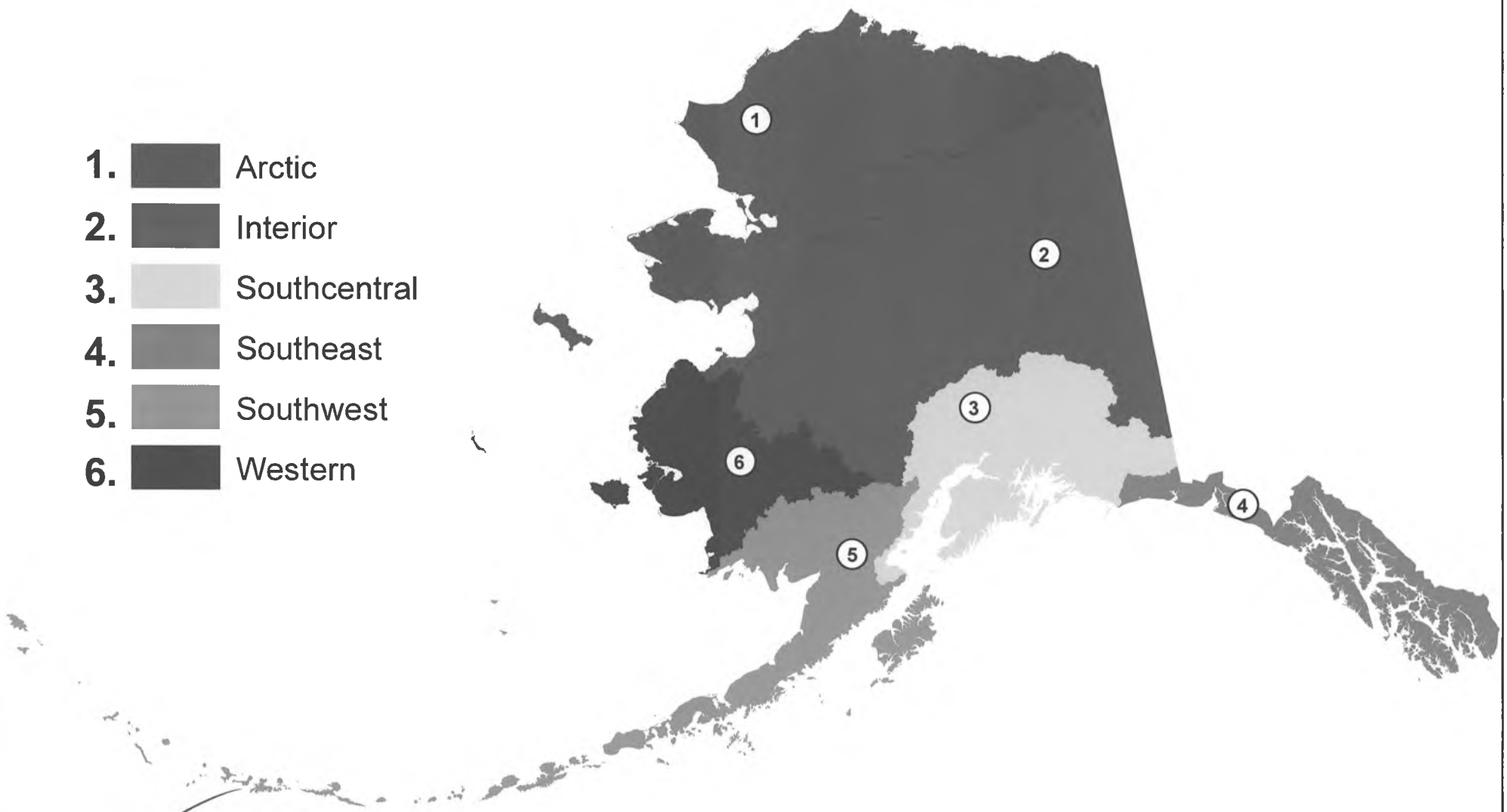
Section 37.14.680 The Board shall administer the Grant Program. Within 90 days after the appointment of the last Board member, the Board shall adopt bylaws governing its operation and identify an organization incorporated in Alaska to support the Board in performing its duties. The Board shall also: monitor projects for compliance; keep electronic recordings of each meeting; and adopt regulations creating a process for soliciting, awarding, and monitoring grants (the Board shall consider the North Pacific Research Board while adopting these regulations).

On February 1 of each year, the Board shall prepare a report for the Governor and Legislature that includes: the number of applicants and types of grants awarded; dollar amount of grants awarded; projects funded and results of those projects; expense to administer the Fund, the grants, and the Board; and how any private contributions were expended.

Section 37.14.685 When reviewing grant applications, the Board shall consider: whether the Chinook salmon targeted in the grant are significant to Alaskans; whether the applicant has appropriate experience; and the recommendations of state agencies or organizations involved in Chinook salmon management.

The Board shall give priority to grants that target Chinook salmon stocks that were, within the previous ten years: listed by Dept. of Fish & Game as stocks of concern; subject to a state or federal fisheries disaster declaration; closed or significantly restricted; or declined significantly from historic yields.

Section 37.14.695 Lists four definitions that are already apparent in the foregoing.



HB 332/SB 205 Proposed Regions for the Public Members of the Alaska Chinook Salmon Research and Endowment Fund Board as Requested by Rep. Bob Herron's Office

Jeff Stepp

From: Tempel, Esther (DNR) <esther.tempel@alaska.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 10:39 AM
To: Jeff Stepp
Subject: SRES hearing today

Hi Jeff,

Just a FYI, we'll have a few people available for questions on a few bills up today.

For SB 181, we'll have Wyn Menefee, Dep. Director of Mining, Land and Water available in person. Online, we would like to have Adam Smith available for technical questions in case they come up. He is the Natural Resource Manager of the South-central Region Land Office. Can I give him the teleconference number?

For SB 158, we'll have Chris Maisch, Director of Forestry available in person.

Thanks a lot!
Esther

Esther Cha Tempel
Legislative Liaison
Office of the Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources
(907) 465-4730
esther.tempel@alaska.gov