

ALASKA LEGISLATURE SPECIAL COMMITTEE / SUBJECT FILE 8672

1684 SCOMM 67: GUIDING AND GAME TASK FORCE, 1989-1990

1252

- * Outfitters from the large cities sneak their clients into our guide areas. -- (Slana)
- * BLM settlement areas - approx. 200-300 families in area, many of whom poach year round. -- (Slana)
- * Illegal harvest has become so expensive to guides and commercial operators that it is not worth the risk to them, but there has been poaching by those who consider it their right to harvest everything in sight. -- (Chistochina/Slana)
- * Would not be able to monitor enough to tell. -- (Copper Center)
- * There seems to be one or two unlicensed outfitters operating in the area. -- (McCarthy)
- * One outfitter came into our area this fall and shot a moose leaving it whole and later shot a bear from it. Air taxis are not concerned wether or not all the meat is salvaged. -- (Nabesna)
- * Like drugs - too much money for those who will bend the rules. -- (Cantwell)
- * I think there is a lot of poaching of moose and caribou. -- (Gakona)

10. A. Are you aware of the procedures for becoming a licensed guide?

12 Yes 3 No 3 (No Response)

B. Do you see any problems with the procedures for becoming a master guide, registered guide or assistant guide?

5 Yes 9 No 4 (No Response)

If your answer was "yes," what specific area(s) need the most improvement?

Written Comments:

- * They are OK for young people, but the requirements should be decreased for older experienced Alaskans. -- (Glennallen)
- * Testing should be required for Assistant Guides also concerning the skills and duties to be performed, also first aid card. I don't believe the registered guide test should be made easier. -- (Nabesna)
- * Guide licensing is political and economic in nature - has absolutely nothing to do with resource management or public safety. -- (Cantwell)
- * Locking up of specific areas so no one else has a place to hunt! -- (Gakona)

11. Do you feel that people in Alaska's rural areas have an adequate and equal opportunity to benefit financially from the state's big game hunting industry?

4 Yes 9 No 5 (No Response)

If your answer was "no," please comment on how rural Alaskans could benefit more from this industry:

Written Comments:

- * By getting rid of non-resident outfitters and assigning areas to residents. -- (Cantwell)
- * Please limit the activities of so-called "Outfitters." -- (Slana)
- * If the money paid to guides and outfitters were spent more in rural areas. -- (Glennallen)
- * Many who say they cannot participate as the system now works would only participate if things were handed to them and work was done for them. -- (Chistochina/Slana)
- * Most Native communities do not have their own business. -- (Copper Center)
- * Guides from rural Alaska cannot attend all guiding and Guide Board meetings. They lose out on Guide area decisions. -- (McCarthy)
- * Do away with monopolistic guide licensing. -- (Cantwell)

12. Overall, how would you rate Alaska's guiding system as it works in your area?

1 Very Good 4 Good 5 Fair 3 Poor ____ Very Bad
5 (No Response)

13. Whether or not you see problems with the current system of regulating the commercial taking of game in your area, do you think there has to be a system to control the commercial harvest of big game animals? Please explain your opinion below:

Written Comments:

- * If there are no controls that are equal for everyone like outfitter - guide differences and the three tier hunting, it is only a matter of short time before there won't be anything for anyone. -- (Cantwell)

5. I feel sheep in my area should be put on 1 every 4 years instead of a permit basis, because we still have a good number of sheep, although the numbers are dropping. This would give the resident a chance to go into the field each year until he found the big one he wanted. Being on a permit basis would make it hard to do this. Hunt time would be limited, there would be pressure to shoot what he saw, knowing there was only one chance and the possibility of not being drawn again for who knows when.

6. There are about 9 guides operating in this area, and only 1 over harvests each year. The outfitters say they are going to "shoot the area out," pushing for the permits. Let us not wait until the sheep herds have dropped so low that it would take 5 or 10 years for them to come back. Example: the caribou herds on the slopes of Sanford. I feel these animals will never reach their original numbers again. We should consider first and foremost the continuing welfare of the game animals instead of the almighty dollar.

My father, brother, and I have spent our lives establishing our outfit. We've gone outside to book hunts. We've taken the tests and paid the fees for our licenses. We have scraped up the insurance money year after year in order to operate. When I see outsiders, under the guise of "outfitting" come breezing into the area every fall, use our strips, our cabins, shoot the game up, then leave when the snow flies shouting, "I have as much right to be here as you do!," it makes me sick. You could compare it to my buying a 747 and starting an airline without an FAA certificate, no license or medical or rules to abide by, and when Alaska Airlines came down on me I could just say, "Hey, I have as much right to use these ramps and taxiways and air routes as you do. You can't shut me down, it would cause hardship to me and my family, so there!"

I am not mad, or jealous. I just think things ought to be fair. -- (Slana)

ALEUT REGION

7 Responses received from Cold Bay, Dutch Harbor, Nelson Lagoon, Sand Point, and Unaiaska.

1. Do you participate in any of the following areas of the commercial big game hunting industry? (Total number of responses checked)

<u> </u> Master Guide	<u> 1 </u> Lodge Owner
<u> </u> Registered Guide	<u> </u> Lodge Worker
<u> </u> Class-A Assistant Guide	<u> 2 </u> Air Transportation
<u> 1 </u> Assistant Guide	<u> 1 </u> Water Transportation
<u> </u> Outfitter	<u> 1 </u> Land Transportation

Other:

 1 Retail Store Operator

2. How many of the following would you say operate in your area? (The numbers here represent the upper and lower limits in the range of responses.)

<u> 0-15 </u> Master/Registered/Assistant Guides	<u> 0 </u> Outfitters
<u> 0-2 </u> Transportation Services for Guides	<u> 0-3 </u> Lodges
<u> 0 </u> Other:	<u> 0-1 </u> Sporting Goods Sales

3. How important is commercial big game hunting to the local economy?

<u> 1 </u> Very Important	<u> 1 </u> Important	<u> 1 </u> Not Very Important
<u> 3 </u> No Guiding Here	<u> 1 </u> (No Response)	

4. If there are guides in your area, how much of the money made from the industry circulates in your community?

 100% 75% 50% 25% 3 Less than 25% 1 Don't Know
 3 (No Response)

- * There has to be a system or the game will slowly disappear. -- (Chistochina)
- * The less regulation the better - It is hard to take anything seriously which comes from agencies which say you can't pick up an eagle feather. -- (Slana)
- * Get rid of the guide system and their so-called "guide areas." Put non-residents on the same level as residents and end commercialization of game animals. -- (Glennallen)
- * I believe the system must eventually be changed:
 - 1) Eliminate usage of planes. Abuses are so prevalent that they constitute a great problem which apparently cannot be resolved except by their elimination in sport hunting.
 - 2) Game animals may not be taken within one mile or whatever of road.
 - 3) Elimination of mandatory guide laws for non-residents. (Present system is a joke and will probably eventually lead to federal takeover of hunting on all federal lands.)
 - 4) Institute a permit system to regulate all game as needed to protect individual species. -- (Slana)
- * We must have a system to regulate the taking of our game, or our game would be randomly and certainly liquidated. There will always be problems that need solving and decisions made that could have been better. -- (Chistochina/Slana)
- * What's the sense of having reg. areas if you can't protect the resource in your areas? This is getting to be a free for all out there with "drop off" and unlicensed people guiding in other guide's areas! -- (Nabesna)
- * Yes, if we don't start now we will lose even our subsistence from lack of protection. -- (Copper Center)
- * Sorry, I'm not much on guiding and such. -- (Gulkana)
- * Without a system, competition for trophy animals leads to over harvest. The guide area system should allow for rural guides to have priority for areas near their residence. -- (McCarthy)
- * In our area there is more pressure coming from resident sport hunters. Many of them shoot a ram every year. Sheep are not like deer. It would help a great deal if a hunter could take a dall ram only every 4 years. Non residents should certainly be required to have a registered guide to hunt moose. Most are not capable of taking care of it when shot and most is lost and wasted. -- (Nabesna)
- * Government responsibility = resource management + public safety, not the creation of elitist and monopolistic enterprises that can't reasonably be monitored. Supply and demand will sort it out if you quit protecting special interest groups. -- (Cantwell)
- * I don't really know enough to comment or advise. -- (Gakona)

Additional Comments or Letters:

* To whom it may concern:

We are having problems with outsiders bringing hunters into our areas(s). We are bound by the guide laws, but outfitters can bring as many as they want and dump them in our areas for a few dollars. We are regulated! Why are they not?? Also, F&G closes 13 to grizzly every year because they had trouble with people bringing coastal bears up for tagging in that unit. That's punishing us for their failure to control other area's hunters - Damn it!! We were not the ones breaking the law - besides - the area is overrun with bears and the moose are getting scarce. -- (Slana)

* Guides should be full time residents of the state. Too many assistant guides are in the field with non resident hunters with no experience or skills. Let's be professionals Guide Board members. It takes about 7 years of growth for most rams to become legal full curl. At least 10 years to become trophy quality. -- (Nabesna)

* Dear Vernita Cassidy,

Concerning the task force on guiding and game questions, I have a few things I would like to say. I am a Class A guide and a commercial pilot. I fly from 200-300 hours a year in my area, which is part of Unit 12. I have lived in Alaska all my life, 31 years. I've always lived year round here in Nabesna, and hunted and trapped in the Wrangell Mountains. I've not bee a snowbird. I feel I am qualified to say a few things about the game in this area.

1. There is not enough Fish and Game personnel to patrol the area.
2. There are 3 "outfitters" in this area. There is no control over them. They can and do haul as many hunters as they can with no regard to the thoughtful harvesting of the game.
3. I feel outfitters should be registered guides, and have to come up through the ranks, be licensed, buy an area, be responsible for their clients in the field to prevent wanton waste, etc. They should be required to be insured and experienced before they can start an operation. This way they would care for the game, and have respect for the areas they hunt.
4. Air taxi operators should only be allowed to charge a flat hourly rate for their airplanes, and not a flat rate such as \$800-1000 for setting out a sheep hunter. I see them showing the sheep, setting up the hunt, furnishing the camp and even a "camp packer," for a fee. That's guiding to me.

5. If there are outfitters or others who provide hunting services in your area, how much of the money made from the industry circulates in your community?

 100% 75% 50% 25% 3 Less than 25% 1 Don't Know

 3 (No Response)

6. Are local game resources enough to meet the needs of all users, including subsistence, commercial and sport?

 4 Yes No 3 (No Response)

If there are conflicting uses, what species would you say are the most seriously affected?

 1 Caribou

7. Have you seen an increase in the commercial taking of game in your area?

 Yes 5 No 2 (No Response)

8. Would you say that the laws and regulations covering commercial big game hunting are adequately enforced in your area?

 5 Yes No 2 (No Response)

9. Is there a problem with illegal harvest of game in your area by any of the following? (Total number of responses)

 Guides Outfitters Air Taxi Services Lodge Owners

 Others 7 (None or No Response)

10. A. Are you aware of the procedures for becoming a licensed guide?

 2 Yes 2 No 3 (No Response)

B. Do you see any problems with the procedures for becoming a master guide, registered guide or assistant guide?

 Yes 2 No 5 (No Response)

11. Do you feel that people in Alaska's rural areas have an adequate and equal opportunity to benefit financially from the state's big game hunting industry?

 Yes 2 No 5 (No Response)

If your answer was "no," please comment on how rural Alaskans could benefit more from this industry:

Written Comments:

* This is not a negative or positive statement, but all guides have their own areas, consequently, rural Alaskans do not benefit. -- (Nelson Lagoon)

* Time frame in qualifications from assistant to registered guide. -- (Sand Point)

12. Overall, how would you rate Alaska's guiding system as it works in your area?

 Very Good 3 Good Fair Poor Very Bad

 4 (No Response)

13. Whether or not you see problems with the current system of regulating the commercial taking of game in your area, do you think there has to be a system to control the commercial harvest of big game animals? Please explain your opinion below:

Written Comments:

* Definitely - it is obvious - without controls, there would be no game!
-- (Nelson Lagoon)

* No, the system seems to be working fair. I think there are as many if not more big game (Mainly Bear) animals present with the exception of moose (very few). -- (Sand Point)

* Yes. Over harvest use leaves too few animals to re-populate. Also many big game are local people's food source and not a sport. -- (Cold Bay)

* There's no guides in Nelson Island that apply to these questions. -- (Nelson Island)

* There is no big game here. -- (Unalaska)

ARCTIC SLOPE REGION

6 Responses received from Anaktuvuk Pass, Atqasuk, Barrow, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, and Wainwright.

1. Do you participate in any of the following areas of the commercial big game hunting industry? (Total number of responses checked)

☐ Master Guide	☐ Lodge Owner
☐ Registered Guide	☐ Lodge Worker
☐ Class-A Assistant Guide	☐ Air Transportation
☐ Assistant Guide	☐ Water Transportation
☐ Outfitter	☐ Land Transportation

Other:

1 Subsistence Hunter
1 Store Owner

2. How many of the following would you say operate in your area? (The numbers here represent the upper and lower limits in the range of responses.)

<u>2-6</u> Master/Registered/Assistant Guides	☐ Outfitters
<u>2</u> Transportation Services for Guides	☐ Lodges
☐ Other:	<u>2</u> Sporting Goods Sales

3. How important is commercial big game hunting to the local economy?

☐ Very Important	☐ Important	<u>2</u> Not Very Important
<u>3</u> No Guiding Here	<u>1</u> (No Response)	

4. If there are guides in your area, how much of the money made from the industry circulates in your community?

☐ 100% ☐ 75% ☐ 50% ☐ 25% 2 Less than 25% 1 Don't Know
3 (No Response)

5. If there are outfitters or others who provide hunting services in your area, how much of the money made from the industry circulates in your community?

 100% 75% 50% 25% 2 Less than 25% 1 Don't Know

 3 (No Response)

6. Are local game resources enough to meet the needs of all users, including subsistence, commercial and sport?

 1 Yes 2 No 3 (No Response)

If there are conflicting uses, what species would you say are the most seriously affected?

 1 Moose 1 Sheep 2 Caribou 1 Polar Bear

7. Have you seen an increase in the commercial taking of game in your area?

 2 Yes 3 No 1 (No Response)

8. Would you say that the laws and regulations covering commercial big game hunting are adequately enforced in your area?

 3 Yes 1 No 2 (No Response)

Please comment here if your answer is "no:"

Written Comments:

* I our area, it is common to see guides and customers coming in from the boonies with racks, capes and horns, but no, or little meat. -- (Anaktuvuk Pass)

9. Is there a problem with illegal harvest of game in your area by any of the following? (Total number of responses)

 1 Guides 1 Outfitters 1 Air Taxi Services Lodge Owners

 3 Other 2 (None or No Response)

Please comment here if you wish:

Written Comments:

* Residents have been known on occasion to bait traps with some edible parts.
-- (Anaktuvuk Pass)

* One instance of a bull musk ox taken. -- (Nuiqsut)

10. A. Are you aware of the procedures for becoming a licensed guide?

1 Yes 4 No 1 (No Response)

B. Do you see any problems with the procedures for becoming a master guide, registered guide or assistant guide?

1 Yes 2 No 3 (No Response)

If your answer was "yes," what specific area(s) need the most improvement?

Written Comments:

* Guides will limit entry to keep numbers low. -- (Anaktuvuk Pass)

11. Do you feel that people in Alaska's rural areas have an adequate and equal opportunity to benefit financially from the state's big game hunting industry?

1 Yes 2 No 3 (No Response)

If your answer was "no," please comment on how rural Alaskans could benefit more from this industry:

Written Comments:

* By being licensed guides. -- (Barrow)

* Yes if they would try. -- (Anaktuvuk Pass)

* No one here knows very much about opportunities of being a guide or becoming one. I didn't. -- (Nuiqsut)

12. Overall, how would you rate Alaska's guiding system as it works in your area?

 Very Good Good 1 Fair 1 Poor 1 Very Bad

3 (No Response)

13. Whether or not you see problems with the current system of regulating the commercial taking of game in your area, do you think there has to be a system to control the commercial harvest of big game animals? Please explain your opinion below:

Written Comments:

* Ensure subsistence harvest by monitoring and limiting, if needed, the taking of big game by commercial entities! -- (Barrow)

* The guides who work in our area do not live here. They have also been instrumental in keeping the caribou migration from coming through our valley, since they are hunting north of us. 3 years of 1 guide up there - 3 years of no caribou. -- (Anaktuvuk Pass)

* There is only one enforcement officer for the area and he is in Barrow; even then he is a biologist. There aren't enough enforcement officers. -- (Nuiqsut)

BERING STRAITS REGION

43 Responses received from Brevig Mission, Golovin, King Island, Koyuk, Little Diomed Island, Nome, Savoonga, Shaktolik, Shishmaref, Solomon, St. Michael, Unalakleet, Wales, and White Mountain.

1. Do you participate in any of the following areas of the commercial big game hunting industry? (Total number of responses checked)

<u> </u> Master Guide	<u> 3 </u> Lodge Owner
<u> 4 </u> Registered Guide	<u> 1 </u> Lodge Worker
<u> 6 </u> Class-A Assistant Guide	<u> 1 </u> Air Transportation
<u> 7 </u> Assistant Guide	<u> 4 </u> Water Transportation
<u> 2 </u> Outfitter	<u> 5 </u> Land Transportation

Other:

 1 Gasoline Supplier
 1 Realty Officer - to assure that guides obtain appropriate permits and do not trespass on Natives lands.

2. How many of the following would you say operate in your area? (The numbers here represent the upper and lower limits in the range of responses.)

<u> 0-25 </u> Master/Registered/Assistant Guides	<u> 0-2 </u> Outfitters
<u> 0-30 </u> Transportation Services for Guides	<u> 0-12 </u> Lodges
<u> </u> Other:	<u> 0-5 </u> Sporting Goods Sales

3. How important is commercial big game hunting to the local economy?

<u> 5 </u> Very Important	<u> 10 </u> Important	<u> 11 </u> Not Very Important
<u> 15 </u> No Guiding Here	<u> 2 </u> (No Response)	

4. If there are guides in your area, how much of the money made from the industry circulates in your community?

<u> 3 </u> 100%	<u> 4 </u> 75%	<u> 3 </u> 50%	<u> 3 </u> 25%	<u> 7 </u> Less than 25%	<u> 15 </u> Don't Know
<u> 8 </u> (No Response)					

5. If there are outfitters or others who provide hunting services in your area, how much of the money made from the industry circulates in your community?

 100% 2 75% 3 50% 3 25% 5 Less than 25% 18 Don't Know

 12 (No Response)

6. Are local game resources enough to meet the needs of all users, including subsistence, commercial and sport?

 22 Yes 20 No 1 (No Response)

If there are conflicting uses, what species would you say are the most seriously affected?

 11 Moose 6 Brown Bear 1 Black Bear 2 Caribou

 2 Marine Mammals 1 Waterfowl 2 All Species 3 Fish/Salmon

Written Comments:

* Non-residents and non-resident hunting for trophy only should be stopped in our community. -- (Koyuk)

* Moose (are seriously affected) due to guide aircraft flying all over hunting areas. -- (Shaktoolik)

* Subsistence hunters take cow moose. -- (St. Michael)

* One of the prime uses is subsistence, there is commercial fishing for the local people to meet their income needs. -- (Koyuk)

* All species are affected or will be in the future. -- (Koyuk)

* Sport hunting and guiding should not be operated here. -- (Koyuk)

7. Have you seen an increase in the commercial taking of game in your area?

 17 Yes 25 No 1 (No Response)

Written Comments:

* Decrease (because) the non-residents have been eliminated from moose hunting. -- (Unalakleet)

* Some villagers wonder about this person that brought in bear hunters several times to this area, during the spring, since early 80's. This past summer there were also some outside "big game hunters" or sports fishermen associated with the same person, having hunters at the airport with several moose antlers from this area. -- (Koyuk)

8. Would you say that the laws and regulations covering commercial big game hunting are adequately enforced in your area?

16 Yes 24 No 3 (No Response)

Please comment here if your answer is "no:"

Written Comments:

* Fish & Game officers spend more time in the office than in the field. -- (Nome)

* Cow moose and any moose are generally shot at will by residents. It is getting slightly better. -- (St. Michael)

* Regulation enforcement should be in very strict order in our community. -- (Koyuk)

* Wales' hunters reported some Non-Natives hunting walrus and no effort was made to stop them after the Marine Mammal Protection Act was passed in 1972. -- (Wales)

* Guides in remote areas such as Koyuk, St. Michael, and others pretty much do as they please if no one is watching them. Even though Natives may complain, nothing is ever accomplished. -- (Nome)

* We don't know about any regulations for this area, but would like to know about the rules and regulations. -- (Brevig Mission)

* Guide aircraft landing all over the hunting area in the river. -- (Shaktolik)

* Firstly, for commercial big game hunting we abide by all laws and regulations. As far as anything being enforced, NO! Also there is a major !! problem with the Natives killing cow moose in this area 22-A (bulls only). Also, any bears that seen are instantly shot on sight from Unalakleet (big problem) to St. Michael. The state moved the trooper/F&G officer from Unalakleet which caused many cow moose to get shot because of zero enforcement. -- (St. Michael)

* Guides are coming in from out of the area and are not legal in their activities. -- (Nome)

* If there is commercial hunting or guiding in our area - we need enforcement - otherwise our subsistence use would be drastically hurt. -- (Golovin)

* Master, registered guides are the major recipients of monetary sources derived from guiding. The laws make it impossible to obtain a registered ticket due to demands to obtain licenses and the unwillingness for the guides to sign off time so assistant and Class A's don't have much chance when they are equally efficient, and in some cases more so, as the master or registered guides. -- (Golovin)

* No affirmative or action response from Fish & Game offices. -- (Koyuk)

* There is no reason for the elimination of 4-5 non resident sport hunters from taking trophy moose bulls in Unit 22-A, as the one that were harvested were done in inaccessible areas to local subsistence users, and of no threat to that user group, prior to the change in laws. Now that commercial harvest has been eliminated, I have lost my fall guiding job in this area.

* Laws governing subsistence hunting are not enforced. -- (St. Michael)

* Since we do not have big game guides and hunting, we have just left the paper blank. -- Brevig Mission

* Would like for it (big game hunting) to stop -- doesn't benefit our village. -- (Koyuk)

* There have been sightings of headless moose in our area. -- (Koyuk)

* Once this last year a headless moose was found in our area during big game hunting for moose. -- (Koyuk)

* I don't think of any big game hunting as adequately enforced. -- (Koyuk)

* We need to see proposed laws and regulations covering the commercial big game hunting of marine mammals to know if laws and regulations are acceptable and protect our sustenance on marine mammals. -- (Wales)

* Like the Japs, the state should place a monitor in the big game guide camps (each one) to ensure that not only the regulations are complied with not only covering the affected species hunted, but also ensure that the guide who writes contract wages on the assistant guides paycheck has in hand of both contractors a signed agreement between the two, with specific instructions as to what is feasible to all animals and all concerned. -- (Koyuk)

* Don't see Fish & Game patrolling our area enough for big game hunting. -- (Koyuk)

9. Is there a problem with illegal harvest of game in your area by any of the following? (Total number of responses)

10 Guides 1 Outfitters Air Taxi Services Lodge Owners

6 Other 23 (None or No Response)

Please comment here if you wish:

Written Comments:

- * Poaching is prevalent, especially in the villages. -- (Nome)
- * Local residents - moose and caribou out of season, cows, or wrong areas.
-- (St. Michael)
- * Unknown though illegal harvest has taken place and some have been caught.
-- (Nome)
- * As I said before, the Natives are the worst, especially with cow moose and bears both boars and sows with cubs. -- (St. Michael)
- * Don't hear of any (problems with illegal harvest). -- (Unalakleet)
- * Not a major problem as far as game population numbers but it does happen.
-- (Nome)
- * I see no waste by any user groups. -- (Unalakleet)
- * Cow moose, tundra swans, and snow geese are taken any time and in any numbers by subsistence hunters. -- (St. Michael)
- * Local residents. -- (Unalakleet)
- * During big game hunts taken in Koyuk, there are no signs of the meat taken home for use. -- (Koyuk)
- * Sport hunting should be if guiding is operated have to distribute for the needy. -- (Koyuk)
- * I wish he (the local guide) was out of here forever. -- (Koyuk)

10. A. Are you aware of the procedures for becoming a licensed guide?

17 Yes 21 No 5 (No Response)

B. Do you see any problems with the procedures for becoming a master guide, registered guide or assistant guide?

16 Yes 18 No 9 (No Response)

If your answer was "yes," what specific area(s) need the most improvement?

Written Comments:

- * Classes for acquiring life saving and first aid are available to earn the required license certification. -- (Little Diomed Island)

- * Don't want persons given guiding licenses just because they were born and raised in an area. They need to take tests like everyone else. -- (Nome)
- * Experienced Native hunting captains should be recognized as experts in their area and they should be classified as at least a registered guide. -- (Wales)
- * Natives do not have appropriate opportunities to intern to become a master guide though they know the area better than most guides. -- (Nome)
- * Need to know how and what to do. -- (Brevig Mission)
- * From what I understand, the test is very nit-picky designed by the guide board to keep out more registered and master guides. -- (St. Michael)
- * It takes too long a time to qualify. -- (Unalakleet)
- * No training centers, or licensed supply centers to purchase required equipment. -- (White Mountain)
- * Need information and education on the process. -- (Golovin)
- * The "time element," so much time in the "field." How much more "fielddy" can we get when we are out in the "field" all our lives? -- (Golovin)
- * Clear cut, easily understandable guidelines, fair and pertinent testing procedures. -- (Unalakleet)
- * Not too well informed of all the details to become a master guide. -- (Nome)
- * Have the city councils, IRA councils etc. know the procedures. Communication between state and village councils. -- (Koyuk)
- * We do NOT need guides in our area. -- (Koyuk)
- * How will Native hunting captains and crew be classified? We would need workshops on guiding regulations and what is required on an outfitted hunt. -- (Wales)
- * We would like more information distributed to captains, co-captains, and crews with workshops, and posted notices on procedures on becoming a guide. -- (Wales)
- * Freedom of Information Act, during 1950 - indefinite. -- (Koyuk)

11. Do you feel that people in Alaska's rural areas have an adequate and equal opportunity to benefit financially from the state's big game hunting industry?

12 Yes 29 No 5 (No Response)

If your answer was "no," please comment on how rural Alaskans could benefit more from this industry:

Written Comments:

- * If the procedures were available and made known, more people might benefit from guiding. -- (St. Michael)
- * Restrictions by sea mammal protection act are too restrictive. -- (Little Diomed Island)
- * The guides should be living in the villages so they will benefit rural Alaskans year round. -- (Wales)
- * Limited guides create a monopoly and most guides operate out of their own lodges and spend very little money in the local villages. -- (Nome)
- * By making literature on local guiding hunts available in our communities. -- (Shaktolik)
- * Guides bring their own people. (Rural Alaskans could benefit) by the hiring of local boat operators. -- (Unalakleet)
- * By receiving training or additional information for starters on the business of guiding. -- (White Mountain)
- * Some are not aware how to become a registered guide, as covered in (answers) 8 & 10, the technical aspect of some, not so much the ethical part or even the written part. -- (Golovin)
- * State should make rural Alaska more informed about the big game industry just like DNR on the Northwest Area Plan. -- (Koyuk)
- * The state does an excellent job of regulating big game hunting. -- (Unalakleet)
- * Can only speak for the Nome area. -- (Nome)
- * Person hires outsiders. -- (Koyuk)
- * I don't know what benefits would be available. -- (Koyuk)
- * We do not need to benefit from this type of industry. -- (Koyuk)
- * We don't need this type of industry in our community instead of subsistence hunting. -- (Koyuk)
- * By requiring Master, Registered, and Assistant Guides to have hunted from that village for 10 years in the spring and fall and be year-round residents from that village.
- * By requiring guides to hunt from that village and be year-round residents of that village. -- (Wales)

- * Ensure that big game guides have a written proposal which describes his or her method of operation and intent of operation, also as to how he intends the community to benefit. -- (Koyuk)
- * Need guide training for it to become feasible. -- (Shishmaref)
- * Too difficult to have rural Alaskans be involved because of a lack of finances (money). -- (Koyuk)
- * Nobody told me about equal benefit financially from State! -- (Savoonga)

12. Overall, how would you rate Alaska's guiding system as it works in your area?

4 Very Good 4 Good 7 Fair 7 Poor 10 Very Bad
11 (No Response)

13. Whether or not you see problems with the current system of regulating the commercial taking of game in your area, do you think there has to be a system to control the commercial harvest of big game animals? Please explain your opinion below:

Written Comments:

- * Some guiding takes place during open fowl bird hunting and affects local subsistence hunting while airplanes are flying. Not too much of a problem. -- (St. Michael)
- * Sea mammal act should be changed to allow limited taking of game for big game hunting. -- (Little Diomed Island)
- * Yes - and strictly enforced. Guides should report when they are going on a guided hunt. Fish and Game should check the hunting party in the field. When the hunt is over, Fish and Game needs to meet the group to check the take. We don't want our game population to be over harvested. -- (Nome)
- * Yes - especially by airplane same day air. -- (St. Michael)
- * Big game hunting for sport hunting for non-residents should be stopped. This upsets our subsistence lifestyle. -- (Koyuk)
- * A village that hunts marine mammals and land animals that could be commercially harvested should be very involved with the Task Force after the subsistence hunt is completed. -- (Wales)
- * If the harvest was to limit subsistence, then the commercial harvest should be limited first. -- (Nome)

- * By contacting registered guides on regulations pertaining to aircraft operators who are in the rural areas. -- (Shaktolik)
- * I feel the need to regulate anything is with the subsistence hunters, you are opening a hornet's nest by trying to have every Tom, Dick, and Harry be able to guide hunters, which will cause a racial war extraordinaire. -- (St. Michael)
- * The community involved has no benefit from the taking of game. Need to close more areas to hunting. -- (Unalakleet)
- * Yes, there has to be a system of control for the harvest of game for all segments of the population. -- (Nome)
- * Yes, if there is commercial hunting or guiding in our area - we need enforcement - otherwise our subsistence use would be drastically hurt. -- (Golovin)
- * If a person surveys the guides, you will find not even 5% of guides are Alaskan Natives. They're either from Oklahoma, Texas, or Wyoming and go back to live there in the winter so the state does not benefit from money derived from guiding. Still it is governed by a very elite bunch of people who make their demands so the local person virtually has no way of getting their guide license. -- (Golovin)
- * Yes, quotas should be made for any guides on species taken in any area that involves subsistence hunting and fishing like Bowhead whale hunting. -- (Koyuk)
- * I believe we already have a system that is working and feel that if changes are necessary they will be done as needed. Overall, I'm happy with the system, but in villages the local game board makes the decisions and those are not always justified as with the elimination of non-residents to our area for moose. This was a limited harvest to start with, and now it has been eliminated. As subsistence users said, "The sport hunters are taking our game." Our local president of our local game board was re-elected to his position after shooting a cow moose out of season. -- (Unalakleet)
- * Obviously the person making up these questions doesn't really know what is going on in this business. If one guide controls an area, he isn't going to abuse its resources or he is going to put himself out of business. He also will keep the resource from being abused by slob hunters.
The problem is not with commercial harvest. Subsistence harvest is highly abused. People do not seem to realize that when you shoot cow moose you wipe out future generations of moose drastically. Why does this questionnaire invite derogatory comment toward big game hunting and not toward any other means of hunting? -- (St. Michael)
- * Present laws are fine, would like to see a few non-resident permits for moose in our area. -- (Unalakleet)
- * In other areas of Alaska where I have hunted the Alaska guide system sucks. Too much politics ie: "Lynn Castle" -- (Nome)

- * I agree with the older generation on discouraging big game commercial harvesting of game. Local people and surrounding areas do practice subsistence style activities and hunting and commercial fishing. -- (Koyuk)
- * There does not have to be a system. All systems in other areas are having conflicts with subsistence and commercial areas. There are going to be more laws and regulations that we don't need due to the fact that subsistence and commercial fishing is our way of life. -- (Koyuk)
- * Commercial taking in our community would affect as same as #13. Guiding should be completely stopped. -- (Koyuk)
- * Yes, if there is guiding. -- (Koyuk)
- * There is a need for a system to control commercial harvesting of marine mammals that is separate from other big game regulations and it must ensure village subsistence needs are met and harvested animals must be able to increase with the additional commercial harvest. -- (Wales)
- * No problems here since we do not do any commercial taking of game in our area. -- (White Mountain)
- * There is a need to control the commercial harvest of big game animals and the animals must be able to increase with the additional harvest. -- (Wales)
- * Yes. Have one member of each of the governing bodies of each community aware of the species numbers by physically seeing them in the areas in which the community subsists. -- (Koyuk)
- * The system you have now is adequate! -- (Koyuk)
- * NOTE: We would like to see commercial taking of walrus and polar bears and the clients guided by local people. From what we hear and what we see, there are enough of each species besides subsistence harvest. -- (Savoonga)
- * Polar bear and walrus. -- (Savoonga)

Additional Comments or Letters:

* I've been an assistant guide for some 8 years or so due to registered guides who are reluctant to sign my time off as they did because of the fact they too had to get established and they would be threatened by limited amount of hunters and the uniqueness of the species (Musk Ox) which is a very coveted and politically involved species of the North American big game species of the 25 and for the North American hunter to complete is required for the trophy hunter.

Some time back the non-village (guide) had been chased out and his business ethics were in question. True enough not all able bodied villagers will become guides, but some of us want to be able to be registered guides but have deterrents from guide board regs. - mostly the time element, and the unwillingness for the registered guides to make contracts so that we (assistant and class A) could accrue time to qualify to take the tests, much less the recommendation which is required before you can even go up for your test from the board.

I would like to see guide requirements which have umbrella coverage from the state be revised so the Alaska Native who is conscientiously wanting to be a guide and not exploited be given a choice. We'll hear feedback that we have the equal chance as well as the next person (white man) who got next to a crony friend who signed them off and made them a registered guide. Also as non-registered we cannot, by law, advertise our services. We can transport big game hunters but we are restricted to outfitting and do not get any credit since we don't have a contract with the registered guide to get credit of time which is documented with the state when the time comes to take the tests.

The guide board or the state, pressure from Native leaders of the state was going to try local Native guides for sea mammals, which only makes sense since a registered guide who has a district in an ocean area probably does not know much of local conditions ice, weather and currents, probably from Fairbanks which is in the Interior, still made all the money when the local person got a small amount and no credit to be able to accrue time to get a registered ticket.

For the longest time - this needed to be addressed coming from the local level, where the guiding activity takes place. I hope Rural CAP can make a dent.

Again, I've held an assistant guide license for a long time and would like to advance but am unable to do to listed restrictions. -- (Golovin)

BRISTOL BAY REGION

39 Responses (one in the form of a letter) received from Dillingham, Egegik, Iliamna, King Salmon, Kokhanok, Koliganek, Levelock, Manokotak, Naknek, Newhalen, New Stuyahok, Nondalton, Pedro Bay, and Port Heiden.

1. Do you participate in any of the following areas of the commercial big game hunting industry? (Total number of responses checked)

<u> </u> Master Guide	<u> 5 </u> Lodge Owner
<u> 6 </u> Registered Guide	<u> 3 </u> Lodge Worker
<u> 2 </u> Class-A Assistant Guide	<u> 7 </u> Air Transportation
<u> 4 </u> Assistant Guide	<u> 9 </u> Water Transportation
<u> 8 </u> Outfitter	<u> 3 </u> Land Transportation

Other:

 1 Store Owner/Sporting Goods Retailer
 1 Sports Fishing Guide

2. How many of the following would you say operate in your area? (The numbers here represent the upper and lower limits in the range of responses.)

<u> 1-60 </u> Master/Registered/Assistant Guides	<u> 1-35 </u> Outfitters
<u> 1-15 </u> Transportation Services for Guides	<u> 0-30 </u> Lodges
<u> </u> Other:	<u> 0-4 </u> Sporting Goods Sales

Written Comments:

* Outfitting is guiding! ---> Unknown but too many people illegally guide. --
(King Salmon)

3. How important is commercial big game hunting to the local economy?

<u> 5 </u> Very Important	<u> 13 </u> Important	<u> 16 </u> Not Very Important
<u> 3 </u> No Guiding Here	<u> 1 </u> (No Response)	

Written Comments:

* Locals hunting for meat with outfitters. They can't afford the gear but can hunt on their own so don't need a guide. -- (Dillingham)

* (Important) by outfitters who cater to locals for their hunts (guides cost too much). -- (Dillingham)

4. If there are guides in your area, how much of the money made from the industry circulates in your community?

1 100% 2 75% 4 50% 4 25% 25 Less than 25% 2 Don't Know

 (No Response)

5. If there are outfitters or others who provide hunting services in your area, how much of the money made from the industry circulates in your community?

3 100% 75% 3 50% 4 25% 23 Less than 25% 5 Don't Know

 (No Response)

Written Comments:

* The outfitters support local air taxi - restaurants - meals & rooms - stores for groceries - meat boxes - and also give a lot of meat to local people that want and need it. The guides I do not see them spending any money here locally. The outfitters also buy a lot of fuel - put people to work making camps - taking down camps - whenever the weather is bad - which is a lot around here - the outfitter's hunters go visit the local shops and businesses - buying ivory - furs - artifacts - they just keep things moving around town - everyone likes the outfitters and has bad feelings about the guides. -- (Naknek - King Salmon)

6. Are local game resources enough to meet the needs of all users, including subsistence, commercial and sport?

18 Yes 19 No 1 (No Response)

If there are conflicting uses, what species would you say are the most seriously affected?

30 Moose 6 Caribou 1 Bear 1 Black Bear 2 Salmon

Written Comments:

- * Limit the unguided drop-off hunts. -- (King Salmon)
- * Moose maybe but all big game seem to be doing good. -- (Iliamna)
- * There were (enough resources) before illegal guides "outfitters" began operating in force. Moose are being wholesaled by high volume so called outfitters who have no vested interest in an area. -- (King Salmon)
- * Moose - only because guides shoot them for bear bait. -- (Dillingham)
- * The guides trespass on corporation land ignoring the corp. land use permit system. -- (Pedro Bay)
- * Moose in area 9 needs to be permit only. -- (King Salmon)

7. Have you seen an increase in the commercial taking of game in your area?

35 Yes 3 No ____ (No Response)

Written Comments:

- * Bear is off; caribou is up. -- (Iliamna)
- * Yes, but only with outfitters and so called drop off hunts. -- (Nondalton)
- * Locals need to get out further for game and depend on outfitters and air taxis for this service. -- (Dillingham)

8. Would you say that the laws and regulations covering commercial big game hunting are adequately enforced in your area?

12 Yes 26 No ____ (No Response)

Please comment here if your answer is "no:"

Written Comments:

- * Not enough personnel. -- (Port Heiden)
- * None (enforcement officers) in our community. -- (Manokotak)
- * ADF&G is understaffed and unable to control outfitters. -- (Egegik)

* F.W.P. is doing a "good" job with what "manpower" they have. Could use a few more F.W.P.O. "Troopers" to check up on some of the non-accidental guiding "problems." -- (King Salmon)

* There were many rafters in the Mulchatna with a lot of trophy sized heads and no meat to show for them. I don't know what they do with the meat, but the elders sure would appreciate getting the meat. -- (New Stuyahok)

* Guides are required to hunt in a certain area. They try to take care of their game so not to take too much of a given species. Outfitters go anyplace and tend to take large numbers of game, then go to another place if the game becomes short. Regulations need to be stricter on outfitters giving them a certain area to operate and restrict them to a certain number of animals to be harvested. -- (King Salmon)

* Too much big game animal waste. The extraction of meat from the field is the main complaint. -- (King Salmon)

* During commercial game openings, we hardly see any Fish & Game officers patrolling the area. So anybody can catch as much game as possible and won't get caught due to the lack of officers or Fish & Game patrolling the area. -- (Kokhanok)

* We rarely see any enforcement officers and the guides act illegally whenever they can. -- (Kokhanok)

* Not much enforcement in this area. -- (Newhalen)

* Who's watching our parks and wildlife refuges from the taking of game by bandits such as Ron Hays - Dana Potersen - Gary Bill - Larry Bryant, just to name a few. -- (Iliamna)

* Illegal guides - now referred to as "outfitting" by people who have no areas, no license, or testing or qualification or certification program, and for the most part are based out of state - are acting as guides and getting away with it only because of a few loop holes in the existing guide law are jeopardizing everyone's future. -- (King Salmon)

* One excellent game warden cannot begin to cover all aspects of this huge area. -- (Iliamna)

* Guides are very strictly enforced whereas air taxis and outfitters have absolutely no regulations to follow. If the law is broken concerning their clients or camp, they are not held responsible. I've been witness to seeing dozens of caribou and b=moose antlers with virtually no meat to show. -- (Nondalton)

* We see too many antlers going out without the meat. -- (Iliamna)

* Our game warden is busy outfitting and guiding. -- (Dillingham)

* I feel that the guides ignore private posted land and treat it as their own. -- (Pedro Bay)

- * Not enough Enforcement Officers, the one here is not allowed to work as much as he should. -- (King Salmon)
- * There is an unwarranted effort to harass the commercial operators.
P.S. I've been a Registered Guide since before statehood and so far as I'm affected, I'd like to see the state scrap the whole guiding program. The existing Fish & Game Boards have formulated adequate subsistence and sports regulations to protect the resource. -- (King Salmon)
- * The game protection personnel is down to one in our area which encompasses Units 9C-E-D. The work load is too large to enforce the regulations adequately. -- (Naknek)
- * Our local game warden is either chasing guides down Unit 9 or running his own business during the hunting season. -- (Dillingham)
- * We see a lot of antlers go through the King Salmon airport and very little meat. -- (King Salmon)
- * Very little apparent is what it seems to us. -- (Koliganek)
- * One game warden has too much area to cover. -- (Pedro Bay)
- * Not enough enforcement officers. -- (King Salmon)
- * We have one protection officers and thousands of miles to cover in the prime country. The officer at Port Alsworth with the Park Service is related to a local big game lodge by marriage, so a lot of their activity goes on despite what the law says. Usually they waste a lot of meat and throw it in the water at Port Alsworth. -- (Nondalton)

9. Is there a problem with illegal harvest of game in your area by any of the following? (Total number of responses)

10 Guides 13 Outfitters 9 Air Taxi Services 12 Lodge Owners
7 Other 18 (None or No Response)

Please comment here if you wish:

Written Comments:

- * Trespass on ANCSA lands along Kvichal and Alagnak Rivers. -- (Levelock)
- * Much meat is left in the field by outfitters and outside hunters. -- (Egegik)
- * You may contact me at my P.O. for further information on this matter. I would be glad to submit more information. -- (King Salmon)

- * Bring the meat home or distribute it to the nearest village instead of leaving it out there to rot. -- (Kokhanok)
- * There seems to be a limit to the amount of hunters that guides or outfitters can drop off. A single outfitter has dropped off upwards of 30 hunting parties. -- (Kokhanok)
- * Couldn't put blame on a single source. -- (Iliamna)
- * Lodge owners don't give too much moose meat or caribou meat to villages. -- (Newhalen)
- * Dropping off hunters probably a resident taking an out-of-stater hunting in restricted areas without permission from the corporation board of directors. Iliamna River for instance. -- (Iliamna)
- * Everybody, repeat everybody, harvests illegally, excessively, promiscuously, constantly. -- (Iliamna)
- * Outfitters and air taxis are not licensed to a certain area to hunt as guides are. They deluge a certain area with a mass of hunters until they wipe it out and move on. -- (Nondalton)
- * I don't know but they only take out one or two legs of meat for caribou or moose when there is a lot more meat than that. -- (Iliamna)
- * Title placed on you doesn't mean anything. No protection = No rules. Guides are the worst - then air taxi - then lodge owners - then other (local, subsistence, recreational) and last outfitters. -- (Dillingham)
- * Waste of meat, moose and caribou. -- (King Salmon)
- * The above categories are more careful than resident sportsmen. -- (King Salmon)
- * Getting to be everyone is wasting meat. -- (Dillingham)
- * The local Fish & Game Dept. is understaffed and does not have the budget to check on hunters.
- * We don't know this for sure but it is a general belief around here that sports hunters do a lot of illegal hunting. -- (Koliganek)
- * There are some problems with all of them. -- (Naknek)
- * If anyone kills illegally, I would have to say guides - the outfitters really have to watch themselves and have no reason to take illegally. -- (Naknek - King Salmon)
- * The air taxi services seem to crowd guides and people out of their area by their drop offs. -- (King Salmon)

10. A. Are you aware of the procedures for becoming a licensed guide?

19 Yes 14 No 5 (No Response)

B. Do you see any problems with the procedures for becoming a master guide, registered guide or assistant guide?

14 Yes 16 No 8 (No Response)

If your answer was "yes," what specific area(s) need the most improvement?

Written Comments:

- * Make sure lodges and commercial hunters either bring all the meat home with them or distribute it to the nearest village because sometimes they just bring the antlers and hide home and leave the meat out there. -- (Kokhanok)
- * Very few people even have any idea what it takes to become one (a guide). And I am one of them that doesn't know.
- * Seems like a very closed society. Should be more education available and direction for young aspiring guides to look to. The law and guides have created a bad climate for hunting. -- (Iliamna)
- * Except that the process is subverted by those who can bypass the intent of the law. -- (King Salmon)
- * The guide exam is not fair. -- (Port Heiden)
- * I believe more guides should be required for hunting and fishing. The area is large, dangerous, and over-used. -- (Iliamna)
- * It takes too long to become a guide especially if you would like to run your own business that requires guides because no one wants to work for two years for someone else to get a license. -- (Iliamna)
- * Qualifications - if you guide someone without getting paid for it, and your contact isn't through a guide, you're out cold. All responsibilities are the same - only difference is you can't get paid for it.
- * I believe to become a guide you have to go through a Registered Guide therefore they control who can become a Reg. Guide ... a serious flaw in the system. -- (Pedro Bay)
- * There should be a quota system allowing a domicile, resident guide in addition to all your outside area guides. -- (Naknek)
- * They're a self service board. They shouldn't be self regulated. The game belongs to us all. -- (Dillingham)
- * Entry should be easier, more local involvement. -- (Naknek)

- * There needs to be information and a special effort by the industry to (include) local villages in the industry. -- (Koliganek)
- * The guide area - I could become a guide but still have no area. -- (Naknek - King Salmon)
- * For local Natives who are usually "packers," the Natives know the country and how to process meat, (a guide license) should be automatic if affidavit of past can be proven. -- (Nondalton)

11. Do you feel that people in Alaska's rural areas have an adequate and equal opportunity to benefit financially from the state's big game hunting industry?

12 Yes 20 No 6 (No Response)

If your answer was "no," please comment on how rural Alaskans could benefit more from this industry:

Written Comments:

- * Guides and outfitters should hire local help whenever possible. -- (Egegik)
- * Limit the number of non-local guides in smaller areas or subunits. -- (King Salmon)
- * We hardly benefit from this industry. Only the lodges, etc. benefit, but we feel we should get a cut from this benefit because there are hunters using our resources. -- (Kokhanok)
- * I we knew what the procedures were, more people probably would. -- (Kokhanok)
- * Since we are a trophy area we have a lot of lodges but we may if we try. -- (Newhalen)
- * Hard to answer. In order to benefit, rural Alaska needs more contact with outside big spenders and most of rural Alaska is not in touch with that clientele. -- (Iliamna)
- * There should be a local tax on the guiding income - same as fish tax. -- (Naknek)
- * Their chances are being jeopardized by illegal "outfitting." -- (King Salmon)
- * The people in rural Alaska are qualified to be excellent guides but can not pass the guide exam. -- (Port Heiden)
- * Local hire has never been utilized, much less required. But only good workers are scarce. -- (Iliamna)

- * Most guides seem to hire local residents as packers, assistant guides, etc., doing their best effort to circulate the money within the local area. Outfitters and air taxis take the money and run. -- (Nondalton)
- * By outfitting from their homes - putting out tent camps, etc. -- (Dillingham)
- * They (rural Alaskans) don't have money to buy a guide area. -- (King Salmon)
- * I believe private property owners should be in full control of who they can allow on their own property for the taking of big game, subject to Fish & Game laws. -- (Pedro Bay)
- * By allowing village corporations at least one guide package per village based on their selection as applicant assuring local participation. After all it is their land encompassing the villages. -- (Naknek)
- * By running camps from their homes - outfitting. -- (Dillingham)
- * It is our backyard, but no one in the village knows anything about getting involved. -- (Koliganek)
- * More local control of guiding and outfitting. -- (Naknek)
- * Let the local outfitters in their home and local areas take hunters - Local outfitters can stay out of the way of guides and guide areas - they can work together. -- (Naknek - King Salmon)
- * Require local operators to hire locals and the locals will make sure there is no waste of meat. -- (Nondalton)

12. Overall, how would you rate Alaska's guiding system as it works in your area?

1 Very Good 3 Good 13 Fair 8 Poor 7 Very Bad
6 (No Response)

13. Whether or not you see problems with the current system of regulating the commercial taking of game in your area, do you think there has to be a system to control the commercial harvest of big game animals? Please explain your opinion below:

Written Comments:

* The State should have more control over outfitters and airtaxi drop-offs, and guides using other guide's areas. -- (Egegik)

* Need more manpower to enforce current laws! The system is O.K. but the need to limit "outfitters & guides" in certain areas is almost a must if you're going to save species in these areas.

The guiding system is allowing too many outside "outfitters" in resulting in over harvesting. We've had almost a 30% increase of hunters in this area just this year and probably 8 or 9 new outfitters.

Need to limit the number of guides on this river system. The pressure is too great for this resource to last very long. We've seen almost a doublefold of guides in the last 4 years. -- (King Salmon)

* What we would like to see is more Fish & Game patrolling the area during commercial openings because we hardly see Fish & Game patrolling during commercial openings. -- (Kokhanok)

* We don't see what authority the Game Board has designating hunting areas over and on private property (Native corporations, allotments, subdivisions, etc.) The only way to truly be able to control the commercial hunters is to Ban the Airplane completely from hunting. -- (Kokhanok)

* Go with the flow of the animals. If they're up, harvest them. When they're down, move the season back into more months with more severe weather. -- (Iliamna)

* 9-C is being over hunted by guided hunts. Excessive bull moose hunts in the Sep. season, possible closure for bull in the December subsistence season? There should be a measurement method in 9-C like 9-E. -- (Naknek)

* Yes - I think there is some way that the system can control things better than it does now but I don't know how. -- (Newhalen)

* The system is as good as its originators. Just give ADF&G more money to fly more people to patrol more often. One man in Lake Clark can't handle the whole of Iliamna Lake (#9). Why doesn't the guide who was assigned the Iliamna River area cooperate with the corporation that owns the land and was assigned to a particular guide ?? by the State of Alaska.

* There is one! It's called the Guide Law - and the Guide License and Control Board - and the Alaska Board of Game - and Fish & Game Protection Division !!! It is only a loop hole in the guide law that allows the present problem (outfitting) to exist. All people who offer big game hunting services must love and respect the resource first. They must not wholesale game for short term gain. The guide area system is intended to assure this. -- (King Salmon)

* Absolutely essential that harvest be limited. Sustained yield cannot survive under present growth. Even subsistence use must eventually be by lottery -- fish and game are both limited - and threatened at the present level of use. -- (Iliamna)

* Yes - There must be a system to regulate these outfitters and air taxis. Just look at all the paperwork a guide has on one moose hunter. 11 documents. Outfitters - nothing. A guide will harvest and farm his area that by the Guide Board is where he must hunt. Outfitters slaughter one area and then move to another and do the same. -- (Nondalton)

* The only complaint I have is that they can take too many caribou so they should lower the limit to outsiders because they do not bring in all the meat which we think is a waste. -- (Iliamna)

* Alaska's guiding system looks good on paper, but in real life it's another world. Every person guiding or outfitting for big game must be an Alaskan resident and live in the area (regional). Every hunter must fill out a hunter report separate from the harvest ticket and give it to the local game warden. It must contain this info: who hunted with - time - location - and signed by both hunter and guide/outfitter/airtaxi (etc.). All camps must be recorded in your local enforcement office of intended hunting dates and with whom and where. No more than three clients at one time. No more than one assistant guide of any class working for any guide at any time, nor more than one packer. Guides must accompany all their clients themselves on all bear hunts and sheep and $\frac{1}{2}$ of their clients on all others while on the actual hunt.

Any meat that gets ruined in the field must be reported to the local enforcement office within the first 24 hours the hunter is back to where a phone and/or radio contact can be made. Must give exact location and required to show ruined meat to protection officer or his designee.

Any guide or outfitter breaking the regs. loses his privilege for life to ever work in that field again.

All horns that leave the state must have a tag signed by the enforcement division that all meat was legally taken care of.

Allow any person guided or outfitted to keep his trophy, meat, etc. and reward him of his trip-hunt expense of any convicted violation he turns in on his guide, outfitter, airtaxi, etc.

The system will weed itself out of the violators if you let it and not protect anyone's commercial interest.

I can do all of the above cause I have nothing to hide. -- (Dillingham)

* Allow local or even Alaskan residents a more liberal hunting season, give a minimum amount of permits to non-residents. -- (King Salmon)

* No. -- (King Salmon)

* I believe the Fish and Wildlife Officers should be increased in the state. I also believe that the Guide Board has too much control over the state's big game animals. The people who own the land should control who can hunt on the land, subject to Fish & Game laws. -- (Pedro Bay)

* There used to be a quota system on the first Aug.- Sep. hunts of big game in Unit 9-C. As this past general Sept. moose season an overtake of bull moose has happened. And when they open the subsistence hunt for moose in Dec. allowing only 12 cow moose to be taken, it is possible the bull moose season can or will be closed by emergency order because of a trophy overhunt in Sept. and this quota on the cows will not meet the subsistence demand. -- (Naknek)

* There isn't any commercial harvest. There are guides and outfitters who render different kinds of supporting services to hunters. -- (Dillingham)

* Yes - Alaska needs a system to regulate the big game harvest. To eliminate the outfitters is certainly not the answer. Perhaps if guides and outfitters were required to be Alaska residents, a commercial pilot, and have a U.S. Coast Guard license if using aircraft or boats in their operation. -- (King Salmon)

* Yes - more enforcement of regulations needed. -- (Koliganek)

* Yes - if there were no regulations, all the game would be done away with. There are those who would kill all game just for the sake of killing. -- (Naknek)

* Biology should be the prime regulator. -- (Naknek)

* Yes - We need some sort of system - but everyone needs an equal chance - outfitters - guides - How about guides and master guides with no area.

Lots of guides do not use their areas. I run hunters at a small scale - try to stay here locally - trying not to bother or piss off the guides - I would hate to be shut down completely. Thank You. -- (Naknek - King Salmon)

* Yes - There is just too much hunting pressure. A long-term plan has to be implemented. This area is reaching the point that people have to decide whether to have a poor quality hunt = lots of lodges, no game, or a quality hunt = fewer lodges, more game, better scenic value which would mean more animal per animal. -- (Pedro Bay)

* Must regulate outfitters. -- (King Salmon)

* It is not the commercial people that deplete the source. It is your subsistence hunters that do the damage. -- (King Salmon)

* Yes, have the open season during (?) for head hunters and hire more Fish & Game officers during the hunting season. -- (Nondalton)

Additional Comments or Letters:

* Dear Ms. Cassidy:

The Bristol Bay Coastal Management Program was given a copy of the task force questionnaire on the guide system. Although we have not filled out the questionnaire, we would like to offer the following observations based on general concerns that have been voiced to us over time from local residents in the region.

The Bristol Bay region has long been known for its high quality fishing and big game hunting opportunities. Guided and unguided sport hunting for moose, caribou, and brown bear occurs throughout much of the region but is particularly concentrated in the Alaska Peninsula and Mulchatna drainage. While little information appears to be available on the total number of outfitters, lodges and airtaxis that provide commercial services associated with sport hunting, it is evident that overall hunting pressure on these game resources has increased significantly.

The biggest resource concerns local people have expressed over the increase in sport hunting pressure have been the affects on subsistence harvests. Many people feel that this increase has led to a corresponding decline in moose and caribou populations thus affecting the overall availability of game for subsistence users. Some people have noted that increased sport hunting pressure has resulted in displacement of game populations from traditional hunting areas thereby making it more difficult to access game resources. The lack of enforcement is also viewed as a major problem since most game violations go undetected due to the limited number of enforcement officers assigned to the region and unfeasibly large area to cover.

Much of the frustration with the guide industry is tied to the lack of employment opportunities and contribution to the local economy. Although commercial sport hunting in Bristol Bay is a major income producer for guides, outfitters and transporters, the vast majority of this income leaves the region. The guide system as it is presently structured offers little or no opportunity for participation by local residents. A survey of the number of licensed guides operating in the region would undoubtedly show that a very small percentage of this group are local residents. Given this, it is often difficult for local people to gain entry into this system since to become even a Class A Assistant Guide requires finding a registered guide willing to take someone on as an apprentice.

The Bristol Bay Coastal Resource Service Area (CRSA) is currently working with the state on developing a recreational management plan for the Nushagak and Mulchatna drainages in upper Bristol Bay. The focus of this land use plan is on managing commercial recreational development, nonetheless, we are very much interested in the issues being addressed by the task force. We would appreciate receiving a copy of the questionnaire summary as well as any task force reports or recommendations that are made available. Thank you.

Sincerely, Bristol Bay Coastal Resource Service Area -- (Dillingham)

CALISTA REGION

65 Responses received from Akiachuk, Alakanuk, Aniak, Bethel, Chevak, Chuathbaluk, Crooked Creek, Emmonak, Goodnews Bay, Hooper Bay, Kalskag, Kongiganak, Kwethluk, Kwigillingok, Marshall, Mekoryuk, Mountain Village, Newtok, Nightmute, Nunapitchuk, Nunivak Island, Pitka's Point, Quinhagak, Red Devil, Russian Mission, Scammon Bay, Sheldon Point, Sleetmute, St. Mary's, Stony River, Toksook Bay, Tuluksak, and Tuntutuliak.

1. Do you participate in any of the following areas of the commercial big game hunting industry? (Total number of responses checked)

<u>4</u> Master Guide	<u>2</u> Lodge Owner
<u> </u> Registered Guide	<u>1</u> Lodge Worker
<u>7</u> Class-A Assistant Guide	<u>2</u> Air Transportation
<u>7</u> Assistant Guide	<u>10</u> Water Transportation
<u>3</u> Outfitter	<u>7</u> Land Transportation

Other:

1 Sell Outboard Motors to Local Residents
2 Fuel, Food, Repairs, Etc.
4 General Merchandise Store / Food / Guns & Ammo
1 Fur Buyer
1 We have none of those and happy about it. -- (Alakanuk)

2. How many of the following would you say operate in your area? (The numbers here represent the upper and lower limits in the range of responses.)

<u>0-16</u> Master/Registered/Assistant Guides	<u>0-8</u> Outfitters
<u>0-8</u> Transportation Services for Guides	<u>0-3</u> Lodges
Other:	<u>0-25</u> Sporting Goods Sales

2 Stores
1 Fuel Sales
1 25-30 Subsistence Hunters

3. How important is commercial big game hunting to the local economy?

<u>8</u> Very Important	<u>7</u> Important	<u>13</u> Not Very Important
<u>32</u> No Guiding Here	<u>5</u> (No Response)	

Written Comments:

* The hunters bring money to the village and some people help hunters and make money. -- (Mekoryuk)

4. If there are guides in your area, how much of the money made from the industry circulates in your community?

2 100% 3 75% 1 50% 2 25% 17 Less than 25% 24 Don't Know
16 (No Response)

5. If there are outfitters or others who provide hunting services in your area, how much of the money made from the industry circulates in your community?

1 100% 3 75% 1 50% 2 25% 15 Less than 25% 29 Don't Know
14 (No Response)

6. Are local game resources enough to meet the needs of all users, including subsistence, commercial and sport?

23 Yes 34 No 8 (No Response)

If there are conflicting uses, what species would you say are the most seriously affected?

4 Musk Ox 18 Moose 7 Caribou 3 Geese 1 Waterfowl
3 Bear 1 Goat 1 Walrus 6 Salmon 2 Fish
1 Subsistence 1 Big Game Hunting 1 All Game in Area

Written Comments:

* Moose and caribou most seriously affected by wolves. -- (Red Devil)

* Our only problem is people coming into our area to catch moose from another subsistence area. -- (Crooked Creek)

CALISTA REGION

65 Responses received from Akiachuk, Alakanuk, Aniak, Bethel, Chevak, Chuathbaluk, Crooked Creek, Emmonak, Goodnews Bay, Hooper Bay, Kalskag, Kongiganak, Kwethluk, Kwigillingok, Marshall, Mekoryuk, Mountain Village, Newtok, Nightmute, Nunapitchuk, Nunivak Island, Pitka's Point, Quinhagak, Red Devil, Russian Mission, Scammon Bay, Sheldon Point, Sleetmute, St. Mary's, Stony River, Toksook Bay, Tuluksak, and Tuntutuliak.

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<u>32</u> No Guiding Here	<u>5</u> (No Response)	

7. Have you seen an increase in the commercial taking of game in your area?

14 Yes 45 No 6 (No Response)

Written Comments:

- * Gradual increase in local outfitting. -- (Russian Mission)
- * With permits only. -- (Mekoryuk)

8. Would you say that the laws and regulations covering commercial big game hunting are adequately enforced in your area?

30 Yes 22 No 13 (No Response)

Please comment here if your answer is "no:"

Written Comments:

- * They do not exist. -- (Chevak)
- * Well known violators are ignored. No one says anything. -- (Russian Mission)
- * We do not advocate guiding, hunting in our area for it creates competition to our mainly subsistence (hunting, fishing, trapping) lifestyle. -- (Kwethluk)
- * Inadequate funding for enforcement. -- (Bethel)
- * No big game hunting in our area. -- (Chevak)
- * I don't know enough of the regulations, besides, there is no commercial hunting here. -- (Mountain Village)
- * No Fish & Game enforcement officers to patrol for illegally caught moose. -
- (Marshall)
- * Never have seen ADFG around to enforce their regulations. -- (Kongiganak)
- * There seems to be no activity within about a 100 mile radius from my village. But we've heard of sports hunters taking only antlers from their kills and leaving behind their meat on the premises to rot up on the south fork on the Koholitna River and Holitna River. Unfortunately, there are no pictures taken to validate the claim, but no commercial hunting should be allowed or even sports hunting. Only Subsistence. Wasting should not be allowed whatsoever.
Sports hunters only interested in antlers should not whatsoever be allowed to hunt. Food wasting is a taboo of our Yupik culture. -- (Nunapitchuk)

- * There is much confusion between guides and outfitters. People don't generally know the difference. -- (Bethel)
- * There are too many hunters and fishermen in our area with no supervision and when people complain, no one sees to the problem. -- (Kalskag)
- * No visible enforcement. Moose population not string enough to support any used except subsistence. -- (Emmonak)
- * The number of cow moose taken by local hunters is very high. -- (Bethel)
- * Don't start commercial hunting in our area. -- (Marshall)
- * Local Advisory Board knows little about their activities - they keep as low profile as they can but information (even from guides) indicates under reporting of harvest by about 40%. -- (Aniak)
- * Not much evidence so far of any enforcement except harassment of subsistence hunters. -- (St. Mary's)
- * There is no commercial guiding in this part of the country. -- (St. Mary's)
- * We are satisfied the way our laws and regulations are; we do not need big game hunting and guiding in this area. The people are opposed to it. -- (Alakanuk)
- * I've seen hundreds of heads (horns) (antlers) come through my mining camp each year for the past 5-10 years and very little to no meat. I've seen piles of meat rotting on the runway of my camp. I have complained but it seems futile. -- (Red Devil)
- * Possibility of illegal guiding operations occurring. -- (Marshall)
- * I believe protection officers should be around during hunting season. This would effect not only protecting animals as safety is needed during cold winter hunting season, each certified guide is trained in first aid as well as big game size and ages. -- (Mekoryuk)
- * There are no F&G/F&W personnel in this region. -- (Scammon Bay)
- * More strict enforcement is needed to limit abuse by big game hunters and guides. -- (Akiachuk)
- * There are guides here for sport fishing every summer from out of the states. The village doesn't make any money because they don't buy anything from the local stores. I know for I own a grocery store. -- (Quinhagak)
- * Inadequate coverage of game units by game officials. -- (Sleetmute)
- * Transporters for musk ox hunts need to be closely watched. -- (Mekoryuk)

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Sports hunters only interested in antlers should not whatsoever be allowed to hunt. Food wasting is a taboo of our Yupik culture. -- (Nunapitchuk)

9. Is there a problem with illegal harvest of game in your area by any of the following? (Total number of responses)

3 Guides 6 Outfitters 9 Air Taxi Services Lodge Owners

11 Other 38 (None or No Response)

Please comment here if you wish:

Written Comments:

- * I think so by outfitters that come in from other areas by plan and bring too many hunters. -- (Aniak)
- * Float planes fly hunters to geese populated areas covertly. -- (Chevak)
- * Probably some illegal operations by some transporters due to misunderstanding of regulations. -- (Mekoryuk)
- * People hunting for themselves. -- (Russian Mission)
- * Subsistence people. -- (Marshall)
- * People kill salmon and take only the eggs. Moose are taken for horns only and meat is spoiled. -- (Kalskag)
- * Bush Air and friends may still be taking moose and caribou out of season. -- (Bethel)
- * Local residents. -- (Bethel)
- * Never hear of any illegal hunting. -- (Mekoryuk)
- * Not enough enforcers during commercial fishing season. -- (Marshall)
- * No, but is the transporter supposed to take hunters out for hunts? -- (Nunivak Island)
- * The boundary of subsistence/sport hunting is not clear. -- (St. Mary's)
- * We have heard in the past that sport hunters are just taking racks and skins and leaving the meat. -- (St. Mary's)
- * We have enough problems as it is now. -- (Alakanuk)
- * I don't know about illegal harvest - but wanton waste is bad. -- (Red Devil)
- * Outfitters have to follow what the law says in Guide Bill 191. Outfitters cannot be with the hunter when he is hunting. -- (Mekoryuk)

- * We see remains of bull musk ox kills on tundra. -- (Mekoryuk)
- * Subsistence hunters taking cow moose calves. -- (Alakanuk)
- * Big game is worth a substantial amount of money to the elite and the rich and therefore, they are prone to abuse. -- (Akiachuk)
- * There might have been but I don't know. -- (Mekoryuk)
- * I often see the geese indicated on a calendar by student artists of the Lower Kuskokwim School District hunted here and in other areas low in population by local Natives. -- (Quinhagak)
- * Unlicensed guides from Bethel and Aniak, private citizens working as outfitters and air taxis. -- (Stony River)
- * In Alaska guides now have the right to be with hunters out in the field and these people are trained and certified. -- (Mekoryuk)

10. A. Are you aware of the procedures for becoming a licensed guide?

17 Yes 36 No 12 (No Response)

B. Do you see any problems with the procedures for becoming a master guide, registered guide or assistant guide?

16 Yes 26 No 23 (No Response)

If your answer was "yes," what specific area(s) need the most improvement?

Written Comments:

- * People frown on sport and commercial hunting. Guides should only be for researchers or wildlife lovers. -- (Chevak)
- * Musk Ox is the only game on the island. It is very hard to get hired by the two local guides in order to qualify. The island should have its own regulations for obtaining a guide license. -- (Mekoryuk)
- * Since there are no guides in this area, how does one even begin "Assistant Guide"? To whom?
- * We do not advocate guiding, hunting in our area for it creates competition to our mainly subsistence (hunting, fishing, trapping) lifestyle. -- (Kwethluk)
- * Master Guides keep all hunts to themselves. -- (Mekoryuk)
- * Commercial hunting will compete with subsistence hunting. -- (Mountain Village)

- * From what little I know about guiding, all the licensed guides seem to be people out of Anchorage and very little from the Bush. -- (Marshall)
- * Closed system - Regular and new person can't get in. -- (Bethel)
- * We need more Master and Registered Guides here at Nunivak. We don't need any more transporters for big game hunting. -- (Mekoryuk)
- * None should be established in this area. -- (Emmonak)
- * No guides in our area to train under. -- (Bethel)
- * Many Master and Registered Guides never use the Assistant and Class A Guides enough. -- (Mekoryuk)
- * Don't want guides in this area. -- (Marshall)
- * Assistant Guides should have a 5 year resident requirement. Registered Guides should have a 20 year resident requirement and be recommended by 10 other guides - No other prior requirements. -- (Red Devil)
- * I'm a Class A Guide and I'm hardly hired by Registered Guides to be a Registered Guide. -- (Mekoryuk)
- * No adequate training in area. -- (Alakanuk)
- * More information needs to be disseminated to the public, especially the Alaska Native populace that is in constant need of cash to survive. -- (Akiachuk)
- * We have never wanted guides in our area. -- (Kwethluk)
- * The public needs certified guides who know about first aid and know what kind of animals to take as trophies. -- (Mekoryuk)
- * We need information on this. -- (Crooked Creek)

11. Do you feel that people in Alaska's rural areas have an adequate and equal opportunity to benefit financially from the state's big game hunting industry?

16 Yes 34 No 15 (No Response)

If your answer was "no," please comment on how rural Alaskans could benefit more from this industry:

Written Comments:

- * By allowing walrus and beluga whale hunting but the catch to be distributed in the community. -- (Chevak)

- * Present guiding system be changed on this island since there is only one species of game animal. Not limited to guides only after June 89. -- (Mekoryuk)
- * No inequity in the law, but no opportunity to climb the ladder to become a guide. Also local pressure against "outsiders" hunting here, "trophy Hunters" etc. strong local support of "subsistence." -- (Russian Mission)
- * Experience should be seriously considered. -- (Mountain Village)
- * Not enough information. -- (Mekoryuk)
- * The state should advertise and bring information to villages about this optional income. -- (Mountain Village)
- * 1. Easier tests so Native people can pass them. 2. Licensed guides but Bush gas and supplies when appropriate. -- (Marshall)
- * Need more information and knowledge about the industry. -- (Chuathbaluk)
- * How can they benefit when the people are shuffled in and out with minimal, if any, local contact!! -- (Bethel)
- * Require the guides to live in the local area - Have system for local newcomers. -- (Bethel)
- * Closer supervision of people who waste our game and animals. -- (Kalskag)
- * Have all Alaskan guides. -- (Bethel)
- * Our local resources for basic survival are hampered by "outsiders" who have the money to "throw away." If we had that money, we'd use it for food. -- (Emmonak)
- * Grant guiding licenses in our area so sports hunters and fishermen could be brought in. There are none now. -- (Bethel)
- * Through an education effort into licensing requirements and an understanding of rural problems. -- (Bethel)
- * Leave guides out of this area. -- (Marshall)
- * Subsistence comes first, local sport hunting second. We can't stand the added pressure of outside hunters. -- (St. Mary's)
- * Introduction of big game potential in this area to outside interests. -- (Hooper Bay)
- * Make 5 year resident requirement for Assistant Guides and 20 years for Registered Guides and recommend no prior financial gain on computer. -- (Red Devil)

- * More rural "village based guide" operators. -- (Marshall)
- * There are people involved in guiding even as Assistant Guides but they should be regulated. -- (Mekoryuk)
- * Some Class A Guide's clients get bigger trophy horns than Registered Guide's clients. Registered Guides are paperwork guides. -- (Mekoryuk)
- * No financial (money) to get started. Cost of items too high in rural Alaska. -- (Alakanuk)
- * Bring in game like reindeer and musk ox here. -- (Scammon Bay)
- * The economic disadvantage is the factor for an individual to provide such services unless he or she has a boat and capital to try. -- (Akiachuk)
- * The industry will help the already scarce resource become depleted more. -- (Kwethluk)
- * For some it is hard to get guiding licenses for the area because there are guides there already. -- (Mekoryuk)
- * Perhaps big game could help in cutting welfare costs in your administration if they were distributed to welfare families and sold to people who could afford them. -- (Quinhagak)
- * Hiring of local assistants only from the units hunted. -- (Sleetmute)
- * People should be trained to guide in the areas they are authorized to guide. -- (Mekoryuk)

12. Overall, how would you rate Alaska's guiding system as it works in your area?

1 Very Good 7 Good 13 Fair 10 Poor 11 Very Bad

21 (No Response)

1 It doesn't work on our area.

1 Non-existent

1 Don't want it.

13. Whether or not you see problems with the current system of regulating the commercial taking of game in your area, do you think there has to be a system to control the commercial harvest of big game animals? Please explain your opinion below:

Written Comments:

- * I think outfitters should be allowed to take only 5 hunters into any one given area and be strictly accountable for all meat taken to be sure it has been transported (moose & caribou). -- (Aniak)
- * Big game should not be hunted for trophies but for sustenance. -- (Chevak)
- * The proposed system (current) should not be allowed on the island of Nunivak because only two (licensed guides) persons on the island will benefit from it. A new system should be developed on the island with the residents of the island involved in making the regulations because this is a unique situation.
For your information there are only two licensed guides on the island of Nunivak and the new proposed system will eliminate the rest of the available transporters. Mekoryuk being a very small village will not benefit from the new proposed regulations, only the two people of the population will, which makes the new proposal discriminatory in our case. -- (Mekoryuk)
- * Enforce current regulations. -- (Russian Mission)
- * Yes! The state has a strong interest in protecting its worldwide reputation for quality treatment of non-resident hunters. Business statewide benefits from each hunter, not just locals of the area hunted. -- (Russian Mission)
- * Local area residents need to have a say before "systems" are established. -- (Kwethluk)
- * I would like to see more local rural residents qualified to be big game guides. -- (Mountain Village)
- * Need information and schooling. -- (Mekoryuk)
- * We do not have any answers for above questions since there is no need for guides or commercial hunting. Only hunting that is done here is subsistence hunting and fishing. -- (Kwigillingok)
- * Yes. This has to be done by strict monitoring of the areas where commercial hunters hunt. There is a difference between the commercial hunter and the subsistence hunter. -- (Mountain Village)
- * Yes. More enforcement personnel to travel. -- (Marshall)
- * Questionnaire should be sent to the outfitters/guides/air-water taxi operators to find how many people hunt / what animals are mostly hunted for on a yearly basis. They probably wouldn't have much to say cause that's how they make their living. Don't know of any current guiding systems here in Lower Yukon. -- (Pitka's Point)

- * Yes: It would help out the community if all were notified of any illegal hunting that could be going on. -- (Kongiganak)
- * No comment. -- (Tuntutuliak)
- * The industry overall should be monitored to make sure there is no waste of meat from moose or other edible meat. -- (Chuathbaluk)
- * Yes - This question sounds rhetorical! Without regulation unscrupulous guides and/or hunters would be wasting more big game than is already being wasted in the name of sport and interfering with subsistence use. Furthermore, uncontrolled commercial harvest would provide extensive fuel for anti hunting and trapping organizations. -- (Bethel)
- * Yes - Guide system only encourages (rich) city and outsiders into area otherwise somewhat isolated. I prefer a licensed outfitters and transporters. Only big money people can use guides. -- (Bethel)
- * No opinion except transporters probably break more rules and regulations. We guides don't need any more transporters here at Nunivak. -- (Mekoryuk)
- * No comment. -- (Kalskag)
- * Commercial harvest of big game animals is difficult in remote Alaskan areas and I think it can use more funding to control illegal harvests. -- (Goodnews Bay)
- * System to control to help Natives to get their guiding licenses. -- (Bethel)
- * We do need control of commercial harvest to make sure the meat is used. -- (Red Devil)
- * Local users should have the priority first for their survival whether by subsistence or commercial means to get food on their table; shelter and clothing in these harsh, northern climates. -- (Emmonak)
- * I really don't know, but the moose seems to be the really big game that hunters hunt. -- (Aniak)
- * Yes. -- (Bethel)
- * The present laws are adequate if we had guides in our area. We are the poorest area of the state. At this time no commercial guide monies are being spent in our area. -- (Bethel)
- * I believe that rural people should have a better chance of becoming guides. -- (Bethel)
- * No comment. -- (Mekoryuk)
- * We mostly hunt and fish for subsistence - not enough animals or fish for guides. -- (Marshall)

- * Try regulating some regulations back to hunters. -- (Nunivak Island)
- * Yes! With deliberate emphasis on subsistence as 1st priority, local sport 2nd, Alaska statewide sport 3rd. Only then provide for outside hunting! -- (St. Mary's)
- * The area of subsistence use should be priority before sport hunting is introduced. -- (St. Mary's)
- * Yes: There should be a system where they have to have commercial harvest of big game. There should only be of bears. No other ones. -- (Alakanuk)
- * "NO" Rural economy would improve. Wanton waste would be reduced. "NO" system would allow those funds to go to enforcement. "NO" system would allow non-resident game hunters fairer access. "NO" system would put the special interest group of guides on a merit system. All our game animals belong to all our citizens. -- (Red Devil)
- * Being a guide, guide has to know what to look for as there is a way to measure each animal for Boone and Crockett (?). Each guide has to know game laws and regulations. -- (Mekoryuk)
- * Registered Guides must hire Class A Guides in rotation for experience. Presently, Registered Guides hire only their relatives. This is not equal opportunity. This is discrimination under federal law. -- (Mekoryuk)
- * It works well how it is now. I'm not too familiar with the regulations because I don't hunt - only my spouse. -- (Tuluksak)
- * Yes - over harvest leads to none for future. -- (Alakanuk)
- * Put more check points. -- (Scammon Bay)
- * The subsistence priority needs to be pushed further so that big game sport hunters and guides will not adversely effect the resource. -- (Akiachuk)
- * There has to be more money budgeted for adequate law & enforcement. More officers and planes need to be accessible. -- (Alakanuk)
- * No opinion. No commercial big game hunting in the immediate area. -- (Sheldon Point)
- * No commercial harvesting. -- (Kwethluk)
- * Don't see any problems taking game, but sometimes there are problems when some transporters ask some hunters to bring some booze and drugs to a dry village. This has to be stopped. Hunters should stop bringing liquor or be asked not to bring it to the village of Mekoryuk. -- (Mekoryuk)
- * I once heard a local hunter say he shot a cow moose with her calf. That is illegal in my line of thinking. I think that hurts future populations whether it be moose, caribou, or birds. -- (Quinhagak)

* Restrictions need to be placed on air taxis regarding the amount of people they put in this area. There also should be something done to limit the amount of people brought into this area by private citizens operating as guides and/or air taxis or outfitters. In my opinion, all non-resident hunters should be required to have a licensed guide. -- (Stony River)

* Accountable for all meat taken by hunters. -- (Sleetmute)

* For the area I guide in I only have concerns for the transporters as some may not abide by the guidelines of a transporter. -- (Mekoryuk)

* I think Guide Bill 191 is a good law and this keeps outfitters out of areas where they should not be guiding illegally. -- (Mekoryuk)

CHUGACH REGION

6 Responses received from Port Graham, Seward, Tatitlek, and Valdez.

1. Do you participate in any of the following areas of the commercial big game hunting industry? (Total number of responses checked)

☐ Master Guide	☒ Lodge Owner
☐ Registered Guide	☐ Lodge Worker
☐ Class-A Assistant Guide	☐ Air Transportation
☐ Assistant Guide	☒ Water Transportation
☐ Outfitter	☐ Land Transportation

Other:

☒ Sporting Goods Retailer
☒ General Merchandise Retail

2. How many of the following would you say operate in your area? (The numbers here represent the upper and lower limits in the range of responses.)

☒ 1-10 Master/Registered/Assistant Guides	☒ 0-3 Outfitters
☒ 4-8 Transportation Services for Guides	☒ 0-6 Lodges
☐ Other:	☒ 0-4 Sporting Goods Sales

3. How important is commercial big game hunting to the local economy?

☐ Very Important	☐ Important	☒ Not Very Important
☒ No Guiding Here	☒ (No Response)	

4. If there are guides in your area, how much of the money made from the industry circulates in your community?

☐ 100% ☐ 75% ☐ 50% ☐ 25% ☒ Less than 25% ☒ Don't Know
☒ (No Response)

5. If there are outfitters or others who provide hunting services in your area, how much of the money made from the industry circulates in your community?

 100% 75% 50% 1 25% 1 Less than 25% 3 Don't Know

 1 (No Response)

6. Are local game resources enough to meet the needs of all users, including subsistence, commercial and sport?

 2 Yes 3 No 1 (No Response)

If there are conflicting uses, what species would you say are the most seriously affected?

 2 Brown Bear 4 Goat 1 Deer 1 Subsistence

7. Have you seen an increase in the commercial taking of game in your area?

 5 Yes No 1 (No Response)

8. Would you say that the laws and regulations covering commercial big game hunting are adequately enforced in your area?

 2 Yes 3 No 1 (No Response)

Please comment here if your answer is "no:"

Written Comments:

* One Fish and Game Trooper for 100 square miles is not enough. Need four more for the Valdez area. -- (Valdez)

* Guides maintain that they have sole use of an area. I have personally been harassed by guides, even though they know I have hunted the same area for 18 years - long before they ever started. -- (Valdez)

* We have had incidents where commercial guides have claimed hunting areas which are privately owned (by local ANCSA Native Corp.). -- (Tatitlek)

9. Is there a problem with illegal harvest of game in your area by any of the following? (Total number of responses)

___ Guides ___ Outfitters ___ Air Taxi Services ___ Lodge Owners
___ Other 6 (None or No Response)

Please comment here if you wish:

Written Comments:

* If there is we are not aware of it. -- (Port Graham)

10. A. Are you aware of the procedures for becoming a licensed guide?

1 Yes 3 No 2 (No Response)

B. Do you see any problems with the procedures for becoming a master guide, registered guide or assistant guide?

1 Yes 1 No 4 (No Response)

If your answer was "yes," what specific area(s) need the most improvement?

Written Comments:

* Many assistant guides are part time and have their experience "validated" by their friends "Master" guides. -- (Valdez)

11. Do you feel that people in Alaska's rural areas have an adequate and equal opportunity to benefit financially from the state's big game hunting industry?

___ Yes 2 No 4 (No Response)

If your answer was "no," please comment on how rural Alaskans could benefit more from this industry:

Written Comments:

* By making the requirements for becoming a guide available to rural areas. The people may not even know about the industry. -- (Port Graham)

* Being allowed to hunt freely without harassment from guides. -- (Valdez)

12. Overall, how would you rate Alaska's guiding system as it works in your area?

___ Very Good 1 Good 2 Fair 1 Poor ___ Very Bad

2 (No Response)

13. Whether or not you see problems with the current system of regulating the commercial taking of game in your area, do you think there has to be a system to control the commercial harvest of big game animals? Please explain your opinion below:

Written Comments:

* I feel all out of state hunting should be done by drawing permits only! -- (Valdez)

* There may be requirements in the procedures to becoming a guide that keep rural people from participating in this industry. If anything, the problem will be in the procedures for becoming a guide. -- (Port Graham)

* Yes. Game management is essential. I have no problem with guides as long as they respect my rights. "Outside" hunters should be limited to only a certain amount of permits ! This would increase the revenue for guides by making it more difficult to get a chance to hunt in Alaska ! It would make the hunt more desirable and "Master" Guides wouldn't be sending assistants out in the field without supervision. Thanks for the opportunity ! -- (Valdez)

* Yes, in order to sustain the maximum yield of the resource without harming the resource's existence in any way and to protect against over harvesting of any species, I think a system of control would be beneficial to all. -- (Tatitlek)

Additional Comments or Letters:

* We are a general merchandise retail store and carry only a small amount of fishing gear and no hunting equipment. I am not familiar with most of these questions. Sorry. -- (Seward)

COOK INLET REGION

30 Responses received from Alexander Creek, Anchorage, Beluga River, Chugiak, Clam Gulch, Cripple Landing, Girdwood, Houston, Kasilof, Lake Clark, Moose Pass, Ninilchik, Port Alsworth, Soldatna, Sunshine, Skwentna, Talkeetna, and Willow.

1. Do you participate in any of the following areas of the commercial big game hunting industry? (Total number of responses checked)

<u>1</u> Master Guide	<u>6</u> Lodge Owner
<u>5</u> Registered Guide	<u> </u> Lodge Worker
<u>3</u> Class-A Assistant Guide	<u>3</u> Air Transportation
<u>5</u> Assistant Guide	<u>5</u> Water Transportation
<u>5</u> Outfitter	<u>3</u> Land Transportation

Other:

1 Sell Hunting Licenses / Issue Hunting Tags
1 Tackle and Hunting Goods Store
1 Store Owner
1 Bar Owner

2. How many of the following would you say operate in your area? (The numbers here represent the upper and lower limits in the range of responses.)

<u>0-25</u> Master/Registered/Assistant Guides	<u>2-36</u> Outfitters
<u>1-36</u> Transportation Services for Guides	<u>0-40</u> Lodges
Other:	<u>0-20</u> Sporting Goods Sales
<u>15-25</u> Unregulated Services	

Written Comments:

* State leases land for tent camps who outfit and all lodges claim to be outfitters in registered guide areas. -- (Skwentna)

3. How important is commercial big game hunting to the local economy?

<u>10</u> Very Important	<u>7</u> Important	<u>8</u> Not Very Important
<u>3</u> No Guiding Here	<u>2</u> (No Response)	

4. If there are guides in your area, how much of the money made from the industry circulates in your community?

2 100% 6 75% 3 50% 1 25% 5 Less than 25% 10 Don't Know
3 (No Response)

5. If there are outfitters or others who provide hunting services in your area, how much of the money made from the industry circulates in your community?

 100% 1 75% 50% 5 25% 12 Less than 25% 10 Don't Know
2 (No Response)

6. Are local game resources enough to meet the needs of all users, including subsistence, commercial and sport?

14 Yes 12 No 4 (No Response)

If there are conflicting uses, what species would you say are the most seriously affected?

17 Moose 4 Bear 2 Caribou 2 Sheep 2 Salmon 1 Clams

Written Comments:

* There are too many drop off hunters, makes it tough to guide clients on quality hunts for brown bear, moose, caribou - not in terms of commercial guides - there is only one guide in our district. We only take two hunters a year. Outfitters like Lake Clark Air --> Glen Alsworter are slaughtering the game. They took out over 150 "clients" last season. This season probably more. All get a caribou, about 30 moose, bears, etc. There is such a thing as overkill. Kings Flight Service (?) and Penn Air move too many hunters. -- (Lake Clark/Port Alsworth)

* Outfitting for sheep - Anchorage hunters for local moose. -- (Talkeetna)

* Guides are restricted and take care of their areas - the outfitters come and take/over harvest the resource and move on. -- (Talkeetna)

* Outfitters who over harvest. -- (Anchorage)

7. Have you seen an increase in the commercial taking of game in your area?

17 Yes 11 No 2 (No Response)

Written Comments:

* (An increase) in sport hunters in area - especially road hunters and air taxi drop offs. -- (Talkeetna)

8. Would you say that the laws and regulations covering commercial big game hunting are adequately enforced in your area?

11 Yes 17 No 2 (No Response)

Please comment here if your answer is "no:"

Written Comments:

- * Not enough FWGP officers. -- (Chugiak)
- * Not enough enforcement officers. -- (Clam Gulch)
- * One game warden can't possibly enforce laws in so big an area. -- (Skwentna)
- * Too large an area for one game warden. -- (Skwentna)
- * We need more "air time" allotted to Ed Painter, and also down the peninsula. Game violators are not fined enough, rarely given jail time. Get tough or we will loose our resource! -- (Lake Clark/Port Alsworth)
- * Not at all. It's totally out of control! Stop the cow season! Enforce and restrict subsistence hunting. Stop bear baiting. Enforce the taking of king salmon. Regulate the number and control so called guides or transportation guides. Make the people who bring people into our area take their trash and fishing line home with them. -- (Beluga River)
- * I've hunted for 20 years in an area of 16-B and never over killed. Last year I made a complaint to Fish & Game of over kill in that area of a new guide service, (Kelly Urem). Nothing was done about it and he continues to slaughter moose from horseback! -- (Willow)
- * Outfitters are killing everything accessible to locals, guides are not a problem as most work in remote areas. -- (Talkeetna)
- * Most guides fly everyday to spot game and move spike camps every day. They leave good meat for bear bait. -- (Talkeetna)
- * I do not believe that the laws pertaining to outfitting are adequately enforced anywhere in the state. -- (Talkeetna)
- * Same day airborne continues and Fish & Wildlife Protection budget and manning is insufficient to provide coverage. -- (Anchorage)

- * Not enough effort concentrated on illegal "outfitters." -- (Talkeetna)
- * Not enough law officers to enforce the size of the area. -- (Kasilof)
- * If it was, the camps would have been checked out. -- (Skwentna)
- * Area is more than present enforcement personnel can cover. -- (Soldatna)
- * The Highway & Railroad R.O.W. should be fenced and all hunting within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of roads and houses should be closed! -- (Sunshine)
- * Area too large for amount of people on patrol of area. -- (Cripple Landing)

9. Is there a problem with illegal harvest of game in your area by any of the following? (Total number of responses)

7 Guides 12 Outfitters 5 Air Taxi Services 4 Lodge Owners
2 Other 14 (None or No Response)

Please comment here if you wish:

Written Comments:

- * Outside area guides use aircraft in this area. Outfitters illegally guide hunters. -- (Skwentna)
- * A few (non-area-resident) guides use aircraft to get game. Outfitters are far and away the worst using outfitting as a means to illegal guiding. -- (Skwentna)
- * Down on the peninsula some guides hunt bear over "bait." They shoot moose and caribou - especially in the spring and take 8-10 animals. Outfitters guide moose hunting and bear. How about the Jay Massey moose call flap? You can't call game in for a hunter if you are an outfitter. -- (Lake Clark/Port Alsworth)
- * The large bulls have been depleted from Kelly Urem's area behind Mt. Susitna. -- (Willow)
- * Same day spotting game and shooting - Wasting meat - letting meat spoil by not prompt pick up of harvested game. -- (Talkeetna)
- * Any time a non-resident is dropped off to hunt moose or caribou, the probability of waste laws being violated is extremely high.
- * Residents kind of abuse their liberties a bit. -- (Talkeetna)
- * Dog owners and wild dogs. -- (Kasilof)

* Undoubtedly some in every area - all are human - the residents are notorious for wanton waste and out of season. -- (Talkeetna)

* Outfitters move in and are not regulated like the guides and do not respect game populations. Much of the activity of air taxi and outfitters is not illegal on game taking, but there are no restrictions on the number of hunters as long as the hunters can pay. Other people such as guides are totally restricted to an area and number of game. This makes an imbalance and outfitters and air taxis are without need to be diligent.

* Same day airborne. -- (Anchorage)

* Not to our knowledge! -- (Moose Pass)

* Air taxis drop off hunters and no one checks them for several days. -- (Soldatna)

10. A. Are you aware of the procedures for becoming a licensed guide?

20 Yes 5 No 5 (No Response)

B. Do you see any problems with the procedures for becoming a master guide, registered guide or assistant guide?

7 Yes 15 No 8 (No Response)

If your answer was "yes," what specific area(s) need the most improvement?

Written Comments:

* Guides should not be able to sell "their" areas. -- (Soldatna)

* They need to know more about conservation and less about making fast dollars. -- (Willow)

* You must belong to the "right church" then buy in with big money. -- (Talkeetna)

* Tustamena Lake. -- (Kasilof)

* 3 to 5 years is too long of a waiting period for guide status. Most bushmen already know the "ins and outs of guiding" and the time factor should be absolved. -- (Talkeetna)

* I have been an assistant guide for many years and will not take the guide test because it would require me to leave an area I have hunted for 15 years. There are no good guide areas available. Guide areas cost more than I can afford to buy. See report on guiding by Leg. Audit. -- (Soldatna)

- * We don't need guides. -- (Sunshine)
- * All of Unit 21. -- (Cripple Landing)

11. Do you feel that people in Alaska's rural areas have an adequate and equal opportunity to benefit financially from the state's big game hunting industry?

16 Yes 5 No 9 (No Response)

If your answer was "no," please comment on how rural Alaskans could benefit more from this industry:

Written Comments:

- * Adequate law enforcement. -- (Clam Gulch)
- * The problem is that there is a finite resource --> too many guides and unrestricted outfitters means discrimination of game and poor trophy hunting which adversely affects Alaska's reputation and quality hunts. -- (Lake Clark/Port Alsworth)
- * Too political. -- (Soldatna)
- * We're too far from Anchorage. -- (Willow)
- * Money and present guide clique should be eliminated and fees paid to all rural Alaskans through a village guide system which will employ locals not just as packers but as guides also. -- (Talkeetna)
- * Make it a bit easier by waiving some rules on becoming a Registered Guide which would hire local Class A or Assistant Guides. -- (Cripple Landing)

12. Overall, how would you rate Alaska's guiding system as it works in your area?

6 Very Good 5 Good 4 Fair 4 Poor 5 Very Bad
6 (No Response)

13. Whether or not you see problems with the current system of regulating the commercial taking of game in your area, do you think there has to be a system to control the commercial harvest of big game animals? Please explain your opinion below:

Written Comments:

- * There should be a system to control the abuse. -- (Clam Gulch)
- * Outfitters guide hunters illegally and having taken no exam or test, have no respect for "farming" game for years to come. Their respect is to the dollars they can make, then move on to greener pastures. They should have to take the same exams to prove they know the hind side of the animals.
Illegal use of aircraft to spot game goes on all day from the Skwentna runway. People go through your property, and use your boats left on lakes to get game. Outfitters don't care if they take hunters in your back yard once game is spotted from the air. No contracts need to be signed, so it is impossible for law enforcement to check up on these activities. -- (Skwentna)
- * Every lodge nearly is an outfitter, mostly in areas assigned to Registered Guides, and will use trails and campsites made and maintained by Registered Guides. In such situations there must be some control on the harvest. The game and country cannot take uncontrolled outfitters competing with controlled guides.
Aliens have been buying lodges in Unit 16-B and competing with locals. They take away many of the hunters and fishermen that would otherwise be booked by Alaskans and make no mistake about it, they are hunting illegally. Their chances of being caught, with present enforcement, are slim. Many are working with outfitters and getting away with it. -- (Skwentna)
- * Yes. As it is now some guides will take but a few animals and be good stewards of the resource (Jay Hammond for example). Some "guides" like Ron Hages, Ken Oschikuk (?), Dey (?) Thompson, and others fuck the system up. It is unfortunate in a way for those who want to get into the guide business but there is only so much game to go around. Game populations are not as high as the ADF&G touts them. One big Problem: Too many ADF&G bureaucrats. Not enough in the field. Mulchatna Caribou Herd population is overstated by 25,000. Moose are down in many areas.
We still operate on some of the old rules but drop off hunts will hurt us all in the near future. -- (Lake Clark/Port Alsworth)
- * Take special interest groups and politics out of game management. Alaska has the potential and resources to have the best management and control of fish and game resources in the world! But it is sad to say they don't do it. - (Beluga River)
- * Yes there should be a system of control. Assistant and Registered Guides should be Alaska residents and familiar with hunting areas. -- (Soldatna)
- * I would like to see all trophy guiding stopped for moose because it is our main food source. The non-residents only care about horns.
P.S. There are a few good guides, but the ones like Kelly Urem should loose their licenses because they far outnumber the good ones. -- (Willow)
- * As I have no knowledge of the guiding profession, and do not use their services or anticipate using the services of a guide, I feel that I am not qualified to comment on the subject. -- (Houston)

- * Yes. Outfitters operate without restriction and are really working as guides.
-- (Talkeetna)
- * Yes, a system of control is a must. Greed and lust of money by guides. Lax enforcement of law's since enforcement officers look for the big bust and let the little one's slide. -- (Talkeetna)
- * Yes, the current system if adhered to by all involved would adequately protect the game resources. Without this type of system the resource would quickly be reduced to the level that would preclude any hunting by non-residents, and that would effectively end the industry. -- (Talkeetna)
- * Yes - prevent greedy guides or outfitters from abusing their game populations by setting quotas. I know it's costly and is difficult to enforce but it's the only viable solution I can see. -- (Talkeetna)
- * Imposed quota in NS of game taken by each pro. -- (Kasilof)
- * Basically I'm only familiar with fishing information and I don't sell game tags or converse with many guides. -- (Ninilchik)
- * Yes there has to be a control harvest between guides and Game & Fish Dept.
-- (Talkeetna)
- * Yes - the restricted area concept did wonders to protect the game populations - allowing illegal guiding, "outfitting," is a disaster. I've no problem at all with their providing equipment and camps for hire, but they can not be allowed to put people in the field who work the gray area and act as guides. -- (Talkeetna)
- * Air taxis who drop off sport hunters have no regulation. This is really increasing in our area. The guiding system as such seems to be maintained and contained, however, the outfits who have no regulation can endanger the species in the area they choose to decimate. -- (Talkeetna)
- * Absolutely there must be a system otherwise the resource suffers from over harvest and the resource should be the prime concern. -- (Anchorage)
- * Outfitters must be regulated. Outfitters must be a guide. -- (Anchorage)
- * Yes. Otherwise the game would be over hunted. -- (Moose Pass)
- * Stop the lodges and outfitters from operating without a registered guide.
-- (Skwentna)
- * At this time there is no problem, although if the pressure increases in the future, then there will have to be a better system. -- (Alexander Creek)
- * Guides do not own the property, but they sure think they do by running off the other hunters. They at least try. -- (Sunshine)
- * My opinion - Any commercial taking of any type of wildlife will eventually lead to depletion. -- (Cripple Landing)

Additional Comments or Letters:

* Dear Ms. Cassidy,

I have answered the questionnaire as accurately as I could, but would like to clarify a few points.

I live in Talkeetna, but because of the nature of the industry, I do most of my guiding elsewhere, mainly at Kodiak and on the Alaska Peninsula. So my opinions are based on what I see here at home and also in the field around the state.

I am a registered guide. I received my registered license this spring. At this time, I work for another registered guide while looking for an area that someone is wanting to transfer.

I believe in the system that we have now. I have been working toward running my own guiding business for about five years and have another two years to go before I can have an area transferred into my name. That is a long time and a lot of red tape; but without these restraints, the industry and the resource would have been gone a long time ago.

Some of the questions I could not answer fairly without an explanation started with No. 6.

No. 6 - Is the resource enough to meet the needs of all users -- subsistence, commercial and sport?

In most areas the hunting done by guides is done far enough away from villages or towns that the game used by subsistence users is not affected. That is the case here in Talkeetna and in the areas of Kodiak and the Peninsula with which I am familiar. The same is true to a lesser extent with sport hunting in the farther remote areas; however, the competition for the game in areas used for guiding here in Talkeetna is fairly steep.

The question of "enough resources" takes a different turn when you introduce the outfitter into the area. As I am sure you know, the guide is limited to a specific area to do his business and, therefore, is very aware of the effects of over harvesting and given species.

The outfitter or transporter in many cases, operates where he feels he can do the most business profitably with the highest rate of success. Once the area has been affected by over harvesting, the outfitter moves on to a new area. This is the exact type of operation that some guides were running that brought about the laws we now have.

So to answer the question, if "commercial" means only guided hunts or legitimate air taxi drops of resident sport hunters, I would say, yes, local game resources can meet the needs of all users.

But if "commercial" includes outfitters, I would have to say that the potential is there for the resource to fall short of the demand.

No. 7 - Have I seen an increase in commercial taking of game in my area recently?

I can only answer this question as it pertains to my experience where I have been guiding.

This year I was to take one moose hunter into the small exclusive use area that belongs to the registered guide I work with most. We consider it to be a one to three moose area per year. I saw four moose killed by nonresident hunters in this area. Three were taken from one camp and the fourth was killed by a bow hunter dropped off by an outfitter. (We found it floating in the lake spoiled.) Our hunter did not take a moose. Five would have been too many for one year. Upon return to King Salmon, I informed the Fish & Wildlife protection officer about the lost moose and also about the three to four hundred pounds of meat that the non-resident hunters had for three mature bulls. He told me he knew of eighteen more moose that had been taken in and around our area! Most of these were taken by twenty-two moose hunters who had been dropped off by an "outfitter." This area has only a ten-day season and is not considered to have a very large moose population. This outfitter is not the only one operating in the area and was not in the area as little as four years ago.

No. 8 - Adequately enforced laws?

I do not see how. During a nine-day hunt from an established, marked camp, we saw no Fish & Game people and had no visits this fall.

When I asked at the office in King Salmon why he had not been out checking drop-off camps in our area, the response was. "... I have no help. I can't get out of the office."

The laws we have on the books pertaining to guides and their activity are not much good if the State refuses to give the Fish & Game Department adequate funding. I do not have personal knowledge of registered or master guides in my area breaking the laws, but guides have been involved in illegal activities in the past and until these types of people are removed from the industry, they will continue to add to our problems.

No. 9 - Problem with illegal harvest?

I marked outfitters because I believe what they are doing is basically illegal given what they must do to insure successful hunts and return customers. Air taxi services on the other hand are generally good as far as the laws go. But is an air taxi operator breaking the law when he flies out a hunter and his horns and very little meat, if any, and doesn't report it? I believe he is.

No. 11 - Rural Alaskans' ability to participate?

I can't see any reason why a rural Alaskan can not join the ranks of registered or master guides in the same way as a non-rural Alaskan. In fact, a large number of people in the guiding industry are rural Alaskans.

One area that I believe registered and master guides could improve is in hiring more assistant guides and packers from the towns and villages close to where they do their guiding.

I realize one can't always find qualified or even interested people in some of these places, but an honest effort should be made.

No. 13 - Do we need a system to control commercial harvest of big game animals?

Absolutely! Now more than ever. With no control over commercial harvest, the pressure put on the game by outfitters, would-be guides, and "anybody with a Super Cub" would quickly reduce our resources to the point where the State would be forced to shut out harvest by non-residents and possibly resident sport hunting leaving only subsistence use.

Good hunting opportunities around the world are becoming more and more scarce. This in turn makes our resource more valuable creating the increase in the last few years in outfitter activity. If our guiding laws were done away with and the doors thrown open to any operator, we would be effectively creating a "wholesale" market, destroying our game resources and the 20 million dollar a year industry along with it.

Just looking at it from an economic point of view, why should the State sell (through an outfitter) a moose to a non-resident hunter for \$1,000 when that same moose taken by a guide would bring in between \$4,000 and \$7,000. While the guide takes far less game to make his living, he also employs assistant guides and packers, hopefully from rural communities.

I would like to think that "outfitters" have a legitimate place in the industry, but I am not sure I can. If you look at it, what exactly are they, gear rental? Maybe. Air taxi operators? Not normally. Let's face it. They are people who have looked at the extensive amounts of rules and regulations that the State has put out to protect our game and said, "I'm not willing to work that hard." And they found a way around it. They looked at the FAA regulations pertaining to commercial carriers and said, "Too much work, too expensive."

At this point in my experience with our guiding system, I can only think of a few recommendations that I would make:

1. I think the area use permits are no different than commercial fishing permits and it should be legal to sell not only the camps and improvements on inholdings in the specified area, but the area use permit itself.
2. Moose definitely and caribou possibly should be put on the same list as sheep and brown bear. Non-residents should be required to hire a registered guide or hunt with a resident relative. This would reduce the conflict between the guides and outfitters considerably. But mainly, it would reduce the increasing pressure on the game resource.

3. A guide should not be allowed to combine his areas into one, even if they do have common boundaries. This practice effectively reduced the total number of areas available and makes it even tougher on new guides trying to acquire one.

I guess the bottom line is that we can't have an industry based on a limited resource without having some way of limiting the participation. The present system has worked very well in controlling the commercial pressure on our sheep and brown bear populations. I believe it is time to give the same type of protection to our other big game. The sooner we do this the sooner the economic impact on some of the other commercial users can be dealt with.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in this important issue.

Sincerely, -- (Talkeetna)

* Dear Vernita:

Thank you for taking the time to survey people concerned with our big game resource. I have been involved with this conflict from its beginning, and would like to share a few thoughts with you.

1. This is not a resource problem, but instead a financial one. Guides know that outfitters are not the real problem with large scale harvest of game. Air taxis take many more hunters, with no responsibility for their actions in the field. One air taxi in our area hauled more than 600 hunters this fall .. (their count, not mine). I had ten! Guides know that those who would go with an air taxi for a drop-off hunt would never hire a guide. However, those who go with an outfitter, for the extra service provided might select a guide if outfitters were not available.

2. Guides also know they could not, in all probability, eliminate air taxis, as they have a great deal of political power in this State.

3. Those legitimately providing services as outfitters, provide desirable services between those of a guide and those offered by "drop-off" air taxi hunts, to both in-state and out-of-state hunters, while offering an excellent opportunity to provide income to Alaskans.

Sincerely, -- (Soldatna)

DOYON REGION

38 Responses received from Alatna, Allakaket, Beaver, Bettles, Birch Creek, Chalkyitsik, Circle, Eagle, Ester, Fairbanks, Fort Yukon, Galena, Grayling, Healy, Holy Cross, Hughes, Huslia, Kaltag, Koyukuk, Lake Minchumina, Manley Hot Springs, McGrath, Nenana, Northway, Nulato, Ruby, Salcha, Shageluk, Tok, and Wiseman.

1. Do you participate in any of the following areas of the commercial big game hunting industry? (Total number of responses checked)

<u> </u> Master Guide	<u> 6 </u> Lodge Owner
<u> 7 </u> Registered Guide	<u> </u> Lodge Worker
<u> </u> Class-A Assistant Guide	<u> 4 </u> Air Transportation
<u> </u> Assistant Guide	<u> 4 </u> Water Transportation
<u> 4 </u> Outfitter	<u> 1 </u> Land Transportation

Other:

 1 Store - Liquor, Gas & Groceries
 1 License Vendor and Hunter Supplies
 1 Registered Guide who quit out of disgust for what has happened to the industry and the game

2. How many of the following would you say operate in your area? (The numbers here represent the upper and lower limits in the range of responses.)

<u> 0-15 </u> Master/Registered/Assistant Guides	<u> 1-10 </u> Outfitters
<u> 0-10 </u> Transportation Services for Guides	<u> 1-6 </u> Lodges
Other:	<u> 0-3 </u> Sporting Goods Sales

 2 Unlicensed Illegals
 1 "Outsiders"

3. How important is commercial big game hunting to the local economy?

<u> 2 </u> Very Important	<u> 11 </u> Important	<u> 13 </u> Not Very Important
<u> 12 </u> No Guiding Here	<u> </u> (No Response)	

Written Comments:

* No guiding here but guides from all over use our runway etc. and cabins in the area. -- (Shageluk)

4. If there are guides in your area, how much of the money made from the industry circulates in your community?

 100% 3 75% 2 50% 3 25% 14 Less than 25% 12 Don't Know
 4 (No Response)

5. If there are outfitters or others who provide hunting services in your area, how much of the money made from the industry circulates in your community?

 100% 75% 3 50% 3 25% 15 Less than 25% 14 Don't Know
 3 (No Response)

6. Are local game resources enough to meet the needs of all users, including subsistence, commercial and sport?

 19 Yes 17 No 2 (No Response)

If there are conflicting uses, what species would you say are the most seriously affected?

 19 Moose 3 Caribou 3 Bear 3 Sheep 1 Subsistence

Written Comments:

* Yes, but we need to watch caribou closely. -- (Tok)

* Only moose (caribou, sheep, and grizzly would be no problem), but at present laws prohibit non residents moose hunting. This is good. -- (Eagle)

* Moose are taking a beating along the Dalton Highway with many "outfitters" over hunting areas near their operations. Black bear and caribou are also affected. -- (Wiseman)

* This is a bum question! Local or subsistence users are looking for a legal animal - The guides need trophy sized animals to have a viable business. -- (Ester)

* Commercial / sport hunting does interfere with subsistence use. -- (Shageluk)

* "Outfitters" who saturate the area (GMU 13-B) with hunters and virtually vacuum the real estate. -- (Ester)

7. Have you seen an increase in the commercial taking of game in your area?

20 Yes 17 No 1 (No Response)

Written Comments:

* No but a lot more people are subsistence hunting for themselves from different areas. -- (Huslia)

* Moose would be the most important, however there are no conflicting uses at this time. -- (Chalkyitsik)

* A little more caribou. -- (Eagle)

* By an illegal outfitter acting as a guide. -- (Lake Minchumina)

8. Would you say that the laws and regulations covering commercial big game hunting are adequately enforced in your area?

18 Yes 17 No 3 (No Response)

Please comment here if your answer is "no:"

Written Comments:

* Too much meat is left to spoil. They only hunt mostly for horns. The outfitters out of Bettles should be regulated. They hunt in any area. -- (Allakaket)

* There are several very illegal operations presently going in this area. -- (Salcha)

* Unfortunately F&W Protection has few too many men to effectively monitor the commercial taking of game in Alaska. -- (Northway)

* Airplanes are the biggest problem here. Too many airplanes are being used as spotters and moose are being taken that way. Local people have seen this done. Complaints are made but the aircraft numbers are either covered with dirt or too small to read. -- (Grayling)

* Fish & Game are flying around. I assume it must be them. -- (Huslia)

* Not enough enforcement personnel in the field - insufficient funding. -- (McGrath)

- * Too many white hunters coming in and taking too many moose, while wanton waste is out of control. I've recently seen moose with only the horns and maybe one leg salvaged. There's got to be a stop to this practice. -- (Koyukuk)
- * Haven't seen the game warden once during this season. -- (Bettles)
- * Most likely satisfactory, however, always room for improvement. No local big game guides or outfitters locally. All out of Fort Yukon, Fairbanks, or other areas. -- (Chalkyitsik)
- * Have not seen a Fish & Game officer here during hunting season in 5 years. -- (Healy)
- * Most people in this area live on subsistence year round. -- (Kaltag)
- * Most "outfitters" are in fact accompanying their clients in the field and guiding them to game. Enforcement has very little chance of catching this type of illegal guiding as the outfitter and hunter must be seen together at the time of the kill. Outfitters from out of state are completely hunting out areas and then moving on to "greener pastures" as they have no incentive to farm an area as a registered guide would in an assigned area where the health of the game herd relates to next year's harvest. -- (Wiseman)
- * Too political. -- (Holy Cross)
- * In a remote location with a relatively low density of hunters, the enforcement personnel can not possible spend much time where it counts, "in the field." -- (Ester)
- * Should be a draw hunt for outsiders. -- (Shageluk)
- * The area that I operate in is in Unit 23 and 24 primarily. It is a very large area and there are simply not enough Fish & Wildlife officers to cover it. I believe that there is one part-time (officer) in Bettles. One man can't cover an area this large adequately. -- (Bettles)
- * The game officer in our area has too much time taken up by trooper duties. -- (Lake Minchumina)

9. Is there a problem with illegal harvest of game in your area by any of the following? (Total number of responses)

3 Guides 5 Outfitters 8 Air Taxi Services 1 Lodge Owners
9 Other 21 (None or No Response)

Please comment here if you wish:

Written Comments:

- * Outfitters especially should be regulated and go by game guide rules. -- (Allakaket)
- * Over use by some air taxi operators. Military personnel from Eielson operating out of Flying Club illegally. (Phone 488-0496 for info). -- (Salcha)
- * Not a large problem yet, but needs to take corrective action now to prevent further abuse. -- (Northway)
- * Problem with caribou in Forty Mile area taken by residents from outside their area. -- (Tok)
- * Not to my personal knowledge. -- (Nenana)
- * The two air taxi services and myself with the pack horses are afraid to lose what we have if we did something illegal. That is enough deterrent. -- (Eagle)
- * Not usually, occasionally resident hunters from other areas. -- (Bettles Field)
- * A few outfitters were cited by the game warden from Coldfoot for wanton waste, improper method of take, etc. -- (Wiseman)
- * Substantial "illegal" harvest by local residents, but I would not say it is a problem. All meat taken is used for subsistence. -- (Circle/Fort Yukon)
- * Because 13-B has a minimum antler spread, some parties leave smaller animals. -- (Ester)
- * Just this season a non-local with a cabin here has started outfitting and guiding. -- (Lake Minchumina)

10. A. Are you aware of the procedures for becoming a licensed guide?

18 Yes 16 No 4 (No Response)

B. Do you see any problems with the procedures for becoming a master guide, registered guide or assistant guide?

13 Yes 17 No 8 (No Response)

If your answer was "yes," what specific area(s) need the most improvement?

Written Comments:

- * We are opposed to guides, outfitters, air taxi services, hunting by plane. -- (Allakaket)

- * There are too many for the few productive areas. Too much pressure on too little game. -- (Salcha)
- * No guides in the Bush. Native people already know how to take care of game and are already bush wise in hunting due to its part of their life. -- (Grayling)
- * Too easy to fudge on requirements of assistant to registered guide. -- (McGrath)
- * More effort is going to have to be made to get local residents in the hunting and guiding business. -- (Koyukuk)
- * Like to see local rural people able to get a registered guide license for their local area. -- (Bettles)
- * Education in passing written and oral exams. -- (Chalkyitsik)
- * I'm not a licensed guide. -- (Nenana)
- * No active guides to work for, but I feel I'm just as qualified to guide as they but I can't. I've trapped and hunted in this area for over 17 years. -- (Eagle)
- * Licensing procedure. -- (Healy)
- * Qualifications for becoming a registered guide should take into account a rural person's hunting experience in the area applied for. This should have as much weight as three years as an assistant guide and a guide's recommendation. Some rural people know more about hunting than a lot of guides. -- (Wiseman)
- * The Guide Board needs more time and funds to deal with all issues before it. -- (Circle/Fort Yukon)
- * We do not have the procedures for becoming a master guide at all. -- (Hughes)
- * Send info on becoming guides. -- (Shageluk)
- * I think that the oral exam procedures could use some restructuring. As it is now, there is too much potential for varying degrees in the difficulty of the questions and in the scoring, depending upon who is giving the exam. -- (Bettles)
- * The current system was set up to ensure that guides are properly trained and prepared. It works. -- (Lake Minchumina)

11. Do you feel that people in Alaska's rural areas have an adequate and equal opportunity to benefit financially from the state's big game hunting industry?

12 Yes 18 No 8 (No Response)

If your answer was "no," please comment on how rural Alaskans could benefit more from this industry:

Written Comments:

- * No hunting allowed - We'll have more meat to subsist on. -- (Allakaket)
- * Question local people on whether or not the area could use a few guides and use local people. -- (Grayling)
- * More effort, advice, funding, etc. is required to get local residents involved. -- (Koyukuk)
- * 1) Education - show how much a trophy fish or animal brings to the State.
2) Allow local rural people the opportunity to get provisional guide licenses. -- (Bettles)
- * Due to lack of local initiative. I'm not sure there is a way. -- (Nenana)
- * All tied up. -- (Chalkyitsik)
- * Most guides and outfitters don't live in the rural areas - mostly Anchorage and Fairbanks. -- (Eagle)
- * The present system requires a guide to become a professional meeting goer to participate in the industry. -- (Ruby)
- * As stated before, the Guide Board should be compelled to allow rural hunting experience as a qualification for a guiding license. The current structure makes it very hard for rural people to become acquainted with and work for guides to meet the three year assistant guide qualification. -- (Wiseman)
- * Just apply for jobs and be willing to work in what is really a personal service industry. All people in by operation are rural residents. -- (Circle/Fort Yukon)
- * Can't compete with commercial hunting or airplane hunting. -- (Holy Cross)
- * The average citizen in urban Alaska does not financially benefit much either. The real benefit is in employment opportunity and land leasing. -- (Ester)
- * By becoming more involved with rural communities and hiring rural residents to assist guides, etc. -- (Birch Creek)
- * They come out here, take out game, never purchase fuel, food, or other merchandise, never offer their professional services, i.e. We get lots of Dr.'s hunting, they don't put up clinics. Too many Non-Natives guiding. -- (Shageluk)

* The use of exclusive guide areas by guides locks up huge areas of the state for the sole commercial benefit of the one man who has the commercial hunting rights to it. This aspect of the guiding industry should be changed. -- (Bettles)

* If everyone who was jealous of the guides could be one, there wouldn't be any game left. -- (Lake Minchumina)

12. Overall, how would you rate Alaska's guiding system as it works in your area?

1 Very Good 8 Good 9 Fair 4 Poor 5 Very Bad

11 (No Response)

13. Whether or not you see problems with the current system of regulating the commercial taking of game in your area, do you think there has to be a system to control the commercial harvest of big game animals? Please explain your opinion below:

Written Comments:

* Yes. There should be no trophy hunters in this area. We need all the moose, caribou, bear for subsistence. -- (Allakaket)

* Yes because some areas are restricted too much as a direct result of guides wanting it for themselves. Very unfair to sport hunters. -- (Nenana/Healy)

* Air taxi operators should not be allowed to "load up" an area with more people than it can take. There must be limits set on the number of animals guides can take according to the resource. -- (Salcha)

* I believe the outfitter needs to be required to become a guide and work under the same rules and regulations that all guides are required to adhere to. -- (Northway)

* In my opinion, if outside hunters could spend thousands of dollars while local people have to scrounge for gas and equipment, the people who have the need for food the most should have the first chance when game is scarce. If you could only afford 1 or 2 hunting trips and not get any luck then you are in trouble. -- (Grayling)

* We could have a problem in the future with the air taxi operators and from hunters with their own transportation from outside our local area. Need close watching to prevent over harvesting of caribou in 40 Mile country. -- (Tok)

* Commercial harvest of big game would have a drastic effect on the Koyukuk River. They might wipe out our country for all the big game. -- (Huslia)

* Yes. It is possible to (hunt) the game out of existence. The game is a subsistence food to the people of Huslia/Hughes/Alatna/Allakaket. To maintain a reasonable lifestyle, there must be a reasonable amount of game. -- (Huslia/Hughes/Alatna/Allakaket)

* Absolutely - the air taxis and "outfitters" drop off hunts should be more strictly regulated or eliminated. -- (McGrath)

* Yes, or no control, no sustained yield for future. -- (Galena)

* There has to be a better system, with more local residents taking part because with the present system there is too much waste of good meat, and on the other hand there are a lot of local residents that need meat. -- (Koyukuk)

* Yes. There has to be control or else people would shoot cows and calves at all times and pretty soon there wouldn't be any left. -- (Circle)

* Yes, there has to be a system of commercial taking of game. Should be a much longer subsistence season for rural locals. -- (Bettles)

* Due to the increased "Alaskan" population I have a problem with "trophy hunts" in any area other than those in remote districts; meat harvest should be the prime consideration for any hunter.

Although it has nothing to do with this survey, I also have a problem with the policy that forces subsistence fishermen to dispose of their roe in the dump. I realize that there are abuses but a natural resource such as that should not be wasted. If it can't be sold then it should be returned to the river! -- (Nenana)

* All commercial harvest of big game animals should be controlled very strictly in all areas of Alaska. Commercial hunting should be outfitted and guided by local people within their own local hunting areas where they reside year around, not by "outsiders" coming in and leaving after the hunt. -- (Chalkyitsik)

* Yes. -- (Nenana)

* Yes there has to be or some outlaw guides and transporters would wipe out the game in a short time. I'd say the control they have now is good. -- (Eagle)

* As in commercial utilization of a resource there should be parameters to guide the industry and to provide accountability to consumers in a service industry. -- (Ruby)

* If there is no regulation on the commercial taking of game, there would be a free for all with many people calling themselves guides with no experience and not being responsible for their actions. -- (Bettles Field)

* My opinion is that people in this area subsist year round, and if someone from outside this area comes in and harvests big game commercially, I think I will not like it. -- (Kaltag)

* Yes there must be a control of commercial harvest of big game. I have seen in the last few seasons a basically unchecked commercial harvest in some areas by outfitters. The problems become worse every year with the volume of take that's being placed on the game, especially moose. There are going to be, and even now are, major conflicts between unregulated outfitters, guides and subsistence hunters. The losers of this conflict will be the game first and the local rural users will have to suffer out lean times while the herds rebuild. The outfitters too will have lean times if unchecked, as most of the ones I've seen are very short-sighted. Thank you for your enquiry. -- (Wiseman)

* I see potential problems as increasing numbers of non-residents want to hunt on cheap unguided hunts, if such hunts are continued in the future. I think Alaska's animals are too valuable a resource for that. I would not object to local residents being able to let a non-resident hunt with them and take a moose on their license, paying them for the hunt and letting the local person keep the meat. Perhaps a "trophy tag" system could be in place so that non-residents could only hunt trophy animals and would have to leave the meat with local communities. I think it is wrong for people from the Lower 48 to come here to hunt meat animals only, and not contribute to the economy. -- (Circle/Fort Yukon)

* Ban Airplane Hunting! -- (Holy Cross)

* We do not have a guiding system in our area. -- (Hughes)

* Yes so big game hunting will not be abused by trophy hunters. -- (Eagle)

* Yes - due to many people hunting in the area - a control is needed on guides as well as private hunters. -- (Healy)

* Yes. The fact that there is a separate category of commercial users called outfitters is a joke. The terms guide and outfitter are synonymous worldwide except for in Alaska. -- (Ester)

* Yes, animal type, location taken, size, etc. need to be related to the animal population and the overall health of that population. Subsistence needs must be kept a priority! -- (Birch Creek)

* Yes - more input from local Natives on Fish & Game management. Not only input but controls. -- (Shageluk)

* Personally, I don't see the need for regulating the commercial harvest of game as anything different from the non-commercial harvest of game. As long as the resource is not depleted and the game populations are managed by the state, and hunting regulations are being complied with, I think that the State should keep their hands off. I think that the present guide system of exclusive areas, etc., was hatched up by a handful of guides who wanted to tie the state up for their own use without having to worry about competition and the State of Alaska bought the idea. I am for de-regulation on the guiding industry. -- (Bettles)

* Absolutely. The current system was set up to ensure qualified guides. The problems I hear about and see are due to inadequate enforcement of existing laws, which are good ones. The people who now claim to be "outfitters" should either be licensed as guides through the existing system, or get air taxi licenses. Right now they are completely unregulated, and are operating only thanks to a legal loophole. They are taking game in areas legally licensed to guides without regard to "keeping some for seed." That's not fair to the licensed guides who are operating according to statute. -- (Lake Minchumina)

Additional Comments or Letters:

* Vernita,

Enclosed is the survey you sent. I appreciate the opportunity to help find a solution to the current controversy over the commercial harvesting of game in Alaska. I am also writing a few comments that I hope will be forwarded to the Task Force.

I am a Registered Guide, however at this time I am not active. Presently I work for the Federal Aviation Administration. My ambitions are to get a guide area and get into the guiding industry so I am very interested in the recommendations the Task Force may come up with.

With the signing into law of Senate Bill 191 by Governor Cowper, a step in the right direction was taken to regulate the commercial taking of game by all users. In one instance I believe the bill went too far. I'm referring to the requirement that in order for guides to fly their clients in their own aircraft, they must be part 135 or air taxi certified. The nature of hunting in Alaska requires the use of aircraft for transportation, however it seems unfair to require a guide to be an air taxi when in fact it is just incidental to the main business of guiding. Federal aviation regulations part 61 do permit a private pilot to fly passengers as long as it is incidental to his business. I fully agree that the client needs some protection, but I think to require a guide to either get air taxi certified or use an air taxi for his clients is not a practical or fair solution. Perhaps there should be a minimum amount of hour flying time in type of aircraft before flying clients, 100 hr inspections of aircraft, having guides restricted to flying clients only to or within their own areas, or requiring guides to have insurance for the part of the year they will be flying clients. I feel these requirements would help protect the client without putting the burden on the guide to become a full fledged air taxi operator.

Another issue the Task Force needs to look at is the taking of game by outfitters. This has been an ever increasing problem and we need to incorporate the outfitter into the present guide system. A guide goes through a very long process to become registered and when he finally does get an area, he is restricted to that area. An outfitter can go anywhere in Alaska and take as much game as possible without any regulation at all. This not only undermines the quality of hunting in Alaska, but also has an adverse effect on the game resources. I would like to see outfitters be required to undergo the same process as guides and also be required to have an area in which to operate in.

As for the issue of guide areas, the concept of the guide area is a good idea, however, the method of transfer from one guide to another is not. I would like to see guide areas set up like the limited entry fish permits. If a guide takes good care of an area, I feel he should be able to sell the area without it going back to the Guide Board. I feel this would result in better conservation of the resource and would in fact make more guide areas available to new guides coming up through the ranks. Right now there is nothing to prevent a guide from over harvesting his area before letting his area go back to the Board.

I hope these comments will be heard by the Task Force. Thank you for your time. We will be following the recommendations the Task Force makes very closely. If you have any questions, feel free to call.

Sincerely, -- (Northway)

* Dear Vernita Cassidy,

There is a general resentment in our communities that the State of Alaska allows licensed guiding in the hunting range of indigenous persons. There is also a cultural reluctance to harvest game, which the local people view as subsistence foods, for sporting purposes. Trophy hunting is held in low esteem by many in the communities.

It's widely believed that many guides spend the off seasons in the urban centers of Alaska and outside of Alaska. We would like to see the State encouraging the licensing of guides in rural areas. Unemployment is predominate in the rural villages and commercial hunting might be a solution to this problem. There are, of course, many cultural and economic problems associated with this concept. However, the solution certainly does not lie in having guides from outside the area conduct commercial hunts for the sake of trophies. If there is to be commercial hunting, the corporation would like to see village residents do the guiding.

The guiding services north of Allakaket are the largest in our region. They offer some jobs to the people of Allakaket. If their industry does increase, they will begin to intrude on the hunting area of the Allakaket and Alatna people. Growth of this industry, in general, will drive the guides into regions hunted by the villages.

It has been the Alaskan experience that guides are not a self-regulating business. Under the current system, if they deplete one area they have only to move their base of operations. Their customers cannot be responsible. This leaves only a very expensive task for the government of Alaska. If guides were native to the area hunted, they would have a greater vested interest in keeping the game flourishing. They would be less flexible to move and would have the local pressure to not over hunt subsistence areas.

It has been my experience that rural people say that they do understand guiding. They generally seem to mean they understand the skill of tracking, stalking and dressing the game. They do not seem to understand the regulations and qualifications necessary to be a master, registered or assistant guide.

It is difficult to evaluate a system (the guiding system) which is one in conflict with an ancient way of life and also offers a potential source of income to the village. At this time I doubt that the villages of Allakaket, Alatna, Hughes and Huslia receive any benefit from the guiding system.

Lastly, I have filled out three questionnaires. K'oyitl'ots'ina, Limited is owned by residents of Huslia, Hughes and Allakaket/Alatna and operates in all three villages. My office is located in Fairbanks and I may be contacted at the address and phone number listed on the first page. I have done my best to reflect the views of the members of the corporation as they have been communicated to me.

Sincerely, -- (Fairbanks) ...
for Huslia/Hughes/Alatna/Allakaket

* Dear Ms. Cassidy - The questionnaire is very leading. The problem is regulating commercial users, not pitting urban against rural. The guide laws work only for those who have gone through the training, learning and licensing process. -- (Ester)

KONIAG REGION

9 Responses received from Afognak Island, Kodiak, Ouzinkie, and Port Lions.

1. Do you participate in any of the following areas of the commercial big game hunting industry? (Total number of responses checked)

<u> </u> Master Guide	<u> 2 </u> Lodge Owner
<u> </u> Registered Guide	<u> </u> Lodge Worker
<u> </u> Class-A Assistant Guide	<u> 2 </u> Air Transportation
<u> </u> Assistant Guide	<u> 3 </u> Water Transportation
<u> 3 </u> Outfitter	<u> </u> Land Transportation

Other:

 1 Rental Cabins/Land Owner
 1 Store Owner

2. How many of the following would you say operate in your area? (The numbers here represent the upper and lower limits in the range of responses.)

<u> 1-40 </u> Master/Registered/Assistant Guides	<u> 1-24 </u> Outfitters
<u> 2-8 </u> Transportation Services for Guides	<u> 1-6 </u> Lodges
<u> 1 </u> Other: Charter Boats	<u> 1-3 </u> Sporting Goods Sales

3. How important is commercial big game hunting to the local economy?

<u> 4 </u> Very Important	<u> 2 </u> Important	<u> </u> Not Very Important
<u> 3 </u> No Guiding Here	<u> </u> (No Response)	

4. If there are guides in your area, how much of the money made from the industry circulates in your community?

 100% 75% 1 50% 1 25% 3 Less than 25% 3 Don't Know
 1 (No Response)

5. If there are outfitters or others who provide hunting services in your area, how much of the money made from the industry circulates in your community?

 100% 2 75% 50% 3 25% 1 Less than 25% 3 Don't Know

 (No Response)

6. Are local game resources enough to meet the needs of all users, including subsistence, commercial and sport?

5 Yes 4 No (No Response)

If there are conflicting uses, what species would you say are the most seriously affected?

3 Deer 1 Elk 1 Brown Bear

7. Have you seen an increase in the commercial taking of game in your area?

6 Yes 3 No (No Response)

8. Would you say that the laws and regulations covering commercial big game hunting are adequately enforced in your area?

3 Yes 3 No 3 (No Response)

Please comment here if your answer is "no:"

Written Comments:

* Very poor enforcement of all guides, lodge owners and air transporters. -- (Kodiak)

* Could use more enforcement personnel. -- (Kodiak)

* Fish & Wildlife needs more manpower and funding -- good effort shown for their current funding. -- (Kodiak)

* With regard to the sport fishing for salmon on the Buskin River, it is obvious, blatant disregard for the law that a certain group of Philipinos and other fishermen, most of which are not U.S. citizens, openly demonstrate in snagging, double limits or sometimes endless trips from the river to town and back for more. Because of the numbers (in the group), they intimidate other fishermen and even the lawmen when they do show up. We feel something needs to be done regarding this. -- (Kodiak)

* Protection has been called for by Port Lions residents on violations with no response. -- (Port Lions)

9. Is there a problem with illegal harvest of game in your area by any of the following? (Total number of responses)

3 Guides 2 Outfitters 2 Air Taxi Services 1 Lodge Owners
3 Other 4 (None or No Response)

Please comment here if you wish:

Written Comments:

* Out of state hunters. -- (Kodiak)

* Lots of dollars involved and pressure to produce game for clients. -- (Kodiak)

* Hunters from the mainland who camp in the Port Lions area illegally. -- (Port Lions)

10. A. Are you aware of the procedures for becoming a licensed guide?

4 Yes 4 No 1 (No Response)

B. Do you see any problems with the procedures for becoming a master guide, registered guide or assistant guide?

3 Yes 2 No 4 (No Response)

If your answer was "yes," what specific area(s) need the most improvement?

Written Comments:

* Requirement for letters of recommendation may contribute to tendency to ignore illegal or unethical practices by guides they work for. -- (Kodiak)

* Make testing for guides tests more readily available to different communities. -- (Kodiak)

* It is a monopoly controlled by very few people. The skills required to guide are not that difficult. -- (Kodiak)

11. Do you feel that people in Alaska's rural areas have an adequate and equal opportunity to benefit financially from the state's big game hunting industry?

2 Yes 5 No 2 (No Response)

If your answer was "no," please comment on how rural Alaskans could benefit more from this industry:

Written Comments:

- * Roads. -- (Kodiak)
- * We are interested in the fair and practical future development of recreational opportunities for Native and non-Native business interests and all levels of users. We do not yet have a comprehensive plan on how to accomplish this. -- (Afognak Island/Port Lions/Kodiak)
- * Make permits and publications and meetings more available to people outside Anchorage. -- (Kodiak)
- * Most guides in our area do not live here and so the income produced does not remain here.
- * Let people from remote villages become guides. -- (Port Lions)

12. Overall, how would you rate Alaska's guiding system as it works in your area?

 Very Good 2 Good 3 Fair Poor Very Bad
4 (No Response)

13. Whether or not you see problems with the current system of regulating the commercial taking of game in your area, do you think there has to be a system to control the commercial harvest of big game animals? Please explain your opinion below:

Written Comments:

- * Too much money for too few who have too much power. -- (Kodiak)
- * Yes. We do not want to see Native business interests precluded. We do not want to exclude non-Native interests. -- (Afognak Island/Port Lions/Kodiak)
- * We've seen the depletion of sea mammals and fish. It could also happen to big game animals. -- (Ouzinkie)

* Yes -- Too much potential revenue involved to let it self-regulate. Animal resources would suffer tremendously if unregulated. -- (Kodiak)

* Yes. Control over amounts of big game taken in one specific area by one particular operation (Quest Charters). They take too many animals out of a given area. They have no regard for the habitat. They don't live here and it appears that the main concern of theirs is the total numbers of kills. -- (Kodiak)

* There is also a system and on Kodiak it works fairly well. I understand there are enforcement problems in other areas but the laws on the books are adequate. -- (Kodiak)

* We need better management in Kodiak that will listen and work with people in the villages on Kodiak Island. -- (Port Lions)

* Local users should have a separate drawing for bear hunts. I myself have no desire to kill a bear but I hear many complaints on this. -- (Port Lions)

NANA REGION

17 Responses received from Buckland, Council, Deering, Kivalina, Kobuk, Kotzebue, Noorvik, Selawik, and Shungnak.

1. Do you participate in any of the following areas of the commercial big game hunting industry? (Total number of responses checked)

<u>1</u> Master Guide	<u>1</u> Lodge Owner
<u> </u> Registered Guide	<u> </u> Lodge Worker
<u> </u> Class-A Assistant Guide	<u>1</u> Air Transportation
<u>2</u> Assistant Guide	<u> </u> Water Transportation
<u> </u> Outfitter	<u> </u> Land Transportation

Other:

1 Sporting Good Sales
1 Subsistence Hunter / F&G Advisory Board Member

2. How many of the following would you say operate in your area? (The numbers here represent the upper and lower limits in the range of responses.)

<u>0-67</u> Master/Registered/Assistant Guides	<u>0-10</u> Outfitters
<u>0-25</u> Transportation Services for Guides	<u>0-3</u> Lodges
<u> </u> Other:	<u>2-4</u> Sporting Goods Sales

3. How important is commercial big game hunting to the local economy?

<u>1</u> Very Important	<u>4</u> Important	<u>4</u> Not Very Important
<u>7</u> No Guiding Here	<u>1</u> (No Response)	

4. If there are guides in your area, how much of the money made from the industry circulates in your community?

 100% 1 75% 50% 1 25% 7 Less than 25% 6 Don't Know
2 (No Response)

5. If there are outfitters or others who provide hunting services in your area, how much of the money made from the industry circulates in your community?

 100% 75% 1 50% 1 25% 7 Less than 25% 6 Don't Know
 2 (No Response)

6. Are local game resources enough to meet the needs of all users, including subsistence, commercial and sport?

 11 Yes 5 No 1 (No Response)

If there are conflicting uses, what species would you say are the most seriously affected?

 6 Moose 3 Bear 2 Caribou 4 Sheep 1 Sheefish

Written Comments:

* With larger influx of people coming in every year, it will become very competitive for resources. -- (Kotzebue)

7. Have you seen an increase in the commercial taking of game in your area?

 8 Yes 8 No 1 (No Response)

Written Comments:

* Wolves. -- (Kobuk)

8. Would you say that the laws and regulations covering commercial big game hunting are adequately enforced in your area?

 9 Yes 7 No 1 (No Response)

Please comment here if your answer is "no:"

Written Comments:

* Sport hunters come in and out of the area and it seems like for the numbers, there should be some citations issued at least. -- (Noorvik)

* The law is there but no one to enforce it when it should be enforced. -- (Shungnak)

- * We have no one in game in our village as we do not feel the need in big game hunters. -- (Selawik)
- * The area is too large for one full-time enforcement person. -- (Kotzebue)
- * Lack of being checked on. -- (Council)
- * The State does not have enough manpower to be checking. -- (Kotzebue)
- * Guiding is not authorized in Buckland. -- (Buckland)
- * There seems to be an "informal" agreement between the guiding industry and the State. All the protection officers we get up here tend to not monitor the commercial taking of game. In fact this year, as soon as the dahl sheep season opened, the protection officer left for Anchorage for two weeks. There is a great parallel between what happened in the 1960's - 70's with the polar bear and what is happening today. Unregulated taking of game. -- (Kotzebue)

9. Is there a problem with illegal harvest of game in your area by any of the following? (Total number of responses)

5 Guides 2 Outfitters 3 Air Taxi Services 1 Lodge Owners
4 Other 8 (None or No Response)

Please comment here if you wish:

Written Comments:

- * People who live in other areas like Kotzebue. -- (Shungnak)
- * Natives. -- (Kotzebue)
- * I have heard of five illegally shot musk ox that were left to rot. -- (Kotzebue)
- * We are sure there is wanton waste because there are more horns and heads coming through town with hardly any meat. -- (Kotzebue)
- * We were alerted this fall of dahl sheep with less than 3/4 curl being taken by hunters not from our area. -- (Kotzebue)

10. A. Are you aware of the procedures for becoming a licensed guide?

8 Yes 8 No 1 (No Response)