

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 2007-2008 SRES 12680

for

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

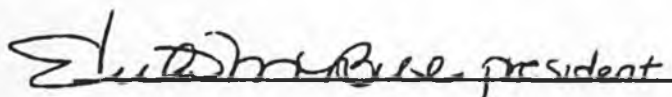
coho, and chum in that priority. This includes providing on-going funding for enumerating coho salmon at the Deshka Weir; and

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

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

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

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

 Erika Bills, President of the Board

 Cheryl Meliva, CEO

favor



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

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

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

March 11, 2008



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



Re: Senate Bill # 284

Dear Senator Green,



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



Thank you for your time,



Erika M Bills
Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce President



favor

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

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

Senate Resource Committee
Juneau, Alaska

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

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

Please pass SB 284

*Noel W. Woods
Jean H. Woods*



Alaska State Legislature

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

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

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



Alaska State Legislature

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

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

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

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

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

Signed:

Joe Connor
Testifier

self - Tourism & Lodge Owner
Representing (optional)

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

262-9496
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Senate Resource
committee name

Committee on

SB 284

bill #/subject

, dated

3-11-08

public hearing date

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

Signed:

Steve McClure

Testifier

myself

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 2263 Soldotna ALASKA

Address

262-2977

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

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

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

Signed:

Testifier

Self - Sport fishing
Representing (optional)

33361 Keystone Drive Sedotna, AK 99669
Address

907-262-0892
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

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

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

I will be supporting bill 284.

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

Signed:

David Doyne
Testifier

Sport Fishing
Representing (optional)

3915 Clipper Cir, Kenai, Ak. 99611
Address

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



Alaska State Legislature

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

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

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

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

Signed:

Aaron Cooper

Representing (optional)

PO 1447 Kenai AK 99611
Address

907-335-2248
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

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

I support the concept of 284,

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

Signed: Monte Roberts
Testifier

Sport fish Charter Operator
Representing (optional)

PO Box 1106
Address

907 262-8518
Phone number

March 10, 2008

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

Re: CS 284 Board of Fisheries membership

Dear Senator Huggins and members of Senate Resources:

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

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

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

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

For these reasons, we do not support CS 284 .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Brown". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

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

opposed

Petersburg Vessel Owners Association

P.O. Box 232

Petersburg, Alaska 99833

Phone (907) 772-9323

March 11, 2008

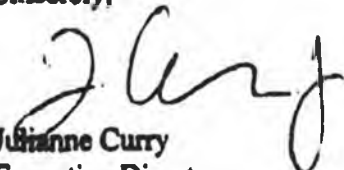
Senator Charlie Huggins, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Mail Stop 3100
Juneau AK 99801
Fax: 907.465.3265

RE: OPPOSE SB 284 BOARD OF FISH DESIGNATED SEATS

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

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

Sincerely,



Julianne Curry
Executive Director



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

appeal

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

11 March, 2008

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

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

Our points of contention include:

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

Please keep us apprised of further developments with SB284.

Regards,


Bruce Cain,
Executive Director

OPP



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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

March 11, 2008

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

RE: Opposition to SB 284 regarding Board of Fisheries

Dear Senator Huggins and Committee Members,

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

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

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Vinsel
Executive Director

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

9369 North Douglas Hwy

Juneau, AK 99801

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

Fax 907-523-1168

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



Email: seafa@gci.net

March 10, 2008

Senate Resources Committee

Senator Huggins, Chair

Alaska State Legislature

State Capitol, Room 205

Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Oppose SB 284 Board of Fish Designated Seats

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Kathy Hansen (email signature)

Kathy Hansen

Executive Director



opposed

Cordova District Fishermen United

22104 15th Street, Cordova, AK 99574

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

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

March 10, 2008

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

RE: Oppose SB 284 Board of Fish Designated Seats

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Rochelle van den Broek
Executive Director



Alaska State Legislature

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

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

I am opposed to Mrs bill for the following reasons

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

2- PU Fishing is done under a Spat fish license

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

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

Signed: [Signature]
Testifier

Self/Commercial Fisherman
Representing (optional)

Box 3322 Soldotna, AK 99669
Address

907-394-4004
Phone number

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

March 19, 2008

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

Re: CS 284 Board of Fisheries

Dear Senator Huggins:

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

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

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

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

For these reasons, we do not support CS 284 .

Sincerely,



Michael Laukitis
President, NPFA

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Fish & Game

find



ADF&G > Boards Home >

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ADF&G - Section of

www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us

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Board of Fisheries

Board Members

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Meeting

Information

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- Salmon Restructuring Committee

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- Policies and Findings
- Frequently Used Policies

Board of Fisheries Forms

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- ACR Form
- Petition the Board

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

Welcome to the Board of Fisheries!

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

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

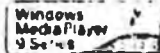
The Board of Fisheries meets four to six times per year in communities around the state to consider proposed changes to fisheries regulations around the state. The board uses the biological and socioeconomic information provided by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, public comment received from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

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Live Audio

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

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



Quick Picks

Fisheries News



Board of Fisheries Chair,
Mel Morris

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[BOF Upcoming Meetings](#)

Sec. 16.05.221. Boards of fisheries and game.

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

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

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

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



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

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

11 March, 2008

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

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Our points of contention include:

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

Please keep us apprised of further developments with SB284.

Regards,


Bruce Cain,
Executive Director



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

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

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

March 11, 2008

bp



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



Re: Senate Bill # 284

Dear Senator Green,



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



Thank you for your time,



Erika M Bills
Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce President



opposed

Petersburg Vessel Owners Association

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

March 11, 2008

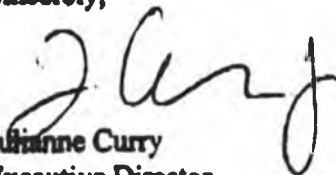
Senator Charlie Huggins, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Mail Stop 3100
Juneau AK 99801
Fax: 907.465.3265

RE: OPPOSE SB 284 BOARD OF FISH DESIGNATED SEATS

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

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

Sincerely,



Julianne Curry
Executive Director

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

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

Senate Resource Committee
Juneau, Alaska

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

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

Please pass SB 284

Noel W. Woods
Jean H. Woods

Sharon Long

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

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

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



LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & AUDIT COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVE RALPH SAMUELS, CHAIRMAN

February 29, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Hirsch:

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

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

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

Thank you for your attention and response.

Sincerely,

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

Representative Ralph Samuels, Chair
Legislative Budget & Audit Committee

Enclosures

Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us

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

SB 284 Board of
Fisheries Membership

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

Dear, Senator Huggins

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this issue.

Michael Bowen
1233 Crescent Dr
Anchorage, AK 99508

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

MAR 17 2008

March 13, 2008

Dear Senator Huggins:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely, William Lindow

William Lindow
P.O. Box 1612
Cordova AK 99574

cc: Sen. Kookesh
Rep. Thomas

PO Box 401
Wrangell, AK 99929
March 12, 2008

MAR 17 2008

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

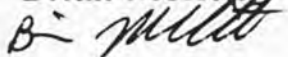
Dear Senator Huggins,

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

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

Sincerely,

Brian Merritt





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

March 19, 2008

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

Re: CS 284 Board of Fisheries

Dear Senator Huggins:

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

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



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

March 19, 2008

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

Re: CS 284 Board of Fisheries

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Alaska State Legislature

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

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

I am opposed to this bill for the following reasons

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

2- PU Fishing is done under a spat fish license

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

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

Signed: [Signature]
Testifier

Self / Commercial Fisherman
Representing (optional)

Box 3322 Soldotna, AK 99669
Address

907-394-4604
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

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

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



Alaska State Legislature

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

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

Like the idea that the Board of Fish would be representative of various user groups.

No problem with (1) & (3) as written

Concern about (2)

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

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

Signed:

Joe Gunn
Testifier

Representing (optional)

self - Tourism & Lodge Owner

Address

P.O. Box 1085, Sterling, AK 99672

Phone number

262-9496



Alaska State Legislature

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

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

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



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Senate Resources

committee name

Committee on

SB 284

bill #/subject

, dated

3/11/08

public hearing date

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

Signed:


Testifier

Self - Sport fishing
Representing (optional)

33361 Keystone Drive Seldotna, AK 99669
Address

907-262-0892
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

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

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

I will be supporting bill 284.

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

Signed: Daniel Legend
Testifier

Sport Fishing
Representing (optional)

2915 Clipper Cir, Kenai, Ak. 99611
Address

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



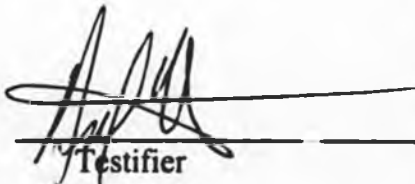
Alaska State Legislature

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

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

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

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

Signed:  Aaron Cooper
Testifier

Representing (optional)

PO 1447 Kenai AK 99611
Address

907-335-2248
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

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

I support the concept of 284,

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

Signed: Monte Roberts
Testifier

Sport fish Charter Operator
Representing (optional)

PO Box 1106
Address

907 262-8518
Phone number

1. Gavel In & Call to order:

Note time – and members present

2. CSHB 267 Wildlife Violator Compact

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

Invited Testimony

Offnets: for questions:

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

| conclude & move out bill |

Need motion for vs O

2. SB 284 Board of Fisheries: Membership

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

After presentation of bill:

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

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

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

Meeting Adjourned @ _____

SB 284 Board of Fisheries: Membership

March 19, 2008

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

Workdraft CSSB284 vs/V

SB 284 vs C (originally introduced)

1. Fiscal Notes

2. Sponsor Statement

3. Support

4. Opposition

5. Statutory authority, duties, schedule

SB 284 Board of Fisheries: Membership

March 19, 2008

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

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- 1. Fiscal Notes**
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SB 284 Board of Fisheries: Membership

March 11, 2008

Workdraft CSSB284 vs/V

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SB 284 Board of Fisheries: Membership

March 11, 2008

Workdraft CSSB284 vs/V

SB 284 vs C (originally introduced)

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